

FEARLESS: WIN OVER FEAR

JUNE 13, 2021

WORSHIP

We praise You, Whom shall I fear, Turn your eyes upon Jesus

WELCOME

Who is the most humble person you've known? Describe one situation when he or she exemplified humility.

WORD

1 PETER 5:6-7

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you.

(READ 1 PETER 5:1-11 FOR FULL CONTEXT)

There are many things in our lives that cause us to be fearful. Have you experienced the gripping power of fear? As we wrap up our study on 1 Peter, we will look at how God reveals to us in **1 Peter 5** things that make us susceptible to fear and anxiety. Moreover, we will discover how to **Win Over Fear** as we go through the passage.

1. BE HUMBLE (1 PETER 5:1-7)

As a leader

Peter begins with the word “Therefore” (**v.1**) meaning in light of all that we have previously learned in **1 Peter 1-4**, he now addresses the leaders of the church as “elders” and says of himself “as your fellow elder”, not as their leader. He also reminds them that he was a witness of Christ sufferings. He was there when Jesus was captured in Gethsemane, betrayed by His closest friends, unjustly tried, mocked, spat at, crowned with thorns, beaten beyond recognition, and crucified on the cross. Yet Peter is also a partaker of the glory that is to be revealed in fullness when Jesus returns or when we go to be with Christ. But in the meantime, he saw the glory, the power, and the beauty of our Lord. Peter is simply saying we need to be humble leaders. We are all in some way leading or will be leading people in the future and the principles can be applied in our lives.

Peter goes on to describe the role of the leader as a shepherd (**v. 2**). A shepherd cares, feeds, nurtures, and protects the sheep. The leaders of the church are to take care of the flock that was entrusted to them. He also shows us how to lead—the motivations we should have and should not have (**v. 2-3**). We should not lead out of fear but we should lead voluntarily according to the will of God. We should not be greedy but instead have contentment and serve with eagerness in the leadership role that God has entrusted to us. We are to serve with humility and not be prideful.

Be a humble leader like Jesus—our Chief Shepherd (**v.4**). We have Jesus as our model and we are His under-shepherds. It's tough to be a leader but we have much to look forward to from our Chief Shepherd. His reward is an eternal crown of glory.

As a follower

Peter then speaks to younger men to subject themselves under the leadership of the Church body (**v.5**). Humble people will subject themselves to the leadership structure of the Church. If there is anything that is holding you back from joining a church or small group, the way to win over fear is to be humble. God has given us each other to help us, to protect us, and to journey with one another.

Towards one another

Then, he goes on to say to ALL—the rest of the body of Christ to “clothe yourself with humility”. Humility is not natural to us and we have to intentionally put it on towards one another. “Humility is not thinking more of yourself or less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less”(quote adapted from CS Lewis).

Towards God

We come to realize we are actually proud people and the scary thing is God is opposed to the proud. We need to humble

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ourselves before Him. We should submit to the mighty hand of God (**v.6**). The same God who could crush us because of our pride is the same God who cares for us when we cast our anxiety on Him (**v.7**). Pride robs us of the sweetest experience of God's care because we don't cast our anxieties on Him. Humility is trusting in the Lord because He cares for us.

2. RESIST THE DEVIL (1 PETER 5:8-9)

Right in the middle of talking about humility and casting our anxieties on Jesus is a warning (**v.8**)! We are introduced to our enemy--the devil. He is a real and powerful foe. He is described as a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (to swallow whole). Our pride and our anxiety can be used by the devil to destroy us. Our pride can make us hardened and bitter, unwilling to forgive and blinded to our own shortcomings. Our anxieties can paralyze us. These are opportunities for Satan to devour us.

The warning is for us to be of sober spirit and to be alert. The opposite of alert is to be asleep. Peter is speaking from experience on being asleep. In Gethsemane, he was sleeping when Jesus came back for him and Jesus told him "keep watching and praying so you do not come into temptation" (**Matthew 26:41**). The opposite of being sober is to be drunk. Why do people get drunk? It could be for fun or as an outlet of their problems to forget or to pass time. When we are not sober and alert, we are opening ourselves for Satan to attack us. He is powerful. However, God is more powerful than Satan and demons (**1 John 4:2,4**).

Satan also uses sophisticated ways to attack us. He attacks our minds with lies. If we don't realize how he fights us (his tactics and strategy), we will be defeated. The next verse (**v.9**) tells us to resist Satan by being firm in our faith. Go back to God's Word and to the truth of who God is. Counter the lies that contradict the goodness and character of God. Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (**2 Corinthians 10:5**). Prepare yourselves every day for battle.

To win over fear, be humble. We admit that we need God. We need to be firm in our faith. It is comforting to know that Jesus Himself suffered and that He will never leave us nor forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**).

3. TRUST GOD (1 PETER 5:10-11)

It seems that the difficulty that we are going through may last long but in reality we are just caught up of what's happening in the here and now. Peter reminds us it is just for a little while (**v.10**). The God of all grace has called us to His eternal glory. He is the One who will perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish us. He is doing a mighty work in us. How we live our life will impact our eternity and we have an eternal inheritance to look forward to.

Peter did not end the book by saying "to God be the glory". He reminds us that this God whom we are humbling ourselves to has the power to do everything that He said He would do because "to Him belongs all the power forever" (**v.11**). We can cast our anxiety on Him because He cares for us. He will change our doubting hearts to trusting hearts. He will be the one to carry us through and make us victorious against the enemy. He enables us to be FEARLESS and Win Over Fear.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

How proud are you on a scale of 1 – 10? Why did you rate yourself that way?

2. Setting It Right

What lies of Satan have you been hearing in your mind and how can you resist him and stand firm in your faith?

3. Living It Out

What step or steps do you need to take to humble yourself before the mighty hand of God?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for humble hearts for those you are reaching out to with God's love that they may admit their need for a Savior. Share Jesus who is the best example of humility and the key to winning over every fear people have in their lives.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



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