

## GET OUT OF YOUR PIT

### **1 Peter 5:5-10 NIV**

<sup>5</sup>In the same way, you who are younger, **submit** yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves **with humility** toward one another, because,

“God **opposes the proud** but shows favor to the humble.”

<sup>6</sup>**Humble yourselves**, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that **he may lift you up** in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your **anxiety** on him because he cares for you.

<sup>8</sup> Be alert and of sober mind. **Your enemy the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

<sup>9</sup> **Resist** him, **standing firm** in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

<sup>10</sup> And **the God of all grace**, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself **restore you** and **make you strong, firm** and **steadfast**.

**Intro:** This notice appeared in the window of a coat store in Nottingham, England:

We have been established for over 100 years and have been pleasing and displeasing customers ever since.

We have made money and lost money, suffered the effects of coal nationalization, coal rationing, government control, and bad payers.

We have been cussed and discussed, messed about, lied to, held up, robbed, and swindled. **The only reason we stay in business is to see what happens next.**

The store owner knew that life was full of difficulties. **But he was determined to survive,** even if only to **hope for the best** and "**see what happens next.**"

\*\*\*\*\*

**Christ's followers** have a much better reason **to endure tough times** as they live for Him. **The Lord has assured us in His Word that better times are ahead.**

**The psalmist** reminded us that in spite of the prosperity of the wicked, **the righteous will be vindicated.**

- There are times when we find our lives down in the pits.
- Sometimes it seems like we just lose our desire to go on for God
- There are times when we just want to give up.

**Sometimes life just gets us down and we find ourselves in the pits.**

- Does that ever happen to you?????
- Life has jumped on you with *both feet*
- And you are just about ready to throw in the towel.

Before you do, let me show you from this passage ***How To Get Out Of Your Pit***. God has ***a word of encouragement*** and ***instruction*** for you this morning.

**SURRENDER YOUR WILL TO GOD (V5-6)**

A. **Assume The Place Of Submission**

We live in a day where people are seeking their own way -

- But the child of God who wants to please the Lord -
- ***Will learn to allow God*** to have preeminence in our life.

**Col. 1:18 – He is the head of the Body, THE church; so that in everything He might have the supremacy!**

The word preeminence is the ***Greek word proteuo***' which means **“to be first in rank or influence!”**

This is the exclamation for Paul as he encourages us to acknowledge the preeminence of Christ! **(As our head, He is certainly preeminent in all things.)**

B. **Assume The Place Of Slavery**

***“Clothed with Humility”*** literally means to ***“wear the apron of a slave”***.

True humility before the Lord merely means assuming the place of a slave.

**Ephesians 6:6 – Work hard, but not to just please your Masters when they are watching. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart!**

- In other words, I have no will but His will.
- I have no plan but His plan.
- I have no desire but His desire.

Doing the will of God – ***Seeing that you are in the state of Servitude***, it is the will of God that you should act conscientiously in it!

### C. **Accept The Plan Of The Sovereign**

If we can learn ***the way of humility***, then the Lord will lift us up in His own way.

- As long as we seek to promote ourselves,
- We will **never amount to much** for the glory of God.

**Proverbs 3:34 – He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.**

However, **when we turn loose of our lives and willingly** place ourselves **under the Lord**, He will use us for His glory!

***Peter is telling the young and the old here to be humble and serve each other! God's recognition counts more than Human praise!!!!***

**Surrender Your Will to God** – SAY- ***"I surrender MY WILL too God!"***

**SEND YOUR WORRY TO GOD (V. 7)**

### A. **Conclusively**

**"Casting"** - This verb refers to the action of ***"throwing or casting"*** something.

- It is in a form that refers to a **one time** deal.
- We are told here to ***"once and for ALL, throw our burdens to Jesus!"***

**Psalms 46:1-2 – God is our refuge and strength**, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore **we will not fear**, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea!

**When the worries of life press us down,**

- **We do not have to bear them alone!**
- Thank God, there is One Who is stronger than we are –
- Who is **willing** to carry our load.

## B. **Completely**

Notice how much of our burden we are supposed to give to the Lord. **"All your care"!**

- He tells us **to give Him everything!**
- We are not to keep even the smallest part of a burden to **ourselves**.

**James 4:10 – humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.**

- We are told to give it all up to Jesus!

## C. **Confidently**

**How can we do this?** With the **absolute confidence** that He cares for us!

**Heb. 4:15**

**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet He did not sin!**

When we are burdened, ***it touches the heart of God*** and ***He is moved on our behalf***.

- ***Jesus Christ, Himself, is actively involved in caring for us.***
- Why the interest?
- He has made ***quiet an investment*** in us **(The Cross)**
- **He will see to the needs** that arise in our lives.

**Don't Submit to circumstances, but to the Lord who controls circumstances!**

**Surrender Your Will To God, Send Your Worry To God**

## 8-9 STRENGTHEN YOUR WALK WITH GOD (V. 8-9)

We are told that we need to be "*sober and vigilant*".

This means that *we need to get serious* about some things, especially where the devil is concerned.

- Who do you think wants to get your life in *the pits anyway?*
- Who do you think is actively interested in *seeing you miserable?*
- Who do you think is *working against you* every day of your life?

*Strengthen our walk* with the Lord, and *we will have victory* over the devil!

