

**GROWTH GROUPS**  
**WEEK 10**  
**WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17**



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**GROWTH GROUP FALL 2019**

**STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND: FINDING HOPE IN 1ST PETER**  
**WEEK 10 – NOVEMBER 17, 2019 - 1 PETER 5:6-11**

**SETTING THE CONTEXT**

There are similarities between the text for this week and James 4:6-10. This section of Peter begins with an important reminder about humility. Remember how Jesus contrasted the proud prayer of the Pharisee, with the tax collector's humble confession of sin, in Luke 18. The humility that Peter is describing here is not just a gracious approach to life, but instead a life that is marked by the humility of repentance. As we live this way, the promise is that God will lift us up.

Peter understood well the power of pride. He had been so sure he would never forsake or deny Christ. Yet, we all know what happened. However, in Luke 22:61 we are told that Jesus turned and looked at Peter right after his denial. Most people like to think that look of Jesus was one of love and mercy. Though Peter had failed to speak the truth about knowing Jesus, he was not going to be abandoned by Jesus. Jesus looked at Peter and loved him. After the resurrection Jesus restored Peter by asking him to take care of and feed his sheep.

Peter is not just concerned about the authorities of the Roman Empire. He is also concerned about the work of the devil. It is probably good to remember that lions hunt by both terror and stealth. It is very possible that Peter's concern with Satan was that his attacks are often subtle and more difficult to discern. The goal of Satan is to divide, to discredit God's word and destroy God's works.

Believers are given the armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-18) to defend themselves. We have the shield of faith to extinguish the flaming darts of the evil one. The danger, that followers of Jesus face, is that they sometimes fail to resist. They don't put on the whole armor of God. Believers need to stay alert and be grounded in a firm and settled faith.

The hope, that will sustain believers, is the sovereign grace of God. The glory we are called to is the glory of Jesus Christ, which Peter had experienced on the Mount of Transfiguration and had also experienced when Jesus restored him, in John 21, on the shore of the Lake of Galilee. Peter's hope of glory was based on the one who had changed his life.

Peter wraps things up at the end of his letter by reminding his readers that God will complete his work in us and establish us and strengthen us and place us on a firm foundation. As Peter reflects on this wonderful promise he ends with praise. He has seen the work of God firsthand himself and was grateful for all the ways he had witnessed God's grace and mercy.



# EXPLORING THE TEXT

## Read 1 Peter 5:6-11

*6 So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. 7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers[a] all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. 10 In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. 11 All power to him forever! Amen.*

- 1) We know, that before the crucifixion, Peter proudly boasted that he would never deny Jesus, and yet he failed to keep his word. One can imagine what Peter felt every time he heard a rooster crow – a reminder of his pride and his failure. Can you think of a time in your own life when your pride “got in the way” or “caused you to make a bad decision?”
- 2) The theme of humility is one that is often found in Scripture. In Matthew 23:12 Jesus says, “For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” In James 4:10 we read, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.” 1 Peter 5:6 continues this theme. What does the humility that Peter is describing look like? Can you think of people you know who live out their lives with this kind of humility?
- 3) In verse 8, Peter alludes to Psalm 55:22 which says, “Cast your cares on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.” These are words of great assurance. Do you find the “casting of your anxieties on God” easy or difficult to do? Why?
- 4) Share about a recent time when you have been able to cast your cares and anxiety on God. What happened and what did God teach you?
- 5) At the beginning of verse, 8 Peter tells his listeners to be alert and sober minded. What keeps you from being alert or aware of the things that God is doing around you?
- 6) The word devil is derived from the Greek word “diabalos” which literally means the one ‘who throws across’ – or the one who “creates chasms, ruptures connections, breaks down relationships and divides.” Basically, the devil is the one who divides. In verse 9, Peter says the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. When you think about the devil, what kind of language do you use to describe him and his activities?
- 7) Re-read verse 10. Is this concept of “eternal glory” helpful when it comes to thinking about persevering and remaining hopeful in our faith?

## BRINGING IT HOME

- 8) This is the last week of our sermon series on 1 Peter. Share one takeaway you have had from our study this fall.