**1 Peter: Basics to Growth in Christ**

1 Peter 5:5-7

**1 Peter 5:5-14**—You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. **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. **8**Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9**But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%2520pet%25205&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30475e)]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. **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! **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.

**Context**

As the image bearers of the eternal God, He has designed us to honor Him in every way. He created us with a mind, body, and soul. Every facet of our being is to know, honor, love, and serve Him fully. We do that with an informed mind. God is honored and pleased when we worship Him in the way He intended. Our worship is informed and directed through His Word and a greater understanding of His Word sets the context of that worship.

God never intended His people to relate to Him without applying their minds to His revelation.[[1]](#footnote-2)

**Psalm 32:8-9**—I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. **9**Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check,

**Psalm 25:8**—Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

**Jeremiah 4:22**—“For My people are foolish, They know Me not;  
They are stupid children And have no understanding. They are shrewd to do evil, But to do good they do not know.”

**Hosea 4:6**—My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

**John 5:39-40**—You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; **40**and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

We are commanded to study the word and to be like the noble-minded Bereans.

**2 Timothy 2:15**—Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

**Acts 17:10-11**—The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. **11**Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

The only ability we have as believers to rightly understand the word of truth is through the enlightenment of the Spirit. The Lord Jesus graciously sent His Spirit to us. He not only lives within us at the moment of regeneration, but illuminates the scriptures to us. We, therefore, have all that we need to rightly divide the truth. We are not like those who have not the Spirit of Christ.

**Romans 8:5-11**—For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6**For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, **7**because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, **8**and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **9**However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. **10**If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rom%25208&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28127d)]alive because of righteousness. **11**But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rom%25208&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28128e)]through His Spirit who dwells in you.

In this final section of Peter’s epistle, he goes back to the basics. He wants to remind them of the fundamentals of growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

**2 Peter 3:18**—but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

**Godly Mindset Basics**

1. **Subject to Godly Authority**

**1 Peter 5:5a**—You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders

1. He transitions to build on an earlier thought
   1. Likewise (homoiōs)—likewise, equally, in the same way

**3:1**—In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives

**3:7**—You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

1. From the elders/church leaders, to the young men
   1. Why this exhortation is directed to the young men is not clear
   2. Perhaps because the other groups have earlier been addressed
   3. They may be (arguably) the most headstrong
2. Being subject/submissive is a theme of Peter

**2:13-20**—Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution…

**3:1-7**—In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands…

1. If Christians are to be submissive to other authorities, it would be incongruent for them not to be in subjection to His church
2. Subject (hypotassō)—to arrange under, to subordinate; put in subjection[[2]](#footnote-3)
   1. Every believer lay aside pride and self-promotion
   2. And to put on a respectful submission to the leadership of the undershepherds (Cf. vv**1-4**)

**1 Corinthians 16:15-16**—Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints), **16**that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors.

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**—But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, **13**and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

**Hebrews 13:17**—Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

1. **Clothed in Humility**

**1 Peter 5:5b-6**—…and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. **6**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

1. Humility is closely linked with submission
   1. Both identify characteristics becoming of a believer
   2. Both are commands Peter gives so as to emulate Christ
2. Clothe (egkomboomai)—knot or band by which two things are fastened together, to fasten or gird one's self[[3]](#footnote-4)
   1. Servants would tie an apron around themselves
   2. Jesus clothed Himself at the washing of the disciples’ feet

**John 13:3-17**—Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, **4**\*got up from supper, and \*laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. **5**Then He \*poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. **6**So He \*came to Simon Peter. He \*said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” **7**Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter.” **8**Peter \*said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” **9**Simon Peter \*said to Him, “Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” **10**Jesus \*said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” **11**For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.” **12**So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? **13**You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. **14**If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. **15**For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. **16**Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. **17**If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

* 1. In a similar way to physical clothing, it is used figuratively of humility
  2. Humility—the having a humble opinion of one's self; a deep sense of one's (moral) littleness; modesty, humility, lowliness of mind

**1 Corinthians 4:1-5**—Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. **2**In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. **3**But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%2520cor%25204&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28437b)]court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. **4**For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. **5**Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.

