

1 Peter - Week 25

Peters Final Encouragements and Warnings

1 Peter 5:6 If you will humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, in his good time he will lift you up. 7 Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you. 8 Be careful-watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart. 9 Stand firm when he attacks. Trust the Lord; and remember that other Christians all around the world are going through these sufferings too. 10 After you have suffered a little while, our God, who is full of kindness through Christ, will give you his eternal glory. He personally will come and pick you up, and set you firmly in place, and make you stronger than ever. 11 To him be all power over all things, forever and ever. Amen. 12 I am sending this note to you through the courtesy of Silvanus who is, in my opinion, a very faithful brother. I hope I have encouraged you by this letter, for I have given you a true statement of the way God blesses. What I have told you here should help you to stand firmly in his love. 13 The church here in Rome --she is your sister in the Lord--sends you her greetings; so does my son Mark. 14 Give each other the handshake of Christian love. Peace be to all of you who are in Christ. TLB

Peter, in giving hope to all believers in the first several chapters, now talks about **humility** and suffering all in the same breath.

Humility

1. The **Prospect**

- It's better for us to **submit** to the humility God offers than to get corrected by man.
- There is no place in Christian life for the believer who wants to **strut** through life thinking he is something.

2. The **Present** Problem

- The problem was with the **pagan** society they lived in and the temptations they were offered daily.
- The calling is for us to quit carrying around our worries and our fears and our **failures**, and give them up to God...cast them on Him.

3. The **Personal** Touch

- Our response then is threefold: **submission**, humility, and **trust**.

The **Warning**:

Vs 8: "Watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy."

- He seeks to provoke us to **sin**
- He searches the world to find **victims**. Job 1:7
- He is the cause of some (not all) physical **illness** (Job)
- He continues to blind **unbelievers**.
- He looks to **undermine** the Word of God.

But the good news is this:

- He can be **resisted**.
- He can be **overcome**.

Satan attacks several ways:

- He attacks with **unbelief**.
- He attacks with our **unresponsiveness**. God has spoken to us or truth is revealed to us and we have not, by **faith**, responded.
- He attacks by keeping us **unavailable** because of sin.
- His greatest tool remains the same-- it is knowing what **tempts** us.

Several truths about temptations:

1. Temptation of evil is always on the **lookout** for opportunities.
2. Temptation is alive and **active** in this world. Peter is saying "pay attention" to the activity that can or will draw you away from God.
3. Temptation wants to **devour** our own faith.
4. Temptation must be met head on by the **power** greater than what is before us.
5. Temptations of evil are **common** to all men.

Our response to evil:

1. We must have **unyielding** resistance.
2. We need a **united** resistance.
3. Remember, being like Christ is a **process**.

Remember, in overcoming life in God's strength:

- God **can**
- God **will**
- God **does**
- God keeps on **doing**

The **Promises**

- He will **perfect** you
- He will **establish** you
- He will **strengthen** you
- He will **settle** you

How do we pull off this stuff? Grace, prayer, dependence. And I will add **learning** how to truly praise God in the midst of all of life--good or bad.