

# The God of all grace

## 1 Peter 5:5-11 (ESV)

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

As Peter under the direction of the Holy Spirit closes this letter to a church that is going through some tough times and has more suffering on the horizon, He challenges them/us to 3 key steps of obedience that will glorify God.

#1 – Humble yourself

## James 4:10 (ESV)

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

## Matthew 23:12 (ESV)

Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.  
(John 13)

## 2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)

if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**Proverbs 22:4 (ESV)**

The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.

**Matthew 18:4 (ESV)**

Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**Philippians 2:8 (ESV)**

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Proverbs 29:23 (ESV)**

One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

**Matthew 5:3 (ESV)**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**James 4:6b (ESV)**

... Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

**1 Peter 5:5-6 (ESV)**

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you

Peter has already talked about being submissive to authority: government, masters and husbands. Now we are being reminded of the rich Biblical theme of honor and humility towards God and others!

Let's remember: Humility is not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less.

We can never be submissive to each other until we first submit to God. It takes grace to submit to another believer, but God can give that grace if we humble ourselves before Him.

It was pride that turned Lucifer into Satan.

### **Isaiah 14:12-15 (ESV)**

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! <sup>13</sup>You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; <sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ <sup>15</sup>But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

God never exalts anyone until that person is ready for it. First the cross, then the crown; first the suffering, then the glory.

One of the benefits of this kind of humble relationship with God is the privilege of letting Him take care of our burdens.

### **1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)**

casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

The word anxiety means the state of being pulled apart. When circumstances are challenging, it is easy for us to be anxious and worried; but if we are, we will miss God's blessing and become poor witnesses. We need His inward peace if we are going to triumph in the fiery trial and bring glory to His name.

How does the Lord show His love and care for us when we give our burdens to Him?

- He gives us the courage to face our cares honestly and not run away or hide – to stand.
- He gives us the wisdom to understand the situation.
- He gives us the strength we need
- He helps us to trust Him to do the rest.

### **Psalm 55:22 (ESV)**

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

### **1 Peter 5:8-9 (ESV)**

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

**James 4:7 (ESV)**

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**Luke 4:13 (ESV)**

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**Matthew 4:10-11 (ESV)**

Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

**Luke 22:31-34 (ESV)**

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

**1 Corinthians 10:13-14 (ESV)**

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

**Recognizing** that he is a subtle foe, we must be vigilant and always on guard. His strategy is to counterfeit whatever God does. He would deceive us were it not for the Word of God and the Spirit of God. The better we know God's Word, the stronger our spiritual senses will be to detect Satan at work.

**Resisting** the devil means that we take our stand on the Word of God and refuse to be moved. Unless we stand, we cannot withstand. Our weapons are the Word of God and prayer and our

protection is the complete armor God has provided. We resist him with 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.

Before we can stand before Satan, we must bow before God.

### **1 Peter 5:10-11 (ESV)**

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. <sup>11</sup>To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Peter reminds them/us that God knew what He was doing and was in complete control. No matter how difficult the fiery trial may become, we always has hope. Peter gave several reasons for this hopeful attitude.

- Our present suffering is only for a little while.

### **1 Peter 1:6-7 (ESV)**

In this you rejoice (our salvation to come), though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

### **2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)**

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison

- We have God's grace
- We know we are going to glory
- We know that our trials have purpose

**Closing Prayer**