

## ***I. The Power of Humility***

II. 1 Peter 5:5-9 - NCBC, October 21, 2018

Main Point: **Humility brings God's grace into all your relationships.**

- God's undeserved help in your relationships with others (5)
  - No matter who you are...
  - Submission and unity require humilityIII.
- God's undeserved help in your relationship with Himself (6-7)
  - God opposes the proud...
  - But gives grace to the humble
- God's undeserved help in your relationship with the devil (8-9)
  - Humility motivates a carefulness towards Satan
  - Humility motivates a firm confidence in God's goodnessIV.

Application: **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty power of God.**

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### **Opening Announcements:**

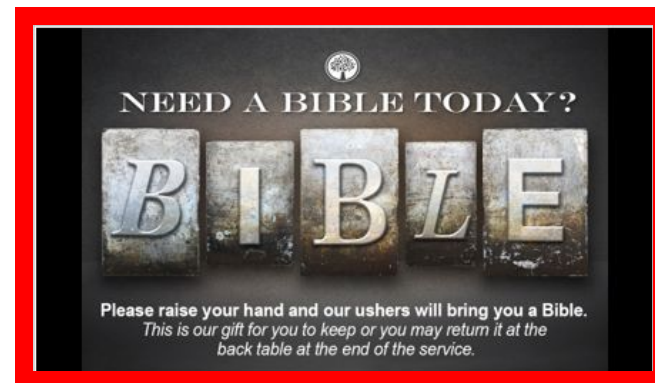
- Refresh Women's Event

<<Leaning on the Everlasting Arms>>



Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus – O that God's grace would help us to trust Him more today as we worship and adore Him.

Please open your copy of God's Word to **1 Peter chapter 5**, as we prepare to read and meditate upon life-giving words.



If you don't have a Bible today, simply raise your hand and we'd be delighted to give you one. You can find 1

**Peter chapter 5** on page 1207 in the giveaway Bibles today.

And while you're preparing to read from **1 Peter 5**, I want to cast some vision for an opportunity we all have to share Christ with others on the last evening of this month.

The last Wednesday of this month is Halloween. It's an evil and pagan holiday in our culture. But God's people don't cower and shelter themselves. God's people prayerfully and humbly ask the question, "What opportunity does this cultural event provide me to share Christ with my neighbors in holy love?"



Halloween is the one time every year our neighbors knock on our doors and ask us to give them a Gospel tract...with some amazing candy treats and warm smiles attached of course! To call our church family to leave their homes dark and empty and miss such an opportunity with our unbelieving neighbors does not seem like our best strategy. Especially when very few unbelieving families/children are likely to come to the church-house on Halloween night.

So this year we're not planning a Halloween alternative event for October 31<sup>st</sup>. While our Jr. High and High School Student Ministries will have an event at Sam and Carrie Knott's home that evening, there will be no AWANA or Adult Study here on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.

Instead, we're providing all of you with free Gospel tracts out on the entry tables. Please take as many as you believe you can give away. This year prayerfully prepare your heart and home for witness – and give away more than candy.<sup>1</sup> Pray God will help you get creative. All so you can offer lasting hope to a world who is desperately seeking answers to the self-destructive tailspin in our culture. Turn the light on – and let your light shine before others for the glory of God this Halloween.

When God provides the needed leaders, we would love to offer a Fall Festival on the Saturday after Halloween each year. But as of now we're still waiting for God to raise up leaders for this event – so this year we are not planning a Fall Festival.

But by the grace of God this Halloween, God's church will be equipped and faithfully active in our mission to engage our neighbors with holy love and lasting hope in this present darkness. May God help us to have humble boldness in our public witness for Him this Halloween.

<sup>1</sup> <https://spreadtruth.com/2018/10/03/new-bracelet-kits-are-here-for-your-halloween-outreach/>



Please stand now in honor of the public reading of God's Word, as I read today's Scripture from **1 Peter 5, verses 5-11** from the **English Standard Translation**:

*<sup>5</sup> Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

These are wonderful words of life. You may be seated.

