

# Placing Ourselves Under the Mighty Hand of God

## Introduction

### 1 Peter 5:5-14

1. **What does it mean to humble yourself under the mighty hand of God? (Verse 6)**
  - A. **Generally, it involves an attitude of deep reverence toward God; letting every conscious thought be in submission to His will.**
    - 1) **But Why?**
  - B. **So that every word and deed might be pleasing to Him. It also means, when we fall short of this - we acknowledge that, repent and return to the right path.**
    - 1) **This is prompted by a conscience that is in tune with God's will.**
3. **But this is much too important to leave just in general terms.**
  - A. **In the context, there are at least five things which define what it means to place ourselves under the mighty hand of God.**

## Be Clothed with Humility

(Verse 5)

- 1. To be a Christian we must be dressed for that work. Many passages in the New Testament deal with that "dress" or "attire" that is appropriate for Christians.**

Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another**, if anyone has a complaint against another; **even as Christ forgave you**, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

- A. Here in 1 Peter 5:5, we are told to be clothed with humility.**
    - 1) When we see ourselves as we really are before God; when we measure ourselves and judge ourselves by the perfect standard of God, telling ourself the truth about who and what we are, the attitude produced by that process is humility.**
  - B. Humility is not self-hatred; it does not involve a denial of our potential or our good choices and character. Humility is a true, an honest view of who and what we are.**
    - 1) Colossians 3:12 says we must put on humility.**
    - 2) Verse 5 says we must "clothe" ourselves in this attitude of humility.**
      - a. This is essential to placing ourselves under the mighty hand of God.**
- 2. Christ stated that if one will humble himself, then he shall be exalted.**

Matthew 23:12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and **he who humbles himself will be exalted.**

## **Cast All Your Care upon Him**

(Verse 7)

- 1. Life here on earth will always entail a variety of concerns and cares. There are troubling distractions, fears, problems and pain. We cannot escape sickness, disappointment and emotional distress.**
  
- 2. For those Christians who were the original recipients of this epistle there was the daily experience of persecution.**
  - A. As children of God, we can turn these cares over to the Father! By trusting His Word, praying to Him, and letting our perspective and attitude be determined by His written will, we are casting all our cares upon Him.**

Matthew 7:11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

- B. When we clothe ourselves in humility and cast our cares upon the Father, we're placing our life under His mighty hand!**

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

## Being Sober and Vigilant

(Verse 8)

1. **Peter said:** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."
  - A. **If there is a vicious enemy out in the streets, "seeking whom he may devour," I MUST BE WATCHFUL.**
    - 1) **This verse teaches the necessity of constant attention, in view of the restless energy, the wiles and steadfastness of the enemy.**
  - B. **To be sober is to be mentally under control; this means to think straight; to keep your mind focused and on task. To be vigilant is to be alert; to be watchful.**
    - 1) **I'm convinced that some people just don't pay attention to what's going on. They walk right into temptations, or they gradually slip into the devil's hands.**
    - 2) **These people are not alert; not sober and vigilant. By being sober and vigilant, I'm placing my life under the mighty hand of God.**
2. **In Clinton Hamilton's commentary on 1 Peter he writes:** "Christians have an enemy who is an accuser, slanderer, and opponent that desires to entice them to sin and thus destroy their souls. Accordingly, Christians need to be in complete possession of self-control and always alert and aware about what he is about in relation to them."

1 John 3:8-9 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, **because he has been born of God.**

## Resist the Devil

(Verse 9)

### 1. The enemy must be resisted, actively and personally!

1 Peter 5:9 **Resist him, steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

#### A. Christians should resist the Devil when he seeks to lead us astray. We are commanded to resist.

James 4:7 Therefore **submit to God. Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.

### 2. By the wise use of defensive tactics (how to get out) and offensive moves (going in the right direction); by preaching, practice and prayer; by using the mighty weapons of God, we are able to "resist the devil, and he will flee from us" (2 Corinthians 10:1ff; Ephesians 6:10-18).

## Stand in the Grace of God

(Verse 12)

1. **Our Father is the God of all grace. That simply means, He has favored us in every way and He affords us resources for every need!**
  - A. **There is no physical need, and certainly no spiritual need that God hasn't supplied; or made available to us.**
  
2. **He is the God of all grace, and we are called upon to stand in His grace.**
  - A. **What does that mean?**
    - 1) **It means to learn, rely upon and live as one dependent on God's grace!**
      - a. **Let it not be in vain!**
  
3. **Clinton Hamilton again wrote in his commentary on 1 Peter:**

"Having learned what the grace of God is, these Christians are enjoined to hold their ground in it or to persevere, continue, or persist in it. The reason for this standing firm is obvious in that when Christ is revealed they shall share the glory that he will give them."

1 Peter 1:7-9 that **the genuineness of your faith**, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, **whom having not seen you love**. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith-- **the salvation of your souls**.

## Conclusion

- 1. If we will study these concepts and examine ourselves; if we will take these steps, there is a promise we enjoy:**

1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, **that He may exalt you in due time**

- 2. Remember what the apostle Paul told the Ephesian brethren:**

Acts 20:32 So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, **which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.**

- A. To be sanctified is to be set apart for God's service and made free from sin. Are you free from sin this morning?**

- 1) Have you been washed in the blood of Christ for the forgiveness of your sins?**