### A. Be Serious About The Devil's Reality

The Devil, **he is real!!!!**

Here, he is called "*Adversary*". This word means, "*An opponent, an enemy*".

He is also called "*the devil*". This name means "*slanderer; or false accuser*."

This is the same one who attacked the character and name of *old Job*!

He is still the *same old devil* and *he hates you* and wants *to see you fall*.

- The sooner we come to realize *the truth of Satan's reality* -
- The sooner we will see *the need to strengthen our walks* with God.

B. Be Serious About The Devil's Ferocity - The devil is compared to a "roaring lion" in this verse.

### Why a lion?

Well, there are some similarities between *the devil and lions*.

1. **Lions Are Forceful** - They are 14 to 21 times stronger than a man. **Satan is far stronger** than we are as well! **We cannot fight him on our own.**

2. **Lions Are Ferocious** - A mature lion can consume 30% of his own body weight at one setting.

They are famous as the king of beasts and as the king of the jungle.

- **All those who encounter them treat them with fear and respect.**
- **God's children** would do well to learn to **respect the devil!**

**We do not need to fear him,**

- But ***he does have power*** that is far superior to our own natural abilities.
- He is a ***ferocious foe*** who is never satisfied with his conquests.
- He feeds on the carcase of the fallen ones and he rises to hunt more.

3. **Lions Are Fearful** - A mature lion's roar can be heard up to 5 miles away. Lions do most of their roaring at night.

The reason they roar in the first place ***is to create fear in the hearts*** of those who hear them. **This is just what the devil does too!**

He roars to create **fear in the hearts of God's children**.

- **Why?**
- Because ***fear paralyzes faith!***

**If the devil can get you to listen to his roar,**

- **He can keep you from hearing God's Word.**
- If he can ***paralyze your faith***, then ***he can attack your life***.

C. **Be Serious About The Devil's Susceptibility** - The good news about the devil is that **he can be defeated** by the child of God!

The secret to overcoming him and changing his roar into a meow is to ***"resist" him!*** This word means to **"stand up against"** the devil!

**Be steadfast in your faith**, knowing that **the Lord has already defeated the devil** and that **victory for the child of God** is ***found in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ!***

**Rev. 12:9 - God has defeated and thrown the Devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. To the earth with his angels.**

You do not have to be a notch on the devil's gun! **Don't let him have your honor, your family, your life, or anything else he is after.** Stand against him and see the victory!

Keep your eyes on Jesus, **James 4:7** says then: Learn the truth that if you will **resist him, he will flee** from you!

Learn that true victory comes to those who will walk in "**faith**";

**1 John 5:4.** For everyone Born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith!

Get to the place where you have no doubts as to the truth

**1 John 4:4. Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in this world!**

To get to that place requires that every child of God grow in the Lord and that we strengthen our walk with Him daily ***through prayer and the study of His Word!***

***Be self-controlled and alert, resist and stand firm! (VS 8-9)***

**Surrender Your Will To God - Send Your Worry To God - Strengthen Your Walk With God**

**SEE THE WORK OF GOD (V.10)**

One of the greatest incentives to ***walking in continuous victory*** is to be able to ***see the Lord at work*** all around you!

Notice three thoughts:

A. **The Grace We Now Enjoy**

- While we journey through those difficult days,
- while we fight the devil day by day,
- while we face those times when we are burdened with worries and cares,
- ***Always remember that God's grace is sufficient for you!***

**Notice:**

- **He did not say** that He would lift every load.
- **He did not say** that He would flatten every hill.
- **He did not say** that He would smooth out every rough spot.

However, **He did say** that He would **change you in the midst of your difficulty** so that **you could be successful** in your walk with Him.

**There is grace for every trial**, Thank God for marvelous, priceless, boundless, grace!

B. **The Grief We Must Endure** - Verse 10 makes it plain that ***there will be difficulties*** along the road of life from time to time.

The word “suffer” bears this out for us. ***Jesus Himself*** said **it would be so**.

**God only had one Son Who did not sin, but He has no sons that do not suffer!**

**Let us remember** that even when life is a veil of tears for us, that we have the Lord's promise of ***His Presence, His Provision, His Power, and His Promotion***.

Therefore, ***let us run with patience the race*** that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith!

**Why**, Because **He has already ran the race** and ***He knows the way!***

C. **The Glory We Will Experience** - This verse tells us that when the suffering days are over, there are glory days ahead!

Notice what the Lord tells His children here: **He will make us perfect, establish us, strengthen us and settle us.**

**When will this happen???** **When we leave this world**, we are going to a land where the things which trouble us now are not allowed to enter.

***A place where the trials*** of the way and the tears of the way are all wiped away forever.

A place where trials and burdens are replaced **with glory and peace.**

A place where **the devil cannot follow** and where **the Lord is the light.**



## **CLOSE**

### **Is your life in the pits this afternoon?**

When we are suffering, we often feel as though our pain will never end!

If so, there is a way out.

Ask yourself the following questions and be honest:

- ***Am I surrendering my will to God?***
- ***Am I sending my worries to God?***
- ***Am I strengthening my walk with God?***
  - ***Am I seeing the work of God?***

**If the answer to any of these questions is no**, then I would suggest that you come to Him this afternoon and get that area of your life straightened out.

There is peace in Jesus.

There is power in Jesus.

You can get your life **out of the pits** this afternoon if you will do it God's way!