**Let's Pray.**

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Peter ends his letter to suffering exiles with a focused exhortation on humility. Peter wants persecuted Christians to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that,



**Humility always brings God's grace into all your relationships.** When you are suffering – especially when you are suffering unjustly, you need God's grace. You need God's help. And so you must pursue a humility that invites grace to strengthen and transform you through the pain.

Two different events from Peter's own life helpfully illustrate his teaching here. Both of these events happened on the same evening – the night before the cross.

The first situation is recorded in **John 13**.

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John 13:2-20

<sup>2</sup> During supper, when **the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas ...to betray him**, <sup>3</sup> Jesus... <sup>4</sup> rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began **to wash the disciples' feet** and to wipe them with the towel ...wrapped around him.

*During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas to betray him, Jesus...rose from supper, laid aside his outer garments, tied a towel around his waist, poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet.*

Such a profound picture of humility staggers human pride, so...

John 13:2-20

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, **"Lord, do you wash my feet?"** <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, **"You shall never wash my feet."** Jesus answered him, **"If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."**

When Jesus came to Simon, Peter awkwardly asks the Lord what he is doing, and then stiffens and proudly

says, *You shall never wash my feet*. Simon was a rugged fisherman. He didn't want no pedicure. He was no welfare case. He didn't need Jesus – His Teacher and Lord after all – stooping to serve him. In his pride, Peter wanted to serve Christ – not the other way around.

But Jesus makes it clear on this night before the cross that anyone who refuses His help will have no part in His salvation. God opposes proud self-reliance.

So Peter humbles himself. Jesus washes his feet, returns to the table, and then says to Peter and the others,

John 13:2-20

<sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> **If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.** <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, **a servant is not greater than his master, ...**

*You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ... Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things blessed are you if you do them.*

Do you believe it's possible this event is still in Peter's mind as he's writing these final words in **1 Peter**?



Then just an hour or so later, as the disciples are walking through the vineyards in the Kidron valley on their way to the Mt. of Olives, **Luke 22** records how,

**Luke 22:24-34** <sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them, as to **which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.** <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, ... <sup>26</sup> But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and **the leader as one who serves.** <sup>27</sup> For...I am among you as the one who serves.

*A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them... but not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the one who serves. For I am among you as the one who serves.*

Then Jesus directly addresses Peter saying,

**Luke 22:24-34** <sup>31</sup> "**Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,** <sup>32</sup> **but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.** And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, "**Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.**" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "I tell you Peter..."

*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.*

Peter, humble yourself. I'm warning you Satan is after you. He wants to destroy your faith. But don't be anxious. I've prayed for you – so that your faith will not fail ultimately, but you will repent and be restored to ministry.

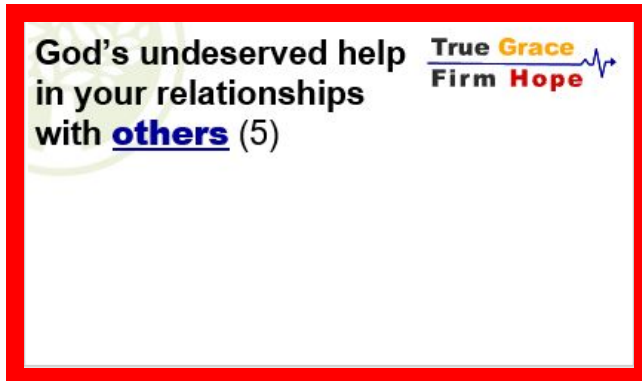
Yet Peter thought far too highly of himself. His words were quick and rash. He reaffirmed his commitment with proud words, even while Jesus tells Peter that he will deny him three times before the morning.

History proved Jesus right. Peter's robust pride was far too weak to sustain his faith through persecution. Good intentions combined with verbal promises are no match for Satan's sifting strategies.

The only hope that suffering exiles have for reaching the glory of God's presence is the grace of God. And it is

humility that invites God's grace into every kind of relationship we all experience here on this earth.

First, in **verse 5**, Peter want us all to learn from his experiences, how humility brings God's grace, or



God's undeserved help into your relationships with others.

