

Humble Yourselves; 1 Peter 5:5-11

I. Humility

- A. Reflecting, expressing, or offered in a spirit of deference or submission; ranking low in a hierarchy or scale: insignificant, unpretentious ¹
- B. We live in a society that values the opposite of humility
- C. God used the meekest man on earth to lead Israel out of captivity and make them a nation
 - 1. Numbers 12:3 (ESV); Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.
 - 2. God used Moses to bring the plagues upon Egypt
 - 3. God used Moses to lead the through the Red Sea on dry ground
 - 4. God used Moses to provide the Israelites with water
 - 5. God used Moses to deliver the Law to Israel (to make them a nation)
 - 6. Meekness is power under control (used to further God's will)
- D. Humility does not define our economic status but it does define who we are spiritually

II. Cast Your Cares

- A. Anxieties - a: painful or apprehensive uneasiness of mind usually over an impending or anticipated ill, b: fearful concern or interest, c: a cause of anxiety ²
- B. In order to cast our anxieties on God we must admit that we are anxious
- C. Sometimes we fail to give God our worries
 - 1. Humility also manifests itself in handing over our worries to God (v. 7a), and hence it follows that worry is a form of pride. Worry constitutes pride since it denies the care of a sovereign God. ³
 - 2. He wants to carry our burdens
 - 3. Just think, He bore our sins and now He bears our anxieties and fear
- D. We know that God cares for us
 - 1. He died for us
 - 2. 1 Peter 2:22–24 (ESV); ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
 - 3. He intercedes for us
 - 4. 1 John 2:1–2 (ESV); ¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
 - 5. He is our Great Shepherd
 - 6. Hebrews 13:20–21 (ESV); ²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

² *ibid*

³ Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 238–239.

that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- E. We, as Christians, should never hesitate to give our burdens over to God; surely the one who created the world in only 7 days is able to bear it
- F. Ephesians 3:20–21 (ESV); ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
- G. The antidote to worry is believing in and resting in God's care ⁴

III. Be Sober Minded

- A. 1 Peter 5:8–9 (ESV); 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.
- B. His care extends to our actions
 - 1. His desire is that we are not the victim of our own actions
 - 2. He calls us, over and over again, to be Holy, to keep free from sin
 - 3. James 1:27 (ESV); Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
- C. Be alert
 - 1. We not only have to worry about giving in to temptation on our own, but Satan is actively trying to thwart us, to make us fail
 - 2. Vigilant, prepared for action
 - 3. 1 Peter 1:13–14 (ESV); 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. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,
 - 4. Matthew 24:42–43 (ESV); ⁴² 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.
 - 5. Who remembers learning to drive a car or motorcycle?
 - 6. The Devil is on the prowl!
 - 7. Knowing that there is someone out there who is able to trip us up is very humbling
 - 8. We have to examine ourselves carefully looking for our weaknesses
 - 9. We have to admit that we have weaknesses
 - 10. We have to be on our guard against those who would exploit them
- D. Christianity is not for the prideful

IV. Firmly In Place

- A. 1 Peter 5:10 (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.
- B. All of these come from God
 - 1. Restoration - through the blood of His Son
 - 2. Confirmation (to make strong [through the knowledge of our salvation])
 - 3. Strengthen

⁴ Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 239.

- a) Confirm, strengthen, and establish all have strength as part of the meaning of the Greek words (three different Greek words that have strength in their meaning)
 - b) To cause to be inwardly firm or committed, confirm, establish, strengthen ⁵
 - c) Jesus' commitment is clearly seen in the garden
4. Establish - To lay a foundation (through the Gospel of His Son)
- V. God's Mighty Hand
- A. We flee from Satan (remain vigilant against him) and run to God's mighty hand
 - B. God's mighty hand can take care of our anxieties
 - C. God's mighty hand can restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us

⁵ William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 945.