

Victorious Faith | 1 Peter 5:6-11 | 8/17/14

- Introduction
 - The theme of Peter's letter has been to strengthen the persecuted Christians.
 - Peter has made it very clear that as a Christian we will be persecuted for Christ.
 - In fact Peter said that it should be expected.
 - 1 Peter 4:12
 - "Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you as if something unusual were happening to you."
 - These trials and hard times are to be expected, however we have also seen Peter stress repeatedly that even in these times that we are not to have fear because Christ is well aware of our suffering and he is ALWAYS there for us, no matter what we are going through.
 - As we get to the conclusion of Peter's letter we see that he leaves us with wisdom that is important for Christians to understand and to take a hold of.
- We must humble ourselves before God | 1 Peter 5:6-7
 - **Read 1 Peter 5:6-7**
 - Peter tells us of the importance of humbling ourselves to the will of God.
 - Scripture makes it very clear of the importance of humility and being humble, especially when it comes to when we are under the will of God.
 - When Peter refers to the "mighty hand of God" it also refers to the will of God.
 - This was used several times throughout the Old Testament as a symbol of the power of God working in his people.
 - The deliverance of the Israelites from the Egyptians.
 - Exodus 3:16-20
 - God had seen and heard the suffering of his people.
 - God made a promise that he would deliver them and by his will (strong hand) he would force the king of Egypt to let them go.
 - Peter wants Christians to realize that when God acts according to his will,
 - That even if that will involves us having to endure a trial that is very difficult for us to go through.
 - That God has a perfect plan for each of us, God desires to mold and shape us into a holy child of God so that we can fulfill our purpose that he has for us.
 - Peter is telling us that sometimes his will requires that we go through trials, sometimes we will be persecuted.
 - **However regardless of what we go through we MUST always be humble and submit to the will of God so that his perfect work can be completed.**
 - So why is being humble so important?
 - We may wonder why is it so important that we are humble to God's will?
 - For one reason God requires it
 - Micah 6:8
 - "Mankind He has told you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and **to walk humbly with your God.**"
 - Also it is because if our attitudes are the opposite of humble then we are arrogant and prideful.
 - When someone is humble and submissive they are obedient, like if we humble ourselves before those that have authority over us we acknowledge

their authority and we are gratefully obedient even if it something that we don't necessarily want to do.

- When we are humble and submissive to God we are likewise obedient and we recognize God's authority even when it's hard.
- But if we are arrogant and prideful we are more likely to be disobedient because WE know better.
 - Saul's example
 - A good example of arrogance would be King Saul who at one point did look at himself as a humble servant to others, but had become very prideful.
 - God had given King Saul very specific instruction and instead he disobeyed by only accomplishing the tasks that HE wanted to do.
 - His arrogance was made abundantly clear when even though he obviously disobeyed God he still had the audacity to argue and to give excuses why his way was better. (not to mention he built a statue of himself ☺).
 - If we are arrogant and prideful we will never be able to walk the path that God wants us to go on because we will be too focused on what WE want and think is right for us.
- This is why being humble and submissive to the will of God is so important.
- **God has a plan for us and we must honor and respect his will and humbly obey it.**
- We must humble ourselves to the will of God so that he may exalt us.
 - Peter gives us an important truth that we are to humble ourselves to the will of God so that at the proper time we can be exalted.
 - Peter knew that the persecuted Christians were going through a hard time and they were suffering for the name of Christ.
 - As we also do the same. We have spoken about several times over the last few weeks of suffering and persecutions that we go through.
 - Peter wants us to know that God will exalt us for what we are going through.
 - Sometimes the will of God is that we endure a trial for a period of time, but regardless of the "why" God tells us that if we are humble (that is we are submissive and obedient) that God will exalt us for this.
 - But we cannot do this if we are arrogant and try to go against God's will.
 - Proverbs 18:12
 - "Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor."
 - No matter what we go through good or bad, we must have humility, because if we are proud and arrogant it will be our downfall.
 - But God honors the humble and they are exalted.
 - For God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble – 1 Peter 5:b
 - Jesus teaching on humility.
 - Luke 14:7-11
 - The prideful who assumes that they should take the best place will be humbled.
 - But the one who chooses to be humble will be exalted.