In the first 4 verses of this chapter, Peter exhorted the elders – the spiritual leaders of these local assemblies scattered all over the Roman Empire – to shepherd the flock of God that is among them, exercising authority ... not in proud superiority, domineering over those in their charge – but humbly – as examples to the flock.

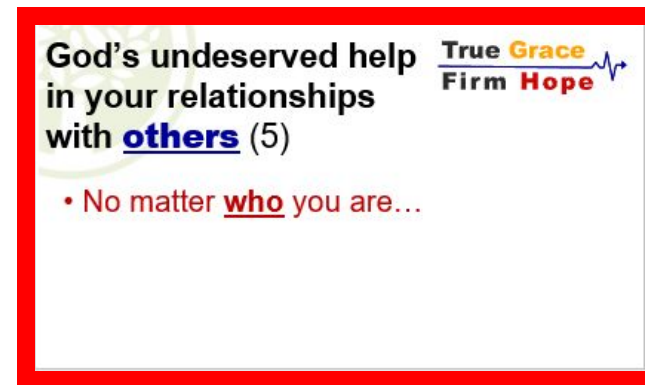
The towel and the basin of the Upper Room framed Peter's exhortation to suffering elders. Your own cross is never an excuse for self-serving leadership. Follow Christ's example – humble yourself and submit to your Chief Shepherd.

Then in **verse 5**, Peter continues, *Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders*. Just like the elders are

to humbly serve like Christ, in submission to Christ, so likewise, young people who are often tempted to resist authority and be overconfident of their own abilities – must humble themselves in submission to the church elders.

Peter continues in the verse, *Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility towards one another*.

In other words, if you are living in the last days, and you are encountering suffering of any kind, you need to humble yourself,



No matter who you are.

If you're an elder in the church, **verses 1-4** are very clear. You reflect the Chief Shepherd's care for the flock through humble service towards them.

If you're a younger person in the church, don't think more highly of yourself than you ought. Pride forfeits the grace of God that could be yours.<sup>2</sup> You need God's help more

<sup>2</sup> Jonah 2:8 NIV

than you realize. Humble yourself under your Chief Shepherd – by joyfully submitting to the under-shepherds His Spirit has appointed for you.

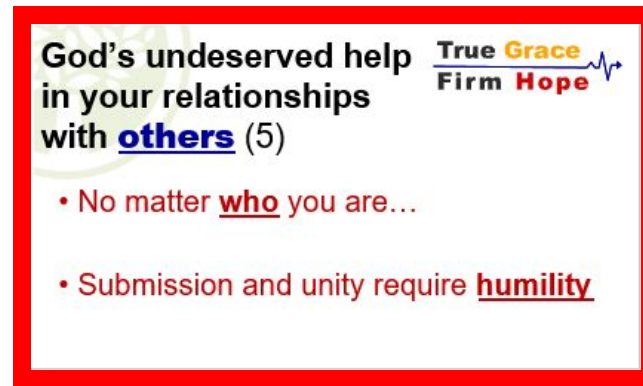
And then with picturesque language, Peter expands this command to every believer – *all of you* – no matter who you are, or what your role in the church – *Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility towards one another.*

Here at New Castle Bible Church – we invite everyone to wear name-tags to cultivate hospitality and spiritual friendship among us.

But I suspect if we instituted church-wide uniforms for New Castle Bible Church – most of us would chafe against the request to dress the same as everyone else. So you can be relieved this morning – there's no dress code for attending New Castle – except... for the required outfit described in **1 Peter 5:5**.

No matter who you are, or where you are, you must clothe yourself with humility.

All of you. No exceptions. You must make sure your attitude is adorned with humility. Whether you wear a neck tie, or a frosting of diamonds, or a sweaty T-shirt...make sure you are dressed with humility.



Because Submission and unity require humility.

Love and mercy and forgiveness can only grow in the soil of humility, as they are planted and watered by God's grace. Your relationships with other people require God's undeserved help – you know that. You can't have a good friendship without God's help. No marriage will last long without God's grace. There can be no life-long membership in a local church apart from God's grace.

Just consider why Peter is adamant that we need humility in all our relationships with others. Look at **verse 5**,

*For God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

Pride puts us in opposition to God. Let that soak in for a moment. That's the most fearful reality – that the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present King of Kings and Lord of Lords would be opposed to us.

