

A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF **1 PETER**

BIBLE TEXT | 1 PETER 5:6-9

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. **7** Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

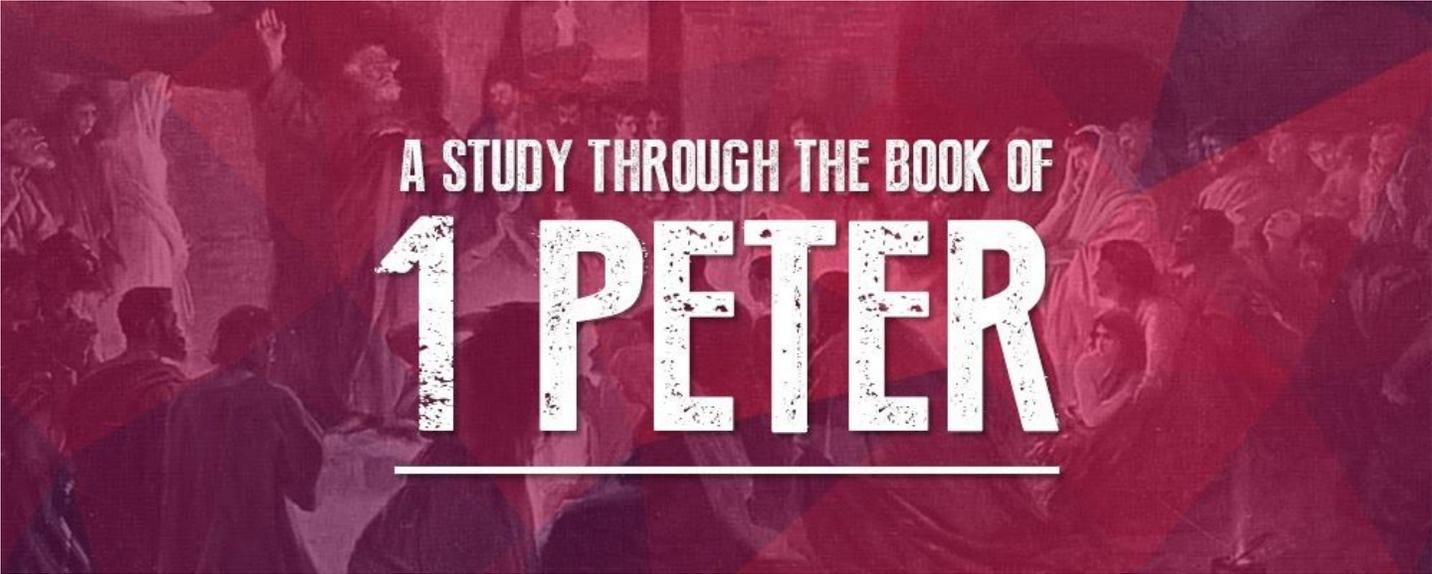
DEVOTIONAL FOR 1 PETER 5:6-9

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Wow, Peter packs so much into these four short verses! Leading into this section, at the end of verse 5, Peter quotes Proverbs 3:34 saying "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Our section today says, because of this, we should humble ourselves under His hand, that He may lift us up in due time. I think the huge thing here, and the hardest thing for most of us to accept, is "due time". We will not be lifted up in our own timing but HIS due time. We often want things to be in our timing and in our way. This is pride. Peter just told us that God resists the proud so this is a problem. Pride is the opposite of humility but we tend to name our pride other things like "independence" or "self-reliance" and then think it's a good thing but God tells us otherwise. Our pride keeps us from relying on Him.

Verse seven then tells us to "cast all your anxiety on Him." Truly showing humility is casting our anxieties on God. I personally struggle with anxiety and over the past year God has begun to show me that a good amount of my anxiety stems from a pride problem. If we really step back and look at it, how ridiculously arrogant is it to think that we know better than God. But that is what we are saying when we hold on to our cares and worry about them rather than giving them to God, knowing that He has a plan and He is way more capable than you or I will ever be.

With the current climate we are in, it is more important than ever to trust God and cast our cares on Him. Some of us have lost jobs, are worried about the health of family and friends, are worried for the country's economy, and some



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of us are just worried that we are going to run out of toilet paper. We shouldn't make light of these worries, but instead should cast them on God because He cares for us (Matthew 6:31-32). God has a plan during this time and He desires that we humble ourselves and cast our cares on Him. If you are like me, you might think "well I get it, I need to cast my worry on Him but how do I do that?" Charles Spurgeon said "Prayer tells God what the care is, and asks God to help, while faith believes that God can and will do it. Prayer spreads the letter of trouble and grief before the Lord, and opens all its budget. And then faith cries, 'I believe that God cares, and cares for me! I believe that he will bring me out of my distress, and make it promote his own glory.'" When these two parts work together, prayer and faith, then we are truly casting our cares on God (Philippians 4:6-7).

In the next couple of verses, Peter describes the devil as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. What a stark contrast from the God that cares for us in verse 7! It's interesting to see that Peter doesn't tell us to flee from the devil or hide from him. We can't outrun him. We can see other places in scripture where we are told to flee evil and flee sin (1 Corinthians 6:18, 2 Timothy 2:22) but not the devil. Instead we must resist him and his temptations, standing firm in our faith.

Peter ends this section reminding us that the hardships, suffering, and temptations that we endure are common to believers throughout the world. 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that no temptation we face is uncommon, we are not alone. We as believers are faced with many different hardships during this Covid-19 crisis but it is encouraging to know that we are not alone. Believers all around us are facing similar trials and temptations. If you are struggling, reach out to your brothers and sisters in faith, they are likely struggling too. We are so much stronger when we stand together.

Questions:

1. In what areas of your life do you suffer from pride? What do you need to do to humble yourself in these areas?
2. What cares and anxieties are you not trusting God with? How do they relate to areas of pride in your life? Take a few minutes and confess these areas to God.
3. What struggles, trials, or temptations are you dealing with right now? Take some time to call someone in your community today and tell them your struggles, ask what they are struggling with, and pray together.

Challenge: If you struggle with anxiety or worry I encourage you to memorize 1 Peter 5:7 and/or Phillipians 4:6-7. They are great verses to be able to recall when you begin to worry!