



7/13/26

Here's a great statement that someone sent me about the gospel...

"The Gospel is my eternal hope: Christ's death and resurrection as the atonement (the substitute) for my sin that I do not deserve and the debt I could never pay for without Him - thus, He is Lord of my life." What a great thing to rehearse to ourselves every day!

Blessings,

Jonna

1 Peter 5:6-11

Since this series we're focusing on, Storming the Throne, is all about prayer, I want to do more than study this passage to apply it to my life. I want to pray it to apply it to my prayer life. I'm selfish in my prayer. I start with praying these scriptures for myself. But honestly, I pray them for myself as I pray them for someone else as a constant reminder that I'm just as in need of the Lord's help as the person who I'm praying for is.

I see the word "therefore" with this passage. "Humble yourselves, therefore." So before I go on, what's the therefore there for?

Father, I see that Peter was writing to the elders of the church as well as the younger people. He was giving the elders direction on how to lead as God would have them, and he was giving the younger people direction on how to follow their lead. Then Peter spoke to ALL of them. He said, "Clothe yourselves, ALL OF YOU, with humility TOWARD ONE ANOTHER." That is so hard for me to remember. True humility toward You is evidenced by the humility I show toward others.

Humility is not thinking too highly of myself, and not thinking too lowly of myself. It's not thinking of myself. Lord, You want me to "clothe" myself with humility, to secure myself with humility. You oppose pride... arrogance... shame. Why? These things keep me from You. But You give grace to the humble. You pour out Your favor on the humble because of the generosity of

Your love.

"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."

Father, all You want me to bring to You is a humble heart. I don't need to earn my way to You. You've earned it for me. I am not the mighty one. You are. You are all powerful, more powerful than anyone anywhere. If You were only powerful, I would be crushed under Your power. But You say You care for me. Your plan is to exalt me, to lift me up, to raise me high. I don't have to lift myself up in pride. I don't have to make a name for myself. You have called me by name. I belong to You.

You say that as I humble myself under Your mighty hand, I can throw ALL my worries, my anxieties, my concerns on You. You have the power to handle them, and You care for me. You WANT to handle them.

I think of Your words in Psalm 50:12-15. You were telling the Israelites to stop trying to appease with sacrifices, but instead You wanted them to do 3 things. You want these same things from me. 1. Give You a sacrifice of praise. Be thankful. 2. Keep my commitment to You. 3. Call on You when I need help. You were grieved by the fact that Your people would not ask You for help!!! You're grieved when I won't ask You for help. So Lord, please help me to cast all my anxieties on You because You care for me. You think of me! You pay attention to me. Please help not to forget that.

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

O Lord, please help me to be "sober-minded", to be free from illusion, from the intoxicating influences of sin. They're so easy to fall into. Just a thought, just a quick reaction to what someone says, just a response of "I want" taking me to a place of "I demand." Please help me to see that sin is never worth it. And help me to be watchful, to be vigilant, to stay awake. The devil is always looking for an opportunity to lure me into his trap. He can't destroy my soul or take away my salvation, but he can distract me from You and hurt me in the process... and then try to tell me that it's all Your fault. Or he will whisper lies that tell me You are tired of my failures. I need to watch and pray so that I won't fall into his trap. I do that by holding fast to Your word and casting all my doubts and fears on You.

This says the devil is LIKE a roaring lion, but I belong to the Lion of Judah, Jesus Christ. The devil has no originality. He just tries to copy You Lord, because he wants to be like the Most High. But really, all he wants is Your power. And he HATES people because we are image bearers of the Lord. He wants to destroy us all, whether we have confessed Jesus as our Lord or not. O Lord, please help me to recognize that he is NOT my friend, and everything he offers is for the purpose of luring me away from You. For the unbelievers, he simply tries to keep them blind. For the believers, he tries to keep us distracted.

"Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."

O Lord, how do I resist the devil? By faith in You. Your word says in Ephesians 6 that You give me "the shield of faith" for ALL circumstances, so that I "can extinguish ALL the flaming darts of the evil one." Father, YOU are NEVER shooting darts at me. YOUR purpose in testing my faith is to help me rely on You and grow stronger in faith. The devil's purpose is to destroy my faith. Please help me to stand firm in my faith in You. Help me to be solid, steadfast, and strong in faith.

My faith, according to Hebrews 11:1, 6, is my confidence in You, my conviction that You are who You say You are even though I can't see You. By faith I draw near to You and seek You and trust that You literally reward me simply for believing You! Help me to be unshakable in my trust of who You are.

Also, help me to realize that I'm not alone. The devil is trying to destroy ALL believers all over the world. It's easy to get caught up into thinking I'm the only one who struggles and suffers. How many times have I said or heard others say, "I believe it for you, but I can't seem to grasp it for me." Is it pride when I do that, Lord? Is it thinking You should be doing something different for me than for others? Or that I'm a "special" case? Instead of separating myself from others who are experiencing the devil's schemes, please help me to pray for them and encourage them... to clothe myself with humility toward them.

"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. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

This life on earth is just "a little while" compared to eternity. I can so easily be like a toddler who gets frustrated and cries, "This will NEVER be better!!!" But if I stand firm in my faith, I can stand firm in believing that You are the God of all GRACE... kindness... blessing. You want to bless me more than I want to be blessed. Your grace is so big that You're able to strengthen me even within the struggle. I stand firm in believing that You've called me by name to be with You in Your eternal glory because I am IN CHRIST. By the blood of Jesus, I am clean in Your sight. You will...

- Restore me, equip me, perfect me. Anything You allow me to go through on earth is not to hurt me but to perfect me. Who doesn't want to be perfect? Isn't that the reason I get so frustrated with myself? Because I'm not perfect? But You're making me perfect!!! I can rest in that!!!*
- You will confirm me... You will plant me firmly in Your foundation so that I am secure in You. This is a sure thing. Everything You say You do. You never go back on Your word.*
- You will strengthen me... not just for some time in the future, but You are my strength even now, "an EVER PRESENT help in time of trouble" (Psalm 46:1).*

- *You will establish me... You ground me in Your foundation. I am planted in You.*

The temporary suffering of today is leading to the eternal glory and excellence of tomorrow. In the "little while" of this broken world, You are working in me to make me perfect, to plant me firmly in You because of Jesus, to strengthen me even through the suffering, and to ground me completely in You so that no suffering can shake my faith. In the process, I can cast all my cares on You because You will never minimize any concern of mine.

O Lord, as it says in Psalm 115:1, "Not to ME, O Lord, not to ME, but to YOUR name give glory because of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness." I love how the Greek transliteration says vs. 11, "You Yourself ARE the power to the ages of the ages. Amen." So be it God.

*May It Be So
More of You, less of me.*

O Lord, let me live in all humility.

It is because of You that I belong.

It is Your power that makes me strong.

Let me be sober-minded and watchful. Let me stand firm in my faith,

Until You call me home, O Lord, I will gratefully wait.

This world is just "a little while" of brokenness and pain.

Forever is excellence, glory, and immeasurable gain.

I will be with You, my Savior, from the ages to the unending age.

All because You love me. Almighty Lord, I praise Your name.