

Cornerstone Church

May 28, 2017

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for
Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and
2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: Casting All Our Anxieties On Christ – It Really Works!

Today's Passage: 1 Peter 5:6-7

[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. (ESV)

Introduction

Main Point: Living in a world where Christians are not trusted, they are misunderstood, and even hated, causes believers to live incredibly stressful lives. The best way to bolster one's faith during these times is to place all of our reasons to worry on our caring, loving, omnipotent, reliable Father.

Review

1 Peter 5:1-5 [1] So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: [2] shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; [3] not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. [4] And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. [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." (ESV)

- Humility is the social lubricant that makes a united church thrive (at all times) but especially during hard times.
- Therefore, for the sake of the success of the church and our concern for one another, we are commanded to humble ourselves.
 - The people of the world are more than ready to humiliate believers for their faith, so better to do the humbling ourselves before they can get under our skin (the devil's strategy).
 - We humble ourselves by comparing ourselves to God who is the giver of all good gifts and recognizing that without His gifts of grace we would be nothing. **James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (ESV) and 1 Corinthians 4:7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? (ESV)**
 - We humble ourselves by choosing to believe that we deserve less than what we have received. **Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (ESV) and Romans 1:29-32 [29] They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, [30] slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, [31] foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. [32] Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (ESV)**

- We humble ourselves by acknowledging that God is omnipotent and that He is orchestrating all the events and sufferings of my life. **under the mighty hand of God**
 - Resistance is futile. Complaining is futile. Grumbling is futile. Figuring out the how (and sometimes the why) is futile. **Psalm 147:5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. (ESV)**
 - Mood swings are indicators that you have not totally placed yourself under the mighty hand of God.
 - The “mighty hand” of God is a direct reference to what God did to extricate Israel from the bondage of Egypt.
 - Would Israel have left for the Promised Land if things in Egypt were rosy?
 - Was the final destination worth the toil? **Deuteronomy 26:15 Look down from your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless your people Israel and the ground that you have given us, as you swore to our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.’ (ESV)**
- We gladly humble ourselves now because we know that God will honor His patient people with exaltations in eternity that are real and vastly significant. **so that at the proper time he may exalt you,**
 - We humble ourselves by casting the specific worrisome burdens we now carry on God the Father. - **casting all your anxieties on him, Psalm 55:22 Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. (ESV)**
 - And, we do this knowing he cares about us deeply. **Zechariah 10:3 “My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like his majestic steed in battle. (ESV)**