You see, pride is the lie that we are competent enough to run our own lives. Pride is competitive by nature – always comparing myself with others to affirm that I'm

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<sup>3</sup> Acts 20:28

good enough, secure enough, and honored enough. Pride is the AIDS of the human soul<sup>4</sup> - the root of self-glorification that produces every other kind of possible sin. Pride can be defined as the belief that life is all about me – a desire to control and use all things for self.<sup>5</sup>

Therefore it's not a question of if pride exists in our lives, but where and how much pride exists. For wherever our pride is at work – either in boasting or being disappointed – we are fighting against God – the very God who cares for us and desires to help us.

On the other hand, humility is the poverty of spirit that acknowledges I need help.<sup>6</sup> I don't have the answers. I'm not strong enough. A humble heart is a dependent heart – a heart that seeks help from another for what is needed.

Humility doesn't think less of oneself – but it does think of oneself less.<sup>7</sup> I appreciate Tim Keller's definition of humility as "self-forgetfulness."<sup>8</sup> CJ Mahaney teaches that, "Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God's holiness and our sinfulness."<sup>9</sup> Humility is not some attitude which merits or earns God's grace – but it is the necessary heart of those who are willing to receive help that they do not deserve, but desperately need.

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<sup>4</sup> Lou Priolo

<sup>5</sup> Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, 179

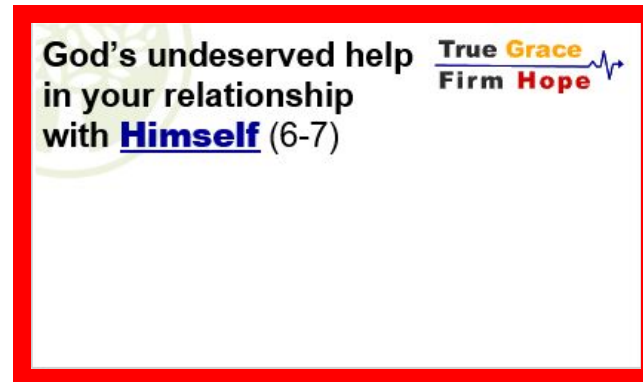
<sup>6</sup> Matthew 5:3; Isaiah 66:1-2

<sup>7</sup> Tim Keller, *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

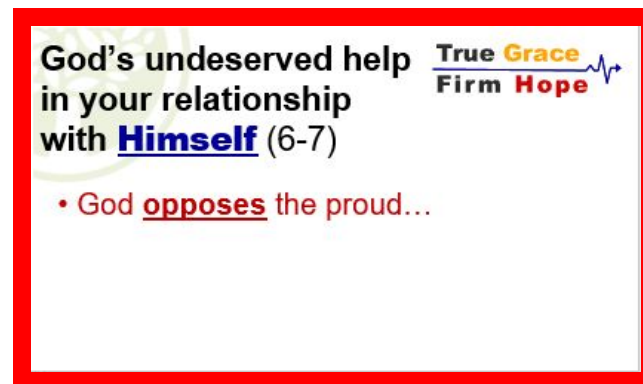
<sup>9</sup> CJ Mahaney, *Humility: True Greatness*.

God gives grace, or undeserved help, to those who are humble enough to receive it. And Peter knows that every Christian desperately needs,



God's undeserved help in your relationship with Himself.

Christian – ask yourself this morning. Do you desire God's grace for your faith in God? Do you want God to help you know Him better?



Listen very carefully again, God opposes the proud...



Why does God hate pride? Why does God put Himself at war against every proud and self-reliant heart? I believe **verses 6-7** reveal four reasons why God hates pride, but gives grace to the humble. Let's walk through these verses first considering why God hates pride.

*Humble yourselves, therefore under the mighty hand of God...*

God hates Pride ...	But Humility...
Dishonors God's power	

So the first reason God hates pride is because pride **dishonors God's power**. Pride refuses to submit to the mighty hand of God as He reaches out to wash our feet, or prepare us for temptation. Pride rejects God's power in drunken allegiance to our own power.

