

We're Headed for Glory!

I Peter 5:5-14

⁵ 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.” ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹² By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. ¹³ She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. ¹⁴ Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. ¹

Introduction

I am often intrigued by people in California, Oregon, Colorado, and other places known for forest fires who fail to heed the warnings from health officials to evacuate the area. Sometimes they are even given several days’ notice of impending destruction and for whatever reason some people remain where they are, determined to ride it out. The same is true during hurricane season, especially in areas where they have grown accustomed to them over the years. There are the rare occasions when people are physically unable to rescue themselves to safety, but what can we say about the recent covid-19 pandemic which has arrested the world’s attention? CDC officials and our country’s top medical professionals have warned over and over again on the dangers of going into the public without a mask, and still throngs of people continue to gather with no social distancing and no masks; endangering their own lives and the lives of people around them.

A person’s prideful feelings of superiority and invincibility will cause them to ignore all warnings of danger and leave them ill-equipped to face significant challenges when they occur. In this final section of I Peter his goal is to provide his audience with some guidelines to follow considering the inevitable seasons of suffering they will soon face. If they heed the admonitions, they will have consistent Christian conduct for the glory of God as well as an open door of opportunity to witness in their context.

Exposition

Walk in Humility (I Peter 5:5-7)

- A. Peter turns his attention from the elders in verse 1-4 to now address those who are younger.
 - a. Younger, in this text, is comparative to the elders who are addressed

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Pe 5:5–14.

- i. **νέος^a, (neos)**: pertaining to having been in existence for only a short time— ‘new, recent.’²
 - ii. In relation to the elders who shepherd the congregation, the congregation is made up of younger people who may be tempted to rebel against harsh treatment.
 - b. The young are called upon to submit to the leadership of the elders...something he has done other places.
 - i. ***1 Peter 2:13, “Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme”³***
 - ii. ***1 Peter 2:18, “Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.”⁴***
 - iii. ***1 Peter 3:1, “Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives”⁵***
 - iv. ***1 Peter 3:5, “For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands”⁶***
- B. The entire congregation is blessed when each person is committed to a heart attitude of humility.
 - a. ***“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility towards one another”***
 - i. Leaders do not get to be coercive over those they lead
 - ii. Those who are led do not get to be critical of those who lead them
 - iii. Both must submit to God!
 - b. Peter stands on the Scriptures to make his point
 - i. ***Proverbs 3:34, “Toward the scorers he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.”⁷***
 - ii. This verse is also quoted in James 4:6
 - iii. Wisdom, right behavior, and devotion to God are inseparably bound in Proverbs.⁸

² Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 644.

³ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Pe 2:13.

⁴ Ibid, 1 Pe 2:18.

⁵ Ibid, 1 Pe 3:1.

⁶ Ibid, 1 Pe 3:5.

⁷ Ibid, Pr 3:34.

⁸ Duane A. Garrett, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, vol. 14, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993), 84.

- c. Humility is not demeaning ourselves and thinking poorly of ourselves. It is simply not thinking of ourselves at all!⁹
- C. Submission is an act of faith (at the proper time, exaltation comes)
 - a. 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.
 - i. **μέριμνα, ης f**: a feeling of apprehension or distress in view of possible danger or misfortune—‘anxiety, worry, anxious concern. The term μέριμνα may refer to either unnecessary worry or legitimate concern. The equivalent of ‘worry’ may be expressed in some languages in an idiomatic manner, for example, ‘to be killed by one’s mind’ or ‘to be pained by thinking.’¹⁰
 - b. Peter had experiential knowledge of how God cares for His own
 - i. Healed his mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-31)
 - ii. Helped him catch fish (Luke 5:1-11)
 - iii. Helped him pay his bills (Matthew 17:24-27)
 - iv. Helped him walk on water (Matthew 14:22-33)
 - v. Helped him repair his mistakes (Luke 22:50-51; John 18:10-11)
 - vi. Helped him get out of jail (Acts 12)
 - c. How does the Lord help?
 - i. ***“fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”***¹¹
 - ii. ***“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”***¹²
 - iii. ***“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”***¹³
 - iv. ***“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.”***¹⁴

Be Watchful (I Peter 5:8-9)

- A. Here, at the close of the epistle, Peter continues with two imperatives. “Be self-controlled and alert”
 - a. Be Sober-minded/self-controlled
 - i. ***I Peter 1:13, “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”***

⁹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 431.

¹⁰ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 312.

¹¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Is 41:10.

¹² Ibid, Jas 1:5.

¹³ Ibid, Php 4:13.

¹⁴ Ibid, Ps 37:5.

- ii. ***I Peter 4:7, “The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers”***
- b. Be watchful
 - i. Word is most often used in eschatological contexts.
 - ii. ***Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. ¹⁵***
 - iii. ***It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”¹⁶***
- B. The Lord makes us carefree, but He does not make us careless...we have an adversary
 - a. Satan, here, is depicted as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour
 - i. Respect him – he is powerful
 - ii. Recognize him – he is an adversary
 - iii. Resist him
 - 1. In a number of languages one may appropriately translate ‘to resist’ in a number of contexts as ‘to fight back against’ or ‘to oppose in return.’ ¹⁷
 - b. How can we resist Satan?
 - i. Stand firm
 - ii. Stand with family

Live in Hope (I Peter 5:10-14)

- A. Peter ends on a positive note and provides his audience with a sure hope they have when they trust in Christ.
 - a. We have God’s grace
 - b. We are called to glory
 - c. We have limited time to suffer
 - d. We are building Christian character
 - i. Restore
 - ii. Confirm
 - iii. Strengthen
 - iv. Establish

¹⁵ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 24:42–44.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, Mk 13:34–37.

¹⁷ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 494.