

**“Standing Firm in the Grace of God Series”**  
**Lesson #10 “Stand Firm in the Grace of God”**  
**1 Peter Chapter 5:5-14**

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 5:6-7 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

**Introduction:**

How many of you are good at wrapping gifts? I was watching my wife wrap presents at Christmas time and I couldn't believe how long it took her to wrap one small gift. Man let me tell you she had to cut the paper just exactly to the correct length. Then the folds had to be sharp and crisp and the tips of the little triangles at the ends of the box had to end up in just the right place or she would refold it again and again. Did I mention tape placement. I wasn't aware that there were regulations about where you could or could not place tape. And it seems that a sharpie is not sufficient for labeling a present. Well all that to say Charity wraps presents ever so careful!

I rush it on the other hand.....well, its not that I don't care. But you know prioritizing time and energy. My whole objective is to make the top of the present look nice because the Christmas tree really doesn't care what the back of the gift looks like and the floor doesn't care either. I don't ever measure paper I just keep folding till its all gone. And don't even get me started on tape placement.....its clear for heavens sake.

Then there is Ryan. Ryan takes one big sheet of wrapping paper and sets the gift in the middle and pulls all the paper up to the top and wraps a big chunk of tape around the top without one single fold. He is the king of slob gift wrapping.

**Transitional Statement:**

Today Peter is going to remind us of the amazing gift of God's Grace , and he is going to wrap it up thoroughly with 5 points . If we will lend an ear, if we will apply ourselves completely, our lives will never be the same. And this gift from God will bless our lives beyond our wildest dreams.

**Lesson:**

**I. WRAP UP POINT #1 ..... Young men you've got to step up to the plate!**

*1 Peter 5:5a “ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; ...”*

- A. “*Likewise*” ...Certainly submission has been a common thread throughout this book
- B. Here Peter singles out the younger men and tells them to be subject to their elders.

1. To place themselves under the eldership means that they give their trust to them and listen to them and look to them for guidance
  2. All this for mentoring to grow your relationship with God.....because if the young men don't come along spiritually, how will the church sustain godly leaders in the future?
- C. Our elders should have a biros of young men following them every where they go.
- They should have to watch their step because these young guys are right on their coat tales ...asking question, exploring possibilities and seeking guidance and advice.
- D. Young men God has given us clear instruction to place ourselves under the authority of this eldership for our growth and development in the kingdom of God. God has, no doubt, already appointed certain work for you to do in the future and the future starts with learning under our current elders.
- E. \*So elders, that puts a pretty big responsibility at your feet.
- Maybe it would be right to say that you should take every opportunity to take one of these younger men along with you when you are doing kingdom work in order to help them cut their spiritual teeth.

**\*So the young men must step up to the plate**

## II. WRAP UP POINT #2.... Then, we must be people of humility

*1 Peter 5:5b*

*and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.*

- A. We've got to put humility on like a garment....
- Every morning when you get up you have to make a decision....a decision to put on clothes or not.
  - And Humility is a daily decision
  - Humility is a complete covering
- B. Now humility is defined by Thayer as "having a humble opinion of oneself; a deep sense of one's (moral) littleness; modesty, humility, lowliness of mind;
- C. God tells us that we are to clothe ourselves with this attitude toward one another.
- Read with me Matthew 18:2-4

“And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, 3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

-So to explain humility even further Jesus calls a child to Himself and says look you've got to be like this.

-You see Children are:

- Not weighed down by the standards of the world.
- Not quick to judge
- They are quick to make friends
- They try to make others feel good.
- When wronged they quickly forgive
- Able to trust much more than adults generally
- Able to accept help from others.

\*They don't understand what it is for one person to be better than another...that has to be taught...