God also hates pride because,

God hates Pride ...	But Humility...
Dishonors God's power	
Destroys us eventually	

Pride will only **destroy us eventually**. *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall*, **Proverbs 16:18** says. **Verse 6** teaches us that we should humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God so *that at the proper time He may exalt you*.

God hates pride that creates a false allusion of security as it convinces us we're doing just fine managing our life while we will only be crushed by God's judgment in the end. He knows the only way we will not be destroyed is if we are willing to humble ourselves, to receive His help.

**Verse 7** gives the third reason God hates pride, namely that,

God hates Pride ...	But Humility...
Dishonors God's power	
Destroys us eventually	
Devastates our peace	

**Pride devastates our peace.** Pride keeps us from casting our anxieties on God. Pride doesn't need help. Pride says I can figure this out on my own. Pride says I can do it myself.

And so when a soul becomes worried and anxious by all of the suffering and persecution of this world – God hates pride – for although it may temporarily medicate anxieties away with the aid of alcohol or mind-altering drugs or media or wealth – in the end a proud heart will never know the contentedness of lasting peace.

God hates pride finally, at the end of **verse 7**, because

God hates Pride ...	But Humility...
Dishonors God's power	
Destroys us eventually	
Devastates our peace	
Distances us from God's care	

**Pride distances us from God's care.** Pride robs God's children of the sweetest experience possible – the care of God Himself.

Pride convinces the heart to reject the all-powerful hand of God – when in fact His hand is reaching out to care for you.

Christian – is there any promise in Scripture that is sweeter than this one? *God cares for you!*

No wonder God hates pride. Remember Peter personally knows pride's dark pain. And so he urges everyone of us this morning, *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.*

**God's undeserved help  
in your relationship  
with Himself (6-7)**

**True Grace  
Firm Hope**

- God opposes the proud...
- But gives grace to the humble

God opposes the proud, but He gives grace to the humble

God delights to give you undeserved help – unmerited favor –when you acknowledge your neediness and see yourself honestly in view of God's holiness and your sin. Have you humbled yourself to receive God's grace?

**God hates Pride ...**

**But Humility...**

Dishonors God's power	Depends on God's power
Destroys us eventually	Waits for God's exaltation
Devastates our peace	Receives God's peace
Distances us from God's care	Experiences God's care

Contrary to pride, humility depends on God's power, waits for God's exaltation, receives God's peace, and experiences God's care.

Now before I move on, I want you to look carefully at the word "casting" in **verse 7**. It is a participle – an "-ing" verb. Participles help to explain the action of a main verb. So here the main verb is found in **verse 6** – Humble yourselves. Therefore how we express humility is by *casting all your anxieties on God*. By surrendering your worries to God in prayer. By sincerely entrusting your cares to the One who cares for you.

Church – it is God's care for you that causes Him to hate your blinding self-focus. Will you humble yourself this morning – and admit a biblically honest view of your own spiritual need this morning?

Because here's the reality. You have a real enemy. A supernatural enemy – and he is out to get you. And only your humility will bring,

**God's undeserved help  
in your relationship  
with the Devil (8-9)**

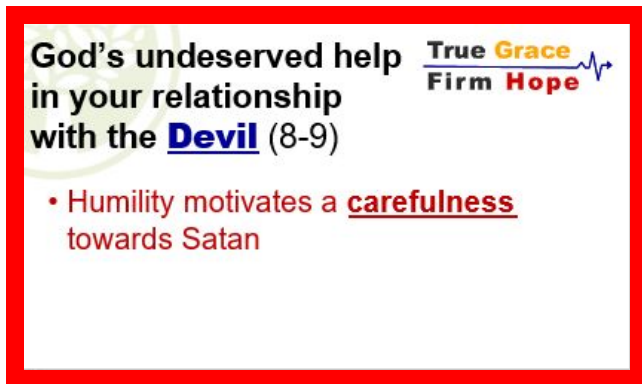
**True Grace  
Firm Hope**

God's undeserved help into your relationship with the devil.