- **Have you experienced the results of your pride or arrogance in relation to God's will for your life?**
- **Have you experienced the results of your humility or submissiveness in relation to God's will on your life?**
- We will be exalted at God's appointed time.
 - So even knowing the importance of humility and being humble to God during our times of trials, that doesn't mean it isn't going to be easy.
 - In fact one of the biggest challenges we likely have is our impatience of when God will deliver us from our trial or persecution.
 - We may at times say yes God I will be humble and we are for a time, but what if our trial is extremely long? Can we maintain our humility?
 - Peter tell us that we will be exalted "at the proper time"
 - The proper time is the time that God according to his will has chosen.
 - This likely is not the same time that we would like ☺
 - We may have to endure for a time, but even if so we can be comforted and encouraged knowing that God WILL exalt us even if we do not know when.
 - Proverbs 22:4
 - "The result of humility is fear of the Lord, along with wealth, honor, and life."
 - God will reward us for our humility to be submissive to God's will.
 - This should give us GREAT encouragement to endure and to maintain our humility in everything that we may endure.
 - Job's example.
 - Job's story gives us detailed truth of this promise, that those that humble themselves and are submissive to God will be exalted.
 - The perfect example of humility shown through suffering and then the reward of being exalted by God.
 - Philippians 2:8-9
 - "He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name,"
 - Do we have any reason to believe that when God says he will exalt us that it would be any different?
 - ***Mirroring of scripture with 1 Peter 5:6-7***
 - Jesus gave us the perfect example of humility and obedient to God.
 - The reward for that humility is beyond anything we could ever imagine.
 - **How difficult is it for you to maintain your humility when you have to endure for a longer period of time?**
- We are encouraged knowing that God cares about us.
 - Through all that we may go through and endure, we must never forget that God cares about us deeply.
 - When we suffer God does not look down upon us with joy because we are hurting, in fact he loves us more that we could ever love anyone else.
 - Matthew 10:29-31
 - "Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So don't be afraid therefore; you are worth more than many sparrows."

- Knowing this truth that came from the mouth of Jesus we are encouraged knowing how important we are and how much he truly cares for us.
 - **With this truth let us follow God's will with humility and obedience.**
- We are to cast our cares upon God.
 - Our care's or our anxieties (depending on your translation) is the sufferings we endure in our minds because of what we are going through.
 - We can literally cast all of this upon God and then we trust in Him for what he is doing in our lives.
 - If we truly believe in God in who He is then we most certainly should put our full trust in Him knowing that we can give everything over to Him.
- We must resist the devil and be firm in our faith | 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - **Read 1 Peter 5:8-9**
 - Peter in his conclusion to his letter begins by reminding Christians that we are to be aware that Satan is active and he is constantly seeking Christians that he can perused to sin, to give up and lose faith.
 - Peter was aware that the instructions that he was giving the Christians regarding their struggles to maintain their faith and to endure could be difficult.
 - He has shown us the benefits of being exalted in Christ by our endurance.
 - Christians in these times are prime candidates for Satan to tempt to persuade us to give up.
 - What better time for Satan to tempt us then when we have to endure persecutions and trials as a Christian.
 - Satan wants us to give up to throw in the towel.
 - For the persecuted Christians that Peter was directing his letter to there were likely those that did give in, that perhaps chose to say that they weren't Christians so that they could avoid persecutions.
 - Satan can inject numerous temptations for us to give in and to lose our faith.
 - Just give up!
 - Job had a similar suggestion during his struggles that was given by his wife (I'm not saying that she was under the devils guidance but it's a good example of what we can be persuaded with by others.
 - So Peter gives us some guidance on what we can do to resist him.
 - In the beginning of verse 8 he tells us that we are to be serious and to be alert.
 - We must be serious (sober)
 - If we are serious about something then we will put a lot of thought and importance on we are referring to.
 - Peter tell us that we must give importance to the matter of the devils ability to come after us that we must put thought into this and not simply dismiss it like its not a big deal.
 - Other translations instead of using the word serious they use the word "sober"
 - Sober is to have a clear mind.
 - We know that one who has consumed alcohol has a cloudy mind where they cannot make decisions in any sort of clarity.
 - If we have this type of mindset when we think of Satan then we will never truly give the importance and take him seriously.
 - We must be alert
 - Peter says that Satan is prowling around like a roaring lion looking to devour us.
 - This means that Satan is always alert and he is always looking to get us at our weakest moments.

- This is truly encouragement
 - Because one might think well great so because I'm a Christian I'm going to have trials.
 - Well yes that is true but knowing that everyone endures these things means that we can all lean on each other for help.
 - This is why it is so important that we lean on each other and support each other's.
 - Because when we do this we will bring encouragement and our faith will be strengthened by other Christians
 - We all share in the suffering and comfort of Christ. We then use our experiences to help others.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
- God's promised workings within the Christian through our suffering | 1 Peter 5:10
 - **Read 1 Peter 5:10**
 - God has given us several promises of his workings within the Christian as we endure the trials of life.
 - We know that we will suffer, but we must not look at merely at the short term, but instead look forward to the good work that God is doing within us.
 - He will restore (perfect) us
 - We will be restored to glory and we will no longer have to suffer or endure the hardship or trial that we are going through.
 - Weather that time is near or far we are assured that we will be restored.
 - He will establish (confirm) us
 - Christ will give assurance to our establishment in the truth.
 - The truth that we believe in, the faith that we hold onto so dearly will be confirmed and there will be no doubts to this faith that we hold onto.
 - The more we endure for Christ the stronger we as Christians become.
 - We will see the assurance of our faith.
 - He will strengthen us
 - The results of enduring suffering through trials and persecutions for Christ is strengthened faith.
 - After every trial that we maintain our faith in Christ by being humble and obedient and resisting the devil God has promised to strengthen us.
 - We go stronger through every trial that we endure, we become more resilient.
 - He will support (settle) us
 - We will be supported on a strong foundation so that we will not be moved.
 - Matthew 7:24
 - "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on the rock"
 - We must always think of our eternal benefits
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 - "Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."