-Paul says in Philippians 2:3 "...regard one another as more important than yourselves;"

#### D. The opposite of humility is pride

-Pride has to do with showing or thinking oneself above others

-My favorite biblical example of this is Obadiah 3

*3 "The arrogance of your heart has deceived you,  
You who live in the clefts of the rock,  
In the loftiness of your dwelling place,  
Who say in your heart,  
' Who will bring me down to earth?'*

-Make no mistake God stands opposed to this kind of thinking

-Who would like to come up to the battle line and have a face off with God?

-Obadiah 4 goes on to say:

*4 "Though you build high like the eagle,  
Though you set your nest among the stars,  
From there I will bring you down," declares the Lord.*

...Pride comes before destruction and destruction before the fall Prov. 16:18

...With pride comes disgrace Prov. 11:2

E. You see, it is the humble heart that is the fertile ground by which the seed of God's word can grow in, and it is humility that has opened many doors of opportunity in the kingdom of God.

-And God gives his favor to the humble

***So to this end Peter says:***

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

A. I Think about Moses standing in the cleft of the rock covered there by God's mighty hand in Ex 33

-God does not extend His hand of cover and protection to everyone...but it is for the humble of heart.

-That He may elevate or raise you up at the proper time.

B. A hindrance to humbling ourselves before God is anxiety and worry

-To which God says simply ...you just lay all that stuff right here at my feet and I will take care of it.

-God cares for each one of us.

**\*So Christians are to be people of humility**

### **III. WRAP UP POINT #3....We must be Sober and Alert**

*1 Peter 5:8*

*8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

A. Sober....abstaining from wine

-We must abstain from taking in anything that will cloud our judgment

-Be aware of the things going on around us

-Keeping clear thoughts is serious business

-Satan's desire.....To kill us spiritually & he is actively pursuing his desires.

-Satan knows each one of us individually

-He is plotting on us

- He is making plans
- He is laying traps

\*CHURCH THIS IS SERIOUS

B. Alert or Vigilant...Keep awake.....Be watchful

-Do you remember Jesus' disciples in the garden of Gethsemane?

-They let their defenses down as they slept

\*And Jesus reprimands them for it.

-Here Peter says Be on the Alert....Don't let your Guard down

-Being on the alert means maintaining a constant state of awareness.



\* We are trying as a nation to maintain some awareness regarding terrorism because we know its real.

-Church, Satan is real and we can't just wait till he strikes and concern ourselves with damage control...

\*We must be Proactive

\*Try to anticipate his next move.

\*Be looking for his schemes and traps and learning how to stay away from them

-Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:6

*6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.*

**\*Christians must be ever watchful**

#### **IV. WRAP UP POINT #4.....We must resist Satan**

*1 Peter 5:9-11*

*9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

A. Resist means to stand against ....or oppose

-Sometimes we as Christians might think we have to passively stand by and take things on the cheek, after all the Lord told us to turn the other cheek right?

-Church the Lord said that in regard to retaliation, He never intended for us to hide in spiritual fox holes.

-We are born for battle

-And God wants us engaged in the battle

-Opposing and standing against Satan.

-He wants us Fighting the good fight.....as Paul says

B. James 4:7 “.....Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

**\*Christians must resist Satan !**

#### **V. FINALLY, WRAP UP POINT #5....We must stand firm in the Grace of God**

*1 Peter 5:12-14*

*12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother(for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!*

A. In the pages of this letter lies the key to Grace or favor with God.

B. And our stance must be

-Solid

-Firm

-Planted in God's favor

C. Because contrary to popular religious belief you can fall from his favor

-Church we can wonder away from God's presence and loose the very gift that He has set aside for us.

**\*Church we must stand firm in the Grace of God**

**Final Greetings**

*13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.*

**Conclusion:**

Maybe today there are some of us that have been so interested in the gift and failed to pay attention to the wrapping.

- Young men are you stepping up to the spiritual plate?
- Church are we a people of humility?
- Are we on our guard?
- Are we resisting and opposing Satan?
- Are you Firmly planted in the Grace of God?