Look again at **verses 8-9**,

*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

Sober-minded watchfulness is directly connected with casting all your anxieties on the Lord. Humility doesn't boast or brag in one's own strength against our enemy. Humility knows I have a real enemy who wants to kill me. In other words,



Humility motivates a carefulness towards Satan

Casting your care upon God doesn't make a believer careless. The humility that casts all anxieties on the Lord doesn't produce passive Christians, but powerful Christians.<sup>10</sup> Powerful Christians who employ God's grace in fighting against sin and fueling their faith.

The text is clear – we have an enemy – his name means slander or deceiver, and he wants to devour your faith.

<sup>10</sup> John Piper  
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Gulp it down as if it never existed to begin with. Is it possible that you've become too indifferent to this spiritual reality in your life?

Suppose you left today to find a note tucked under your windshield wipers.<sup>11</sup> You open the note to read in large bold letters these words, "I hate you. I'm going to get you. I want to destroy your life and kill you. I'm going after your family, and your loved ones. I have others working with me to make sure that you will soon die."

How would you respond? I suppose after a chill goes down your back, you'd call out for help! Perhaps you'd call the police or someone else, and you'd say – I need help. I have a real enemy, and they've made a real threat against my life. I need to take real precautions.

Loved ones – the apostle Peter just handed you this kind of note from our enemy. You have a real enemy – he's supernatural and he's invisible – and he's prowling around like a ferocious beast of prey wanting to gulp down your faith in the goodness of our God.

So does God want us to quake in our boots and become paralyzed by anxiety? Not at all. Cast all your anxieties on God, because He cares for you. The same Jesus who prayed for Peter is praying for you now.<sup>12</sup> Be sober-minded. Be watchful. **Verse 9** says to *Resist him, firm in your faith*.

In other words,

<sup>11</sup> I'm indebted to Dr. Ritch Boerckel for this helpful illustration.

<sup>12</sup> Luke 22:32; Romans 8:34



**God's undeserved help  
in your relationship  
with the Devil (8-9)**

**True Grace  
Firm Hope**

- Humility motivates a carefulness towards Satan
- Humility motivates a firm confidence in God's goodness

Humility motivates a firm confidence in God's goodness.

Satan's devouring agenda is to get you to curse God and give up your faith in His goodness. So again – note the main verse is *Resist him* in **verse 9**, and the explanatory participle is *knowing*. The way you resist Satan is not by binding him in some spiritual warfare formula or in some mystical prayer experience. The way you resist the devil here in the Scriptures is by *knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world*.

In other words, Christian – you defeat the slander's attacks by knowing Gospel truths. God has not left you alone. God is for you. God hasn't turned His back on you. Yes, in Christ, you are promised the suffering of Christ.<sup>13</sup> But after you have suffered in this life, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect you in every way! Your God is the all-powerful and all-loving God! He is good and He is able. You still have reason for a firm hope in His grace!

<sup>13</sup> 2 Timothy 3:12  
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In brief, Peter wants to make sure that God's children are pursuing humility. Because,

**Main Point**



**Humility brings God's grace  
into all your relationships.**

Humility brings God's grace into all your relationships.

Your relationships with others, with God Himself, and with the devil.

So today you must,

**Application**

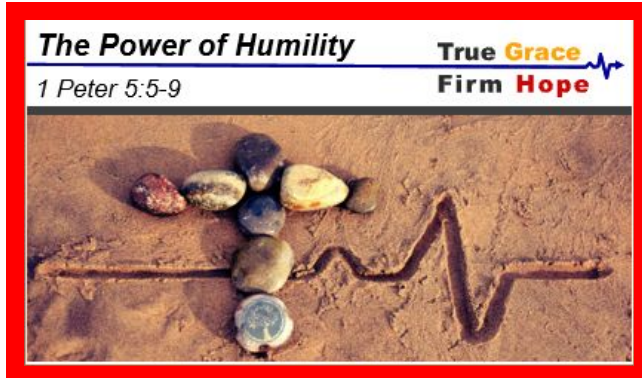


**Humble yourselves therefore  
under the mighty power of God.**

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty power of God.

By casting all your anxieties on the Lord. By believing that God cares for you better than you could ever care for you. By keeping alert to any of the devil's lies which would seek to devour your confidence in God's love and goodness towards you.

