

Note: As we've seen in previous studies, humility means not needing to be important. We've also seen that submitting to authority, whether to government, employers, husbands, or elders of the church, takes humility. When we humbly submit we surrender our agenda, our need to be in control, and our need to prove ourselves right. Likewise, when we humbly submit to the mighty hand of God we surrender our agenda, our need to be in control, and our need to prove ourselves right! When we are proud we tend to think that our plan is better than God's plan. *"Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted"* (Matthew 23:12).

4) In 1 Peter 5:6, what does "humble yourself under the mighty hand of God" mean to you? What situation are you in today that calls for humbling yourself and submitting to God's plan?

5) What does 1 Peter 5:7 say that we are to cast on God? Why?

Note: If anybody knew from experience that God cares for His own, it was Peter! When you read the four Gospels, you discover that Peter shared in some wonderful miracles. Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-31), gave him a great catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11), helped him pay his temple tax (Matt 17:24-27), helped him walk on the water (Matt 14:22-33), repaired the damage he did to the ear of Malchus (Luke 22:50-51; John 18:10-11), and even delivered Peter from prison (Acts 12). (From *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Copyright © 1989 by Chariot Victor Publishing, and imprint of Cook Communication Ministries. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

6) How do you think anxiety is produced in your life when you don't humble yourself under the mighty hand of God?

7) Look up Philippians 4:6. What three words are key in letting our requests be made known to God?

Note: Paul gives us three ingredients to cure anxiety in Philippians 4:6. The Greek word for prayer is worship. When you are stressed, let your mind begin to worship God. Get your mind off of the problem you face and on to the majesty of God. The second ingredient is supplication. The root of the Greek word for supplication is to beg. We can come boldly into the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). After you focus on how majestic, good, and powerful God is, it puts your problems in perspective. You can then respectfully beg Him for His goodness and perfect plan for the trial you are in. Finally, we put on an attitude of thanksgiving. You can't be anxious and thankful at the same time. When you are anxious, stop and thank God for all the blessings in your life and anxiety will flee. The opposite of thankfulness is discontentment. Discontentment breeds anxiety. Turn your discontentment into praise!

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9

- 1) Who are we to be on alert for and how is he described?
 - a) **Extra Blessing* – Read Daniel chapter 6. Peter symbolically referred to the devil as “*a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*” This could be to remind his readers of Daniel and how God cared for him. It is also interesting to realize that the Romans probably threw Christians to lions and other beasts in the coliseums during the first and second century. In Daniel 6, how was Daniel protected during this trial in his life? When the king saw the power of God, what was his response (verses 26-27)? (As a side note, notice that Daniel submitted to God first and refused to keep the king’s statute, yet but remained humbly respectful to the king.)

- 2) Read Luke 22:31-34, 45-46, and 54-62. Comparing Peter’s failure of denying the Lord with what he wrote in 1 Peter 5:6-9, what do you think the reasons were that Peter fell into sin?

- 3) Both Peter and James give us the same formula for success which is to humbly submit to God and resist the devil. James 4:6-7 says, “*But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."* Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Name the types of circumstances in which the devil attacks and makes you not want to humbly submit to God.

- 4) Compare 1 Peter 5:9 with 1 Corinthians 10:13. How does knowing that other believers have struggled with the same temptations you have, and yet overcome, help you with your faith?

Read 1 Peter 5:10-11

1) Fill in the blanks from 1 Peter 5:10:

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all _____, who called you to His _____ in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. (NASB)

2) The suffering referred to throughout 1 Peter is because of persecution from being a Christian and our response to it. Peter knew all too well what it meant to feel the heat of persecution and then, under pressure, become fearful and falter in faith. No matter what circumstances we find ourselves in that cause suffering, we can choose whether or not to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God as we surrender to Him. We can choose to resist the devil, firm in our faith. Even when our faith falters and sinful thoughts begin to overwhelm us, God’s grace abounds. From verse 10 written out above, what will Christ Himself do for you? From verse 11, what should our response be?

English Translation	Greek Meaning	Practical Application
Perfect (Restore)	To set a fracture, to mend, to make right	God will mend your broken heart from suffering.
Confirm (Establish or Make Strong)	Confirm, fix firmly; to turn resolutely in a certain direction	As your heart is mended you will begin to see His work in your life. You will see that He is victorious! He sets you in a new direction as you see His promises. You learn from His word in a new light.
Strengthen	To make strong; to stand strongly	After you are set in a new direction, He sets you firmly in place. He infuses you with His power to be strong in faith.
Establish (Settle or Steadfast)	To lay a firm foundation	Our faith does not waver. We know without a doubt that He is good and cares for us.

God mends our broken heart. He victoriously sets us in a new direction as we see His love for us. He sets our faith firmly in place and infuses it with power. Our faith is settled and unmovable.

We see this transition in Peter’s life after he denied Christ. God mended Peter’s heart through the power of forgiveness at the resurrection. He set him in a new direction through His love. He strengthened Peter’s faith and infused it with power at Pentecost. Finally, as we see in this letter, Peter’s faith is settled and unmovable even in the midst of further calamities in his life.

Read 1 Peter 5:12-14

1) From verse 12, what is the reason that Peter wrote this letter?

Note: Peter probably referred to Rome as Babylon in a figurative sense because it was capitol of the pagan world. The Bible uses Babylon as a symbol of ungodliness as well as that name of a real place (cf. Revelation 17-18).
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2) How does Peter end his letter? Name a practical way that being in Christ brings you peace.

Conclusion

1) Now that you have studied 1 Peter, what would you say are the main themes?

2) Skim through the past nine lessons. Name one or two ideas that you learned from 1 Peter that you have been able to apply to your life.

