

God Resists the Proud, But Gives Grace to the Humble

1 Peter 5:5b-11

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I. Introduction

“Here [in Hell] at least we shall be free . . . Here we may reign secure, and in my choice to reign is worth ambition though in Hell: Better to reign in Hell, than serve in Heaven.” From John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*.

II. Text, 1 Peter 5:5b-11

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

III. Summary of Previous Chapters

“Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility” (v. 5b). With this, Peter is moving from the specific relationship of elders and congregation to an all-encompassing form of the exhortation he’s been laying out over the course of the last few chapters. He’s bringing his letter to a close, and so he reiterates the command he has been working into every aspect of human life and society.

- **1 Pet. 2:13-17**, _____ are to submit to the various political institutions in human society, whether that be king or governor, mayor, congress, sheriff, and all the rest. We’re to do this for the Lord’s sake. For God has vested these offices with _____ authority, to punish those who do evil and approve those who do good. We’re to submit to them as unto _____, which also means that we do not obey them when they call us to disobey the Lord. Our obedience to God alone is _____.
- **1 Pet. 2:18-25**, Slaves are called to submit to their masters, fearing the Lord, not only to the gentle and good, but also to the _____. In this Christian slaves imitate _____ who also suffered for us at the hands of lawless men while He Himself was wholly innocent.
- **1 Pet. 3:1-6**, Wives are called to be submissive to their own husband, even if some do not _____ Christ. This is how Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. Christian wives are to walk in her footsteps with all reverence and respect, and with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.
- **1 Pet. 5:5a**, Peter calls congregants to submit to their elders. He gives only _____ command. That’s it. It’s easy to remember, and often much harder to actually do.

IV. “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

1. “God resists the proud”

First, God resists those who are insubordinate by directly _____ them. Lucifer in his arrogance was cast down to Hell. These various authorities have God-appointed means of _____ those who are in their care, who are under their authority. The king does not bear his sword in vain (Rom. 13:4). Parents must not spare the rod (Prov. 13:24). When such measures are rightly used, it is the discipline of _____. It is the rod of the Lord. It is punishment dished out by the hand of God.

Second, God resists those who are insubordinate by giving them someone _____. God does not meet disobedience with an immediate punishment; rather, He substitutes _____ tyranny with _____ tyranny. In this case, if you will not obey the authorities God has set over you, fine. Be free from your parents, free from you husband, free from your boss, and take a true tyrant in their stead (cf. 1 Sam. 8:11-20).

Third, God resists the proud by giving them up as prey to their own _____. God gives them up to what they sinfully desire, and this results in their further corruption and squalor (cf. Rom 1:18-27; Luke 15:11-16). In this case, God doesn’t resist them with tyranny so much as _____. He lets His creatures learn the error of their way by letting them gorge themselves on their desires, receiving in themselves the due penalty for their pride (cf. Prov. 1:29-31).

2. “God gives grace to the humble”

First, God gives grace to the humble by taking _____ of you (v. 7), even while you are under the authority of a harsh boss or husband or government. He calls us to cast all of our _____ upon Him, for He cares for us.

Secondly, God gives grace to the humble by _____ you in due time (v. 6). Though we labor for a time under an oppressive authority, the Lord promises that our right will not be forgotten. He will in due time vindicate and exalt us, whether by _____ this authority, or by _____ it.

- Sometimes this exaltation, as in the case of Pharaoh, will be an _____.
- Other times, the Lord exalts by _____, as with the pagan Roman empire when God used the faithfulness of Christian citizens to draw the world to Himself.

Third, God gives grace to the humble by _____, establishing, strengthening and settling you through what you suffer (v. 10). Through our stint of faithful obedience, the Lord makes us perfect. He makes us strong. He builds us up so that we can never be moved. He has called us to His eternal _____ in Christ Jesus, and His grace will perfect us so that we reflect that glory.

V. Conclusion