Repent of all self-focus and self-confidence. Turn away from trusting in yourself. After all God hates everything that pride produces...so much so that He opposes the proud, all so He can give much grace to the humble.

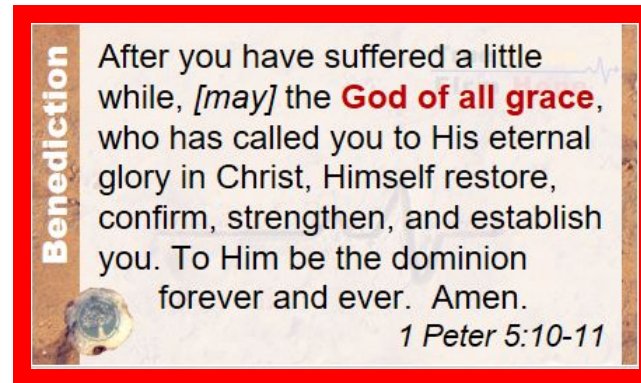


May we be a people who joyfully and humbly receive much grace, while we continue to trust the God of all grace for our salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

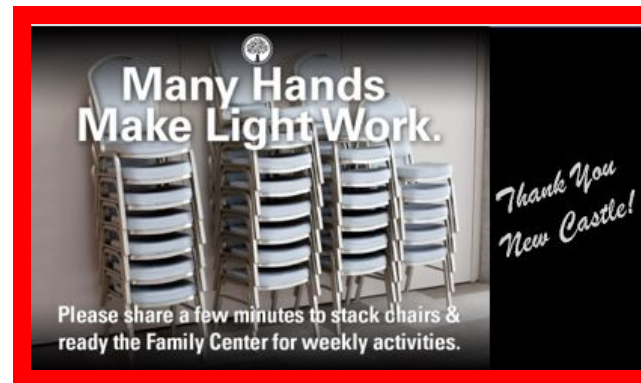
**Let's pray.**

<<It is well with my soul>>

**Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.**



*And after you have suffered a little while, [may] the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:10-11*



### **Recommended Resources on The Power of Humility:**

- Psalm 25:9; 55:22
- Proverbs 3:34; 6:16-17; 8:13
- Isaiah 57:15; 66:1-2
- Micah 6:8
- Matthew 5:3-5; 26:41
- Mark 14:37-38
- Luke 14:11; 21:34-36; 22:31-34
- John 13:3-17
- Romans 8:28-30
- 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
- Ephesians 4:1-2
- Philippians 2:5-7
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
- James 4:6-10

V.

- <https://vimeo.com/72283461> - Brad Bigney "Killing Pride"
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/clothe-yourself-in-humility-daily>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/four-reasons-god-hates-pride>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/how-to-fight-the-devil>

VI.

- *Humility*, CJ Mahaney
- *Pride and Humility*, Stuart Scott
- *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*, Tim Keller
- *Humble Roots*, Hannah Anderson

- "The Humble Boldness of Love" – 2-part sermon on Galatians 5:5-6:6 preached by Pastor Kevin at NCBC on August 20 & 27, 2017.

VII.

### **Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions**

1. Read 1 Peter 5:5-6. How do you define humility? How do you define pride? Why does God hate pride so much?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:6-7. How do you define anxiety? What is the connection between pride and anxiety? Take time now as a group to humble yourselves and pour out your anxieties before God.
3. Read Philippians 4:4-7. What are common ways people deal with anxiety the wrong way? What similarities do you see between Philippians 4:4-7 and 1 Peter 5:6-11 for God's provision for our worries and cares?
4. Read 1 Peter 5:7. What does it mean to "cast all your anxieties on God?" Commit to taking time every morning this week to surrender and throw your anxieties upon the Lord, and agree to report back to others about what differences you notice in your relationships with others, God, and our wicked enemy.
5. Read 1 Peter 5:7-9. How do these Scriptures teach us to fight against Satan? How does the "knowing" of verse 9 help us resist the devil? Is there any place in your life where you have not been resisting Satan? Pray for one another, and resolve through God's grace to reengage in war for your faith in that area.