

Resist

1 Peter 5:6-11

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A. Depend on His Love (v. 6; Romans 8:38-39):

1. Humble – Come Under His Lordship - We must remain cognizant of the fact that we are mere human beings and are a royal priesthood, a holy nation (2:9-10) brings spiritual sacrifices to God (2:5; Christ modeled this for us 2:21-25), so we like Christ must live under God's authority.

a) God resists the proud because God hates the sin of pride (Prov. 6:16–17; 8:13). It was pride that turned Lucifer into satan (Isa. 14:12–15). Pride—a desire to be like God—stirred Eve to take the forbidden fruit. “The pride of life” is evidence of worldliness (1 John 2:16). The only antidote to pride is the grace of God, and we receive that grace when we yield ourselves to Him. The evidence of that grace is that we yield to one another.

b) The word “proud” is the translation of a Greek word that means literally “to show above,” and thus describes the proud person as one who shows himself above others. The word “humble” is the translation of the Greek word rendered “lowly” in Matthew 11:29, where it describes our Lord's character. The word is found in an early secular document where it speaks of the Nile River in its low stage, saying , “It

runs low.” The word means “not rising far from the ground.” It describes the Christian who follows in the humble and lowly steps of his Lord. [\[1\]](#)

c) The sense is ‘gird on humility as an apron.’ Such phraseology, particularly when thus used by Peter, vividly recalls the upper room, where Peter saw Jesus gird Himself in this way and stoop to wash His disciples’ feet. The agenda of God was everything.

2. Humble – When Peter heard that God had revealed to him that Jesus is the Christ, he became puffed up and told Jesus He was not going to die. Christ rebuked Peter for letting satan build him up with pride (Matthew 16:13-23). Peter teaches us that he had to learn to bring himself under the will of God no matter what he thought he knew.

a) When our way of thinking differs from what God is saying, we need to bring ourselves under the Word of God and not lean to our understanding (Prov. 3:5-6). Peter disagreed with Christ in Matthew 16:21-23. He told Christ He was not going to die. Instead of bringing himself under the Word of God, he sought to argue with Christ. The same occurred in Luke 22:28-34, and Christ told Peter that satan was in heaven trying to sift him like wheat. Man’s intellectual ability can cause him to think he does not need God. This is what we see in the last days that leads to the decay of mankind (Romans 1:18, 21-22).

3. Humble – Peter felt he could tell Christ that he would not turn his back on Christ even when Christ told him that satan was in heaven trying to sift him like wheat (Luke 22:28-34). Peter says in troubling times; we must trust the will of God or experience His mighty hand.

4. Mighty hand – The discipline, the powerful authority of God controls all things, so there is no point in not respecting His authority and power.

a) Moses was under God's hand for forty years before God sent him to deliver the Jews from Egypt. Joseph was under God's hand for at least thirteen years before God lifted him to the throne. One of the evidences of our pride is our impatience with God, and one reason for suffering is that we might learn patience (James 1:1-6). Here, Peter referred to words he heard the Master say: "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:11).

b) Peter thus implies that God is in control of all that happens and that, no matter what happens, He can be trusted to exercise His control for His people's good. Christians, therefore, should submit not just to the circumstances but in the circumstances to the hand that controls them (Hebr. 12:7-9).

5. Mighty hand – No matter what Peter believed, he knew how out of control things seemed; God can deliver him (Peter do you love me; John 21:15-17), and Christ can be raised from the dead and overcome all evil. So, there is no need to worry when things seem out of control.

6. He may exalt you – When we are willing to come under the power and authority of God, in His time, He will raise us to a high place of privilege, honor, and happiness at the appointed time.

7. He may exalt you – Peter thought to argue about who will be on the right and the left of Christ's kingdom (especially since Christ told them they will be seated on thrones; Matthew 19:27-30) rather than trust Christ for the time He will establish Peter to preach at Pentecost.

8. Proper time – Christ came at the right season (Gal. 4:4). Roads were built, and shipping lanes were established, so when He said to go into the world, they could go (Acts 1:8). It could have seemed like God lost control. The world was very pagan (people worshipping all kinds of false gods), the Jews had no heart for Him, especially since He

did not talk to them for 400 years (Anna telling everyone the baby in her hand was Jesus and no one listen; Christ said they knew who He was and they still crucified Him – John 5:39-40), so it can seem like the worst time but it was the best time to save the lost (John 3:16) and to complete His mission for those who needed Him most (Luke 4:17-20).

9. Proper time – Christ has a season that He plans to execute His ordained purposes. We must focus on just running the race that is set before us. What is required to have this mindset is always to be willing to come under His authority.

10. Proper time – Peter wanted to establish God’s kingdom when Christ was popular (coming into Jerusalem on a donkey), but Christ had to teach Peter it was not the proper time.

11. Casting your anxiety – We, once and for all, must not wait for the right moment to decisively hurl our troubles to Christ. We must once and for all put all our trust in Christ that He is concerned about all our distresses, misfortunes, and worries and, like a fisherman with a net, hurls them to Christ.

12. Cares – This is hesed love, meaning it is His covenant with us (told Peter and the other disciples He will “never leave or forsake them;” Matthew 28:20) to be committed to have us as the object of His concern continuously. .

a) The word translated as “care” means “anxiety, the state of being pulled apart.” When circumstances are difficult, it is easy for us to be anxious and worried, but if we are, we will miss God’s blessing and become poor witnesses to the loss. We need His inward peace if we are going to triumph in the fiery trial and bring glory to His name. Dr. George Morrison said, “God does not make His children carefree so that they be careless.”

13. Cares – Christ is interested in all we are going through (believers were suffering at the hands of Nero, and it seems like Nero could do whatever he wanted with them) and has no apprehensions about responding to our distresses.

a) 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 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).

14. Cares – If Satan can get us to think that God does not care, we will become like Peter and take things into our own hands, even thinking we need to fight for Christ in ways He has never ordained (Peter cut the soldier's ear off).

B. Be Vigilant (vs. 8-9a):

1. Sober – Believers must not allow themselves to become drunk with worry, fear, or pride (like Peter) but remain humble under the will of God so that they can have the state of mind to cast their cares on Christ knowing that He is always in control, will never leave them nor forsake them and at the right season deliver them with His mighty hand (1:13; 4:7).

a) Be vigilant means being alert to the spiritual pitfalls of life and taking appropriate steps to ensure that we do not stumble. Your adversary: satan is our avowed enemy. He never ceases to be hostile toward us; he constantly accuses us before God (Job 1:9—2:7; Zech. 3:1; Luke 22:31; Rev. 12:10). Like a roaring lion, satan is both cunning and cruel. He attacks when least expected and desires to destroy completely those whom he attacks. [\[2\]](#)

2. The alert – Peter commands believers to remain vigilant and watchful, not so confident in their abilities or convictions about being committed to Christ that they relax and just do church (could be a reference to Peter sleeping when Christ asked for him to pray with Him; 1 Cor 3:15; 9:27; 2 Cor 5:10).

3. Adversary – satan goes to heaven day and night, seeking whom he may devour (Rev. 12:10-12; Job was not an exception). Peter would know this because of what Christ said to him when stated he would not deny Christ. Christ told him in response that satan was currently in heaven seeking to “sift him like wheat.” (Luke 22:28-34).

a) The word “satan” means “adversary,” and the word “devil” means “the accuser, the slanderer.” The recipients of this letter had already experienced the attacks of the slanderer (1 Peter 4:4, 14), and now they would meet “the lion” in their fiery trial. Peter gave them several practical instructions to help them get victory over their adversary.

b) According to the Parable of the Tares, wherever God plants a true Christian, satan seeks to plant a counterfeit (Matt. 13:24–30, 36–43). He would deceive us were it not for the Word of God and the Spirit of God (1 John 2:18–27). The better we know God’s Word, the keener our spiritual senses will be to detect satan at

work. We must be able to “try the spirits” and know the true from the false (1 John 4:1–6).

4. Adversary – satan is malicious, insidiously a persistent hostile enemy always seeking to bring false charges against us. We are the subject of his attention.

a) Satan is a dangerous enemy. He is a serpent who can bite us when we least expect it. He is a destroyer (Rev. 12:11; *Abaddon* and *Apollyon* both mean “destruction”) and an accuser (Zech. 3:1–5; Rev. 12:9–11). He has great power and intelligence and a host of demons who assist him in his attacks against God’s people (Eph. 6:10ff). He is a formidable enemy; we must never joke about, ignore, or underestimate his ability. We must “be sober” and have our minds under control regarding our conflict with satan.

5. Prowls around – The devil continuously roams around (like in the case of Job; 1:7 – 1:10 – ‘every side’) with no intent on ever stopping to seek ways to destroy us (John 10:10).

6. Roaring lion – satan is a fierce beast constantly seeking to intimidate and dominate us by captivating us with fear. It did not matter how fierce Daniel's opponents were; even to a lion’s den, they could not stop him from obeying God’s Word.

a) Lions were viewed as the most ferocious and mighty beasts, and from Ps. 22:13 (probably the background here), they came to be used as figures for enemies of God's people. In the time of Nero, Christians were also fed to some literal lions. The small, isolated Christian communities could take heart that their other spiritual siblings started with the churches. Peter knew that Rome-were experiencing the same trials (1 Peter 5:9) until the end (v.10).

7. Seeking – satan continuously strives with no intent of ever stopping until he accomplishes destroying us.

8. Devour – satan is not trying to take little bites out of our lives; he wants to swallow us up with pride, anxiety, and distress so that we become so full of despair that we consider killing ourselves. If he can't take our lives, he drives us to do it to ourselves. This is why the scriptures teach us to deny ourselves (Luke 14:25-27).

9. Resist – Peter commands us with a sense of urgency to oppose, to fight back (as Paul says, the only fight we have is the fight of faith; 1 Timothy 6:12) against the attacks of the devil by being sober to remain humble, cast our cares upon Christ, stay alert, and not allow him to intimidate us with fear.

a) The Greek word translated “resist” means “to withstand, to be firm against someone else’s onset” rather than “to strive against that one.” The Christian would do well to remember that he cannot fight the devil. [\[3\]](#)

10. Firm – A believer must hold to their orders from God like a body of heavy-armed infantry formed in ranks and files. This is how Peter acted once Christ forgave him. He would not back down no matter what they did to him in Acts 2.

a) The word "steadfast" is a military term. Paul uses it in Colossians 2:3 when he says, "beholding your order," that is, "beholding your solid front or close phalanx." The Greek phalanx was a body of heavy-armed infantry formed in ranks and files close and deep. Pope has a line, "the Grecian phalanx, moveless as a tower." The word speaks of solidity in the very mass and body of the thing itself.

11. Faith – Our confident, complete trust and steadfast commitment must be in our deep conviction that His Word is true and will last forever (1 Peter 1:22-25). Our intense

trust in Christ should allow us to completely surrender to do what He says, no matter the obstacles, the pain, or the distress we encounter.

a) The words "in the faith" refer to the believer's faith, the definite article here pointed to ownership. That is, the Christian is to stand firm against the onset of the devil, not in himself, but in the exercise of a faith that depends upon God's strengthening and protecting power. This is why we need to be sober -- have a clear mind.

C. Take Comfort; You are Not Alone (vs. 9b-10):

1. Knowing – We must keep the faith because we know that the Lord has “granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness;” (2 Peter 1:3-4) we do not lack the opportunity to have all the information we need to combat the attacks of the devil. This keeps us sober.
2. Suffering – The way this is written, Peter wants to highlight that these believers were experiencing a deep pain inside them. They were emotionally and mentally challenged by all that was taking place as a result of the persecution of Nero.
3. Accomplished – What Peter is challenging these believers today has completely been fulfilled perfectly by other believers who live in the same circumstances as they do (world – satan the prince of the world; 1 John 5:19).
4. Brethren – What we are going through is ultimately what all those who have a sincere faith in Christ experience. These believers don’t just share the faith; they deeply love one another; there is a brotherhood, a sisterhood.

D. This Mindset Empowers Us (vs. 10):

1. Suffering – Because the Lord views trials as necessary (1:6), this painful experience of persecution will come to an end.

2. God of all grace – Peter would know about the favor and generous, free-hearted kindness of Christ because after his painful ordeal during all that Christ experienced leading up to the crucifixion, Christ is the One who initiated their reconciliation by asking Peter if he still loves Him (John 21:15-17). He experienced the bountiful, spontaneous generosity of Christ.

a) He called us before we called on Him (1 Peter 1:2). We have “tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Peter 2:3), so we are not afraid of anything that He proposes for us. His grace is “manifold” (1 Peter 4:10) and meets every situation of life. As we submit to Him, He gives us the grace we need. In fact, He is “the God of all grace.” He has grace to help in every time of need (Heb. 4:16). “He giveth more grace” (James 4:6), and we must stand in that grace (1 Peter 5:12; see Rom. 5:2).

3. Who called you – Just like Christ was called for the purposes of God which included His suffering (2:21-25) we have a divine invitation to separate ourselves from the rest of the world and participate in His sufferings while experiencing His grace (Philippians 3:7-11). Victory has already been achieved.

a) The word “called” in its Greek usage means more than an invitation. It is a divine summons. The one summoned is constituted, willing to obey the summons, not against but with his free will and accord. It is an effectual call. The one called always responds through the enablement of the Holy Spirit. This effectual call is with a view to God’s eternal glory. That is, God calls us into salvation in order that He may derive glory for Himself by virtue of our being saved. He who has called us in His grace will supply all needed grace until we are ushered into Glory.

4. His eternal glory – Our divine call is focused on experiencing His divine nature fully revealed in all its excellence. This is the transformation process that trials can provide ‘when we resist the devil firm in our faith.’
5. Will Himself perfect – Because Christ’s focus is for us to experience His divine nature in its full excellence, Christ working in us, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, will supply us all we need (like a person giving an army a full supply of provisions) to be fully equipped for whatever we may encounter in the future (this word also means we will have nets since we had to cast our cares that are fully mended or bones that are broken reset and fully healed).
6. Establish - When God can perfect us through trials, we become so mature in Christ, trials find us steadfastly committed to doing what God says no matter what (Peter; Acts 2).
7. Strengthen - When we cast our cares, and resist the devil, endure the sufferings He institutes for us, we become more capable to deal with all kinds of difficulties that we may encounter in this life.
8. Establish you - All of the above shapes a believer to mature so that they become as solid as the foundation of a building, immovable.

a) *Settle* is the translation of a word that means “to lay a foundation.” It is used this way in Hebrews 1:10. The house founded on the rock withstood the storm (Matt. 7:24–27). A believer who is equipped by God will “continue in the faith grounded and settled” (Col. 1:23). He will not be “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14).

9. Perfect, confirm, strengthen – This trio allows us to execute; *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”* (1 Corinthians 15:58; NASU)

10. Dominion forever – Jesus is Lord over everything (Colossians 1:15-18) and reigns forever; that is why we must humble ourselves under His mighty hand.

11. Amen – The "Amen" is Peter's emphatic endorsement of everything that has been stated in this book.

[1] Wuest, K. S. (1997). [*Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader*](#) (Vol. 11, pp. 127–128). Eerdmans.

[2] Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (1 Pe 5:8). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

[3] Wuest, K. S. (1997). [*Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader*](#) (Vol. 11, p. 130). Eerdmans.