



6/30/25

One statement that really impacted me from the message was that the devil works with our flesh to try to destroy us. I just find that so interesting... He works with our flesh to destroy us, and the Holy Spirit works with our spirit to fill us. Satan tries to corrupt us. The Holy Spirit transforms and restores us. I pray that you and I will submit ourselves to the Lord who has so much good for us, and resist the devil who tries to deceive and ruin us. What God has for us is so much better!!! I pray we won't get caught in Satan's traps in today's battle. Blessed be our Lord who gives us the victory... stand firm in Him!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Peter 5:6-12 ~

I always love how the different disciples are so united in their message as they're led by the Holy Spirit. Paul told us in Ephesians 6 to stand firm in the Lord and put on His armor so that we can stand against the schemes of the devil. Here, Peter speaks of the same need to stand firm in our faith. We are in a spiritual war on this earth. Through Jesus, the war is already won, but we still have to fight the daily battles... just like the Israelites had the promise of the Promised Land before them and had to fight the battles before them in order to inherit what was promised to them. In the same way, Satan had claimed ownership of my soul, but through Jesus, I have been promised an inheritance with the lover of my soul, the Lord. The war has been won, but I face daily battles with the enemy until the time comes that God calls me home. The Lord was the ultimate owner of the Promised Land, just taking back what was already His. And He is the possessor of my soul, taking back from the devil what is His.

So... what do I need to do in order to stand firm while the battles rage? It starts with humility. I am not the great conqueror in this battle. The Lord is. I humble myself before Him.

Vs. 6-7 ~ "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God..." It says to humble myself "therefore." What's the therefore there for? Vs. 5 says, "Clothe yourselves, ALL of you, with humility toward one another. For 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the

humble." I will not be able to stand against the schemes of the devil if I stand in pride, because pride is a trait of Satan, not of God. That's like fighting the devil while I play on his side. It doesn't work. To truly be humble before God, I will be humble toward others. So... because God opposes the proud, I need to humble myself under His mighty hand. His purpose in my humility is to give me grace, even to lift me up. But if I'm truly humble, that is not my greatest concern. If my desire to humble myself before God is focused on Him exalting me, I'm probably still stuck in a lot of pride. O Lord, please help me to be humble.

Sadly for me, the way God humbles me is by putting me into situations where I will have plenty of opportunities to LEARN humility. It's hard... but hard is not bad when it's done for the Lord's glory. Hard will probably make me anxious. But the beautiful thing is, I can cast all my anxieties on my God who actively cares for me, not just with words but in His actions. His word in Philippians 4 says that as I cast my anxieties on Him with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving, His peace which surpasses understanding guards my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus. What other escape from anxiety can do that? None.

Vs. 8-9a ~ Be soberminded... clear minded. Be watchful... alert, paying attention. Why? I have an adversary that is far more dangerous than any human who opposes me. My adversary is the devil. He is a liar and the father of lies. He's an accuser, a deceiver, a murderer, a thief... and he prowls around LIKE a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. He is NOT a lion... Jesus is the Lion and the Lamb. But the devil tries to counterfeit himself to look like God with one purpose... to devour. He seeks to devour all who follow Jesus, though he cannot take our souls. He seeks to devour all unbelievers so that they stay blind to the truth and face eternal punishment with him. Misery loves company.

My job is to resist the devil by humbling myself before God, by staying clear minded and alert, and by standing firm in my faith in Jesus. Pride will make me think I don't need to be clear minded and alert. It will blind me into thinking I already have the answer within myself. Pride will fill me with doubt in God. O Lord, please humble me so that I can be clear minded and alert, firm in my faith that You are my refuge and strength. I understand that I will face lots of opportunities to humble myself before You in order to grow in humility, and I trust that You will help me every step of the way.

Vs. 9b ~ Know that I'm not alone. Believers all over the world are experiencing the same kinds of suffering I am... suffering because of my own pride, suffering because of the pride of others washing on my shore, suffering because we live in a broken world. I need to know that I'm not alone in the suffering so that I won't turn in on myself, and I need to know that I'm not alone so that I can be praying for others.

Vs. 10-11 ~ God knows my suffering. He works through my suffering. And He has a plan for an end to my suffering. Paul said in Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us." He said in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things

that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." This suffering is temporary, and when it's done, the Lord will restore me. He will confirm me in my position as His child. He will strengthen me so that I am able to stand even stronger with Him. He will establish and guard me in my faith.

Why would God give me such hope? He is the God of ALL grace. He's compassionate. He delights in me. He does NOT delight in my suffering. He says in Lamentations 3:31 that He "does not afflict from His heart or grieve the children of men." His purpose is to restore and strengthen. His greatest purpose is that He has called me to His eternal glory in Christ. Whatever I face on this earth is just temporary.

"To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen." The reason I can have hope in all of this is that God has all authority... No one is greater and no one can dethrone Him or vote Him out. That's why I humble myself before Him. The authority belongs to Him. O Lord, please help me to keep my eyes on who You really are. Help me not to treat You as though I am the one with the authority, or as though You owe me anything. Please help me to be clear minded and alert, firm in my faith that You are who You say You are.

Vs. 12 ~ Let me understand this... bowing to the authority of God, worshiping Him for who He is and what He's done... IS the TRUE grace of life. The true grace of life is not living my best life for this earth. It is living with my eyes fixed toward eternity with Him. Help me to stand firm in it, Lord. There will be so many battles that will tempt me to derail my faith. Help me to expect the battles and keep my eyes fixed on eternity. To You be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.