

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 29

1 Peter 5.6-11 Peter continues to exhort the church to be a community marked by humility.

Humility means being teachable, willing to learn and be open to receiving from another.

Since God gives His grace to the *humble*...God’s people should humble themselves under “the mighty hand of God” ... κραταιός (*kerataios*)... “Strength” ... χεῖρ (*cheir*)... “Hand” (Any part)

This expression is...

“...associated particularly with God’s delivering Israel out of Egypt...The image of a mighty hand emphasizes the power of God...Those who humble themselves before the Lord will be exalted. The theme that the humble will be exalted can be traced back to the teaching of Jesus (Matt 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14), and there is no reason to doubt that Peter recalled the teaching of his Lord here.”¹

(v.7): Believers are to “cast” our anxieties... ἐπιρριπτω (*epiriptō*)... “To throw” “Hurl.” *Psalms* 55.22

“The true Christian attitude is not negative self-abandonment or resignation, but involves as the expression of one’s self-humbling the positive entrusting of oneself and one’s troubles to God...The passage recalls, and probably depends on, the community’s remembrance of our Lord’s advice (Mt. 6:25–34) not to be worried or anxious since God is aware of our needs....”²

Matthew 6.25, 33-34

(v.8): The Truth Behind the Trials...We Have a Spiritual Enemy... διάβολος (*diabōlos*)...Lit, “To separate” (Slanderer, Seducer)

Peter describes the devil as an “adversary”...someone who is accusing and/or battling a believer in Christ.

“The word “Satan” means “adversary,” and the word “devil” means “the accuser, the slanderer.” The recipients of this letter had already experienced the attacks of the slanderer (1 Peter 4:4, 14), and now they would meet “the lion” in their fiery trial. Peter gave them several practical instructions to help them get victory over their adversary.”³

The devil here is described like a “roaring lion” seeking to devour its prey.

John 10.10

Peter’s “practical instructions” to the church are to be “sober-minded” ... νήφω (*nēphō*): “Clear headed” ...and... “Watchful” ... γρηγορέω (*gregoreō*): “To stay awake” (Peter’s past?)

“The opposite of this sober watchfulness is a kind of spiritual drowsiness in which one sees and responds to situations no differently than unbelievers, and God’s perspective on each event is seldom if ever considered.”⁴

¹ Scot McKnight. *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 Peter*. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Kindle Edition).

² J. N. D. Kelly. *The Epistles of Peter and of Jude* (London: Continuum, 1969).

³ W.W. Wiersbe. *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1996).

⁴ W.A. Grudem. *1 Peter: An Introduction and Commentary* (InterVarsity Press, 1888).

(v.9): Peter continues his warnings and encouragement for believers when it comes to the nature of spiritual warfare. Christians must *resist* the devil.

We resist the devil the way Jesus did...with the Word of God! To resist the devil...

“...means that we take our stand on the Word of God and refuse to be moved. Ephesians 6:10–13 Instructs us to “stand ... withstand ... stand.” Unless we stand, we cannot withstand. Our weapons are the Word of God and prayer (Eph. 6:17–18) and our protection is the complete armor God has provided. We resist him “in the faith,” that is, our faith in God. Just as David took his stand against Goliath, and trusted in the name of Jehovah, so we take our stand against Satan in the victorious name of Jesus Christ.”⁵

And...believers must remember that Christians have gone through...and will go through...spiritual battles because we belong to Jesus!

(v.10): Peter reminds the church about God’s promise of vindication and how their suffering was not without purpose, nor would it last forever.

From God’s eternal perspective...this earthly life is brief.

Peter uses four verbs...built upon one another...to assure believers that their lives are in God’s hands and their salvation is secure in Christ!

2 Corinthians 4.17

(v.11): A summary of all that has been said in the form of a benediction and doxology.

Our hope is based on the dominion of almighty God, who lives forever and ever!

God is stronger than the devil, and faithful to His people!

The final word...“Amen” ... ἁμήν (*amēn*): “Truly” “So be it!” (A declaration of assurance!)

Going Forward:

- What does resisting Satan look like in some of the more challenging areas of your life (e.g. temptations, bitterness, fear, etc.) (v.9)?
- Peter wrote this letter to encourage and assure fellow-believers to not give up. Who should you do this for?

⁵ W.W. Wiersbe. *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1988).