

Hopewell ARP Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, August 19, 2020
Devotional on 1Peter 5:6–7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

“Therefore”

God resists the proud. Pride is a sure, and often speedy, way to find God opposing you. Self-righteousness and self-sufficiency are a prescription for self-destruction.

Many have had sudden and great falls by self-sufficiency or self-righteousness. And those who have appeared not to have them in this life will be all the more unprepared for how God shatters them the moment they pass from this life into the next. At the judgment, all will see the utter and total folly of having made an opponent out of God and His mighty hand.

“humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God”

God gives grace to the humble. Would you have grace from Him? Humble yourself under His mighty hand. He has given us doctrine, so let us meekly receive His teaching rather than asserting our ideas. He has planned and organized His church in His way, so let us not invent, admire, or insist upon organizing or doing the work or worship of the church in our own way.

For, it is not only His doctrine and His plan under which we humble ourselves, but these are given by Him with Whom we must continually deal. He is always working by His mighty hand. And it is under His mighty hand that humble ourselves.

“that He may exalt you in due time”

This is the sure prescription to being lifted up. It may not be so speedy as we may hope, but it is certain. His mighty hand, under which we submit, will be the same hand that lifts us. And there is none that can stay His hand!

“casting all your care upon Him”

Even with the everlasting arms beneath us, and His mighty hand due to lift us, believers must not think that they will have no care. Indeed, the Spirit tells us here to cast all our care upon Him. We are to expect much care indeed.

Here, the Lord removes from us all ability to complain against His design for the church in vv1–5, whether we be of the class of elders (shepherds) or youngers (shepherded).

Here, the Chief Shepherd prepares us for those who think sheep are for devouring—whether our lion adversary (cf. v8) or those wolves who appear in shepherds’ clothing (cf. Ac 20:29–31; Ezek 34, esp. v10).

He takes our cares upon Himself and makes them His own. He bears the brunt of the burden and carries both the burden and ourselves. He places upon us a burden instead that is easy, and a yoke instead that is light.

Knowing that all that He does is for our good, we may cast our cares upon Him. But this knowing is not itself the casting of the cares. Humbling ourselves under His mighty hand includes this specific acting upon Him in which we cast our cares upon Him. There is this repeated, continual act of resting upon Him so that He bears up both us and our load.

“for He cares for you.”

Finally, we see that this is no mere business transaction, where we hire the Lord out simple for the mightiness of His hand. For, this mighty hand is driven by a caring heart. It is one thing to have at our disposal a strongman, who is always ready and able to carry us and to carry anything that we might encounter.

But it is another thing when this strongman is our doting Father, always with us in exceeding tenderness—always with His eye fixed firmly upon us, so that never does He do anything, and never do we encounter anything, except that He is bending it to our good and bearing us through it in love.

What an important doctrine this is, “for He cares for you,” and life-changing if we will bear it in mind, the way that He always bears us in mind!

And what is prayer but a humbling ourselves under God’s mighty hand and a casting of our cares upon Him who cares for us? In prayer, we come to our mighty, caring God and Father. And in prayer, we place ourselves under and upon His hand—submitting ourselves under His wisdom, and securing ourselves upon His will.