**Philippians 2:5-7**—Have this attitude [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=phil%25202&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29397e)]in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6**who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7**but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

1. God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble

**Proverbs 3:34**—Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.

**James 4:6**—But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

* 1. Why does God oppose the proud?
  2. Because He hates it

**Proverbs 6:16-17**—There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: **17**Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood…

**Proverbs 8:13**—“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.

* 1. We never want to stand in opposition to God
     1. It is unwise
     2. It puts you in danger or reproof/correction
     3. It can serve as motivation as you think of the implications
  2. Conversely, He gives grace to those who are humble

**Job 22:29**—“When you are cast down, you will speak with confidence, And the humble person He will save.

**Psalm 37:11**—But the humble will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

**Matthew 11:29**—Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**Isaiah 57:15**—For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

* 1. The Lord provided a grace to Paul in his humility

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**—Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! **8**Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. **9**And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%2520cor%252012&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29032c)]about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. **10**Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%2520cor%252012&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29033d)]insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

1. In light of these things, humble yourselves
   1. Avoiding being in opposition
   2. Receiving grace
   3. The best defense against pride is to remind ourselves continually of our weakness, our frailty, and our complete dependence upon God. We’re to give Him the glory and praise in everything. As we do, we’ll experience the promise first recorded in the Book of Proverbs and quoted here by Peter, “God giveth grace to the humble.” [[4]](#footnote-5)
2. The mighty hand of God is at work

**James 4:10a**—Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord…

* 1. Represents God’s sovereign power
  2. God demonstrates His power in the lives of His people
     1. Deliverance (**Ex 3:19-20; Ex13:3-16**)
     2. Testing (**Job 30:20-21**)
     3. Chastening (**Ezek 20:33-38**)
     4. Accomplishing His divine purpose (**Ps 17: Eph 3:11**)
  3. For the recipients of this letter, it is that persecution, suffering, and testing are to be seen in light of greater purposes

1. So that He may exalt you at the proper time (Cf. **5:10**)
   1. Exalt (hypsoō)—to lift up on high, to exalt; to elevate[[5]](#footnote-6)
      1. God raises us out of trouble
      2. God delivers in His way and in His timing
   2. At the proper time (“in time”)

**Galatians 4:4**—But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law

**Titus 1:3**—but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior.

* + 1. Not so much in the “last time” (Cf. **1:5; 2:12**)
    2. But at the “appropriate time” (Cf. **Acts 19:23; Rom 9:9**)
    3. “In due season” (KJV) implies that God will let the lowly remain in their lowly condition here on earth; the time for their exaltation is the last day, the day of the manifestation of Christ; then they shall receive the crown of the glory (**v4**). Who are we to be thus exalted and crowned? The very realization of what is here promised bows us under God’s mighty hand in deepest lowliness.[[6]](#footnote-7)

1. **Casting Cares on Christ**

**1 Peter 5:7**—casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

1. Believers need a confident trust in the purposeful plan of God

**Psalm 55:22**—Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

1. Anxiety
   1. The source of worries
      1. Uncertainties/ Unknown—health, finances, relationships, children, etc. (that list can be seemingly endless)
      2. That which seems “out of your control”
      3. Lack of faith, unbelief
      4. Lack of confidence in God’s goodness/trust
      5. Questioning the character of God and His plan
      6. Questioning His provision, power, care, wisdom, and love
      7. Idolatry of created things over the Creator
   2. Anxiety (merimna)—care, anxiety[[7]](#footnote-8)
   3. It is a word that can include all discontentment, discouragement, despair, questioning, pain, suffering, and whatever other trials they encounter.[[8]](#footnote-9)
2. Casting (epiriptō)—to throw upon, place upon[[9]](#footnote-10)
   1. The exhortation to humble yourself
   2. The believer must accept the state of humiliation imposed on them…in one sense by unbelievers but in another sense by God[[10]](#footnote-11)
   3. And the way we do that with God is by casting our cares on God
   4. To not give our cares to God would be prideful and arrogant[[11]](#footnote-12)

**Conclusion**

None of what Peter is saying here makes sense without God being both powerful and loving. His mighty hand accomplishes all He sets out to do. The confident assertion of these truths moves us to greater trust and deeper faith. We can and should humbly cast all of our burdens on Him, knowing without reservation that He cares for us.

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

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John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, Fundamental Attitudes for Spiritual Maturity, Part 1, 1 Peter 5:5-7, Feb 25, 1990, gty.org

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# Alan M. Stibbs, The First Epistle General of Peter (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.bluelettrbible.org)

1. MacArthur, 274. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Strong’s G5293 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Strong’s G1463 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. DeHaan, 139. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Strong’s G5312 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Lenski, 224. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Strong’s G3308 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. MacArthur, 280. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Strong’s G1977 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. ESV Expository Commentary, 356. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)