


Standing in the True Grace of God

Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

1 Peter 5:6–14

Read 1 Peter 5:6–14. Then look again at 5:6–7.

1. In verse 6 Peter commands us to humble ourselves. The “therefore” points back to the reason we should do this. What is the reason? (v. 5b)

2. Peter writes that we are to humble ourselves “under God’s mighty hand” (v. 6). In the Old Testament, the phrase “mighty hand” is frequently used to describe God’s deliverance of his people from slavery in Egypt (* Ex. 13:14–16).
 - a. What does the exodus tell us about God, the One before whom we are to humble ourselves? (Deut. 4:34)

 - b. What is the promised result of humility before God? (v. 6b)


3. Another translation of verses 6–7 is, “**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...**” (ESV; emphasis added). So casting our anxiety on God is actually a way of humbling ourselves before him.
 - a. What does casting our anxiety on God show we believe about him?


 - b. What does hanging onto our anxiety show we believe about ourselves?


4. What reassurance do we have as we bring our concerns to God? (v. 7b; Phil. 4:6–7)

5. Some of our worries and concerns are very obvious. But others are subtle, a kind of background noise in our lives. Take a moment to consider what you are worried about. Confess your worries and lay your concerns before the Lord, thanking him for his care for you.

Now focus on verses 8–9.

6. In verse 8 Peter warns us that “the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”
 - a. What are some ways the devil seeks to “devour” believers? (* Mt. 26:41; Acts 20:29–30)

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

- b. In light of this, what are we to do? (vv. 8a, 9a; * Jas. 4:7)
- c. What have we been given to help us stand firm? (Eph. 6:10–18; 2 Thess. 2:15)

7. Why are Peter's words at the end of verse 9 encouraging?

Reread 1 Peter 5:6–14. Then look again at verses 10–11.

- 8. Earlier the phrase “God’s mighty hand” (v. 6) evoked God’s power.
 - a. What characteristic of God does Peter highlight at the beginning of verse 10?
 - b. What has this gracious God already done for us? (v. 10b)
 - c. And what will he do for us? (v. 10c)
- 9. What contrast does Peter make between the suffering that believers experience now and the glory that they will experience in the future?¹ (v. 10; compare 2 Cor. 4:17)
- 10. Regarding verse 11, Peter H. Davids writes, “Having spoken of God’s plans for [believers], it is no accident that [Peter] underlines God’s power.... The one who has planned and promised is also the one to whom belongs the power to fulfill.”²
Take a moment to praise God for his power, which he uses on behalf of his people.

Now focus on verses 12–14.

- 11. Who is Silas (or Silvanus), the man who probably delivered Peter’s letter and may have had a hand in writing it? (v. 12; Acts 15:22, 32)
- 12. What two purposes did Peter have in writing this letter? (v. 12)
- 13. Scan back through the letter and jot down some of the exhortations, encouragements or truths Peter has given that you want to remember.

¹ Peter H. Davids, *The First Epistle of Peter* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990), 194.
² Davids, 196.