



# KING'S CHAPEL

## Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 7 - Day 3

### Approaching God

**Read Psalm 109:21-27** - *But you, Sovereign LORD, help me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. I fade away like an evening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust. My knees give way from fasting; my body is thin and gaunt. I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads. Help me, LORD my God; save me according to your unfailing love. Let them know that it is your hand, that you, LORD, have done it.*

**Prayer:** David begins Psalm 109 frustrated and discouraged by his enemies, calling upon God to even the score. But in vs. 21, there is a transition as he considers the reality of God - "*But you, Sovereign Lord...*" As you consider the places in life where things feel broken, unfair, or easy to despair, bring them before the Lord. Pray like this, "I am weak - *but you...*" "I deserve nothing - *but you!*" "My life seems to be derailed - *but you!*" "I don't see anyway out of this - *O, but you!*" Make this your prayer today as you begin your time with God

### Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - 1 Peter 5:5-7

**Passage Introduction:** Mutual submission is the key to the pattern of life in Christ's church. Peter keeps returning to this theme. In this short passage, we see again that Christians are to find freedom in submission to God in which they can submit to others for the Lord's sake.

#### **Study in Context:**

*Peter uses the word "likewise" to shift attention to a different group of people, yet still within the general subject area, just as he did in vs. 3:7. The term "likewise" in both places means not 'act in the same way' but 'continuing the same subject.' Here the subject matter is humility. God gives different roles and gifts within his body, but the underlying principle is to always relate with humility.*

**1 Peter 5:5-7** - **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.

**Start with Engaging the Text:** Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. What words or ideas are repeated, related, compared, contrasted?

## Daily Study Questions

You may find it helpful to read through the commentary in “Resources for Further Study” at the end of today’s study to answer these questions.

### Questions for Study

- What is 1 thing you learn about God in this passage? What is 1 thing you learn about yourself or people in this passage? What is 1 command that stands out to you in this text?
- What theme does Peter return to in these verses? How does 5:5 give a framework for all of us, whether in authority or subject to authority, to relate to one another?
- How does the message of 5:6-7 summarize Peter’s thoughts on submission?

### Questions for Meditation & Application

- Over whom do you have authority in your life right now? How can you clothe yourself in humility towards that person? Who is someone who has authority over you right now? What does it look like to relate with humility in that relationship?
- What anxieties do you feel when the topic of submitting to authority is raised? How can you cast those anxieties on God?

### Close in Prayer:

What truth can you rejoice in today? Over what might you need to repent? What do you want to request of God in light of your time with God in today’s passage? Take a moment to talk to God about places in your life where anxiety is surfacing? Cast your anxiety on your Heavenly Father knowing that he cares for you!

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## Resources for Further Study

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### 1 Peter chapter 5 notes

#### Commentary & Notes on 1 Peter 5:5-7

If the elders shepherd by exercising oversight, then it is natural for those under their care to submit to their leadership. So as we have seen, Peter tells “you who are younger, be subject to the elders” (v 5). The word “younger” comes from a word that can mean “new” or “young.” Naturally, commentators are divided over whether “younger” refers to age or to spiritual maturity—those young in the faith. But clearly, since “elders” in verses 1-4 refers to the church’s pastors—those whom Jesus, the chief Shepherd, has called to lead the church—it follows that whoever the “younger” are, they are to “be subject” to the pastors of the church.

And all of us likely need to hear Peter’s command here. In any church, there are always those who chafe at authority—sometimes it may be you. So Peter reminds us that (assuming our elders are striving to be the kind of leaders Peter has just called them to be) we must “be subject to” our leaders. If we have “followable” leaders, then it is our task to follow them! That requires humility, for we may not always understand a decision, or naturally wish to walk in a certain direction, and we will need in those moments to remember that we have followable elders, whom we now need to follow.

So “all of you,” Peter concludes, need to “clothe yourselves ... with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble’” (v 5). The church needs strong and courageous elders; they must still be humble. After all, the church is not theirs; it is the Chief Shepherd’s. But elders cannot lead a people who are not humble. And all of us are prone to pride, so Peter reminds us that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” We should hear this as a warning in light of the end. When the end comes, God will oppose those who consistently exalt themselves and oppose him and those he has placed in authority over his flock.

None of us like being told what to do or where to go. During times of difficulty and persecution, the Lord grants grace to those who humble themselves. And all who humble themselves under God’s mighty hand will find themselves exalted in the last time (v 6). So here is the call: “clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”

In light of God’s opposition to pride, Peter now urges Christians, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you” (v 6). We are to embrace the suffering God wills for us because we know that the same God also wills our exaltation. But notice that we are to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. In other words, we can humbly embrace the suffering that comes from God’s hand because we stand under the protection of his mighty hand. The God who delivered Israel out of Egypt and who raised the Lord Jesus from the grave with a mighty hand is able to deliver us as we suffer. There is no safer place in the universe to be than under his mighty hand; and, when Jesus is revealed, that will be the only safe place to be.

What does it mean to humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand? It is to live with an utter dependence upon his grace and mercy. As we face unjust suffering, it is easy to be afraid. We may worry about our family, our job, our societal standing, and even our health and life. Before these fears overwhelm us, we remind ourselves that God cares for us—so we cast “all [our]

anxieties on him” (v 7). We are not entrusting ourselves to some unknowable, impersonal deity, but to our heavenly Father, who loves his children and cares for them. Why would we not humble ourselves under his mighty hand? What else, or who else, would we depend on? He is faithful, and we can trust that he will guide us and protect us by his mighty hand as we face suffering.

So, walk in humility, honoring God, the elders he has placed over you, and one another. Pray for your elders and encourage them. If you are an elder, pray for the sheep under your care and lead them. It is as the shepherds lead and the sheep follow that we all walk confidently and hopefully toