

Intro:

- These are the last weeks of our church
 - Thank you
- What could I preach on in these final weeks?
 - How can I help finish well, and carry through
 - All scripture is God breathed and useful
 - My favorite book, aThe final thoughts and benediction.
 - 1 Peter 5:5-11
 - Context:
 - 1st Peter written by the apostle Peter around 62ad.
 - Likely in Rome
 - Nero was emperor and the fire was just a couple years away
 - He is writing to Christians scattered around modern day Turkey
 - Persecution was ramping up
 - Kind of personal trainer whispering in their ear, you got this you got this
 - The verses we're going to read cover
 - How to not be in opposition to God
 - How to be opposed to the devil
 - Encouragement to last til the end

1st Peter 5: 5-11

5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- Again this is Peter writing to dispersed Christians
 - They're facing persecution, loneliness, depression, despair, purposelessness, lack of fellowship
 - The end of the chapter is the benediction, he continues in this pattern and brings up three things.
 - God wants you to be humble
 - God wants your anxieties
 - God wants you to resist the devil

- God wants you to be humble
 - Humility toward one another
 - **Principle: We're called to interact with other believers in all humility**
 - A horizontal humility
 - **What is Humility / What is pride?**
 - CJ Mahaney: Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God's holiness and our sinfulness
 - It's not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less
 - It's a mindset
 - **Proof:**
 - God resists the proud, Gives grace to the humble, Proverbs 3:34
 - What does this look like?
 - [Luk 18:9-14 ESV] 9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."
 - The proud (we have nice names for that now, self sufficient, independent, self made)
 - **Application:**
 - Clothe yourselves is the word (egkomboomai)
 - Such powerful imagery
 - "Enclothed cognition" Dress like a dr. you'll pay more attention, dress like an athlete, you'll perform better physically
 - Spend time in prayer
 - Lord's prayer
 - Hallowed, Kingdom come, Will be done, Forgive us
 - After Solomon had completed the temple, God appeared to him and said, "**When** I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name **humble themselves, and pray** and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:13–14)
 - As we move forward and join other believers

- Accept help
- Accept instruction
- Be open to new ways of doing things (worship songs)

- God wants your anxieties

- **Principle: Humble people have nothing to worry about**
- **Proof:**
 - In order to humble yourself you must cast all your anxieties on God
 - Two types of pride:
 - Pride (
 - Don't need God I'm Good
 - Parable from Luke 18 about the tax collector is "don't need God"
 - I'm too bad God can't do enough
 - Prodigal son from Luke 15,
 - Judas
 - Casting is a rather energetic word.
 - Anxious kids
 - Anxiety, is a refusal to see how much God loves you.
 - Worry comes from overconfidence in your own opinion
- **Application:**
 - You might have anxieties about a lot of things today
 - Starting school
 - Changing work situations
 - Sharing the gospel
 - Confronting a brother
 - Being more bold in living out the Christian life in front of others
 - Messing up your kids
 - Isa 51:12 - 12 "I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass, 13 and have forgotten the LORD, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth,
 - You're scared of everything else more than me
 - Spurgeon illustration

- God wants you to resist the devil

- **Principle: Pride and anxiety are the footholds the devil wants**
- **Proof:**
- You can't take the good Jesus shares without believing what Jesus shares about the devil

- the bible says there is a devil
 - the devil works through our own heart (he has just warned us about pride and anxiety)
 - Interesting description here
 - “Resist the devil” not defeat or attack (Not shouting at the devil, prayer “binding or casting out etc)
 - Roaring not sneaking or pouncing
 - He wants to “devour”
 - **Application:**
 - Devil works through your sin. The way to resist is to deal with your sin. Get rid of his footholds
 - Peter talking about the devil is interesting. Because of the “get behind me satan moment”
 - [Mat 16:22-23 ESV] 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."
 - Here we see, standing firm in your faith is not simply avoiding pride, avoiding anxiety, **it's setting your mind on the things of God**. Which nurtures humility, which alleviates anxiety, and resists the devil.
 - We also see that standing firm (setting your mind on the things of God) is easier if you know you are not doing it alone
 - We are social people
 - Jogging 5k
 - You are who you hang out with,
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- **Gospel promise**
 - Resist in not forever, All suffering is temporary
 - [Rom 8:28 ESV] 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
 - An uncomfortable thought
 - If God is sovereign over all things, including Satan, which he is (!), then God has a different sovereign design in all the designs of Satan than Satan does. When Christians suffer, the devil's design is destructive pain; but God's design—in the same suffering—is constructive purification and holiness and power. The devil aims to devour. God aims to empower and purify and prepare for glory.
 - [1Pe 1:6-7 ESV] 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- And then the book ends with the sweetest promise of all. After all these instructions and warning: Directed at those of us who were feeling:
Destroyed, weak, insecure, dispersed
 - ***the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you***
 - ***To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

Let's pray