



Sermon:

Got Humility?

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

1 Peter 5:6

Humility ... a word that seems to bring with it a feeling of inferiority or low self esteem. It's a hard word for some, and at times would bring fear of possibly being “stepped on” in life. When I discovered the true biblical meaning of humility, it brought me freedom along with a greater understanding of the positive effects of living humble.

First Peter, Chapter 5 is first directed to those who are mature in the Lord ... the elders, and how they are to treat those who are gleaning from them. Elders are to gently feed the flock willingly, not with the motive of making money, but from a heart of love and concern for the person. They are not to “lord” over the flock, being forceful, but should lead by example.

Verse 5 is directed toward the younger ... those who are learning from the elders. Peter tells them to submit to their elders. Then it states: “Yea, *ALL OF YOU*, be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” This is saying that whether you are an elder, or one learning from an elder, you need to be humble and subject to one another. So we are ALL called to humility.

It also states that God resists those who are prideful. One of the Greek meanings for resist is to oppose. Wow! But if we are humble, then He gives us grace which, in the Greek, means goodwill, that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, loveliness. Such opposites!

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.” (vs. 6) All the above scriptures continually exhort us to be humble, but how? The following verse reveals the way: *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”* (vs. 7) What an awesome scripture.

We have all casted our care onto the Lord at some point in our lives; I have, you have, and even Jesus did. 1 Peter 2:23 says: *“Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but COMMITTED himself to him that judgeth righteously...”* Jesus was casting His care onto His Father. I've always admired people who knew how to cast their care. They would have a major need in their life but seemed to have no problem giving it all over to Jesus. I would ask them how things were going and they would simply say, *“Oh, God's got that covered; I casted my care.”* I was always impressed that some could do that and not seem to be concerned in any way.

But I noticed something as time went on. Months or even years later these same people are still waiting for their.

answer. The problem is still there and yet they are still casting their care. It seemed to me that it wasn't working. So it prompted me to look further into the scriptures. I didn't have to look very far.

Verse 7 says *"casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you"* but then there's verse 8: *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."* Although "these same afflictions" is referring to persecution, this truth can apply to any trial of life.

"Be sober" - To watch

"Be vigilant" - To keep awake or be watchful

"Stedfast in the faith" - solid, strong and sure

Here's the point: It's just not enough to cast your care! We need to fight also!

First John 3:8 says: *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil."* Jesus did that! It was already done at the cross. The devil doesn't want you to know that, so he tries to mess with your mind to get you to think otherwise; to get you to think that God's word is not true.

Whenever a trial comes into your life, he gets right into your thinking to create fear, worry, etc. and this is the time to fight; not with one another, but in the spiritual realm with right thinking and right speaking.

Here are three passages which tell us what we have been given and that we have been given the responsibility to use it:

The first chapter of Ephesians talks about our inheritance and the exceeding power we have been given and that we have the same power that raised Jesus from the dead inside of us. We are above all principalities and powers and all things are under our feet! We need to know who we are and what we have. (Philemon 6)

Ephesians 4 tells us to *"be angry and sin not: let not the sun go down on your wrath: neither give place to the devil."* What this does NOT mean is that we must make sure we don't go to bed at night angry at someone. It doesn't mean that we should make peace with everyone before we turn in for the night. It's good that we don't go to bed angry, but that is not what this scripture means. This has always been a very misunderstood scripture. It's not talking about our anger with people; it's talking about our anger toward the devil! NOT being angry at the devil is wrong. It's telling us to never give up on being angry with the devil. We must be relentless. It's just a matter of what you want in life and how much you really want it.

Matthew 11:12 says: *"...the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."* This is talking about forcefully pressing into the Gospel. We must be aggressive in overcoming obstacles in our lives. Casting our care is just not enough.

Although Florida is beautiful, it is a prime target for hurricanes. We suffered three major storms within two years. Before each hurricane came, I walked around my property and spoke protection over everything we owned. There was never any damage, Praise the Lord. After the third storm, I realized I could take authority over them. So I began aggressively fighting against any storm by speaking to them. I was just tired of these

storms putting a stop to normal everyday living. It was time to step up the battle. It's been seven years and we haven't had another hurricane in our town since. This is a very shortened version of the story but my point is that if I just casted my care onto the Lord regarding these storms, I guarantee you every storm headed our way would have made it to Florida.

You maybe thinking I got off track as far as humility, but I didn't. It is true that casting our care is humility, but it's also humility to fight. Why? Because it's what God says to do. When we are passive and not taking our authority, then we are not doing it God's way and that's arrogance! God Himself told us to be strong in the faith, so when we obey Him, we are humble.

Jesus is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah in Revelation Chapter 5. Lions are powerful, bold and strong. He is also called the Lamb. Lambs are gentle. So we as Christians should be gentle as lambs, casting our care onto the Lord by allowing Him to get involved in our situations rather than "we" trying to fix them. And at the same time, we need to be bold as lions coming boldly to the throne of grace, taking our authority in the unseen world to fight for what is rightfully ours, which is peace, joy, healing, deliverance, protection, and wholeness.

And that, my brothers and sisters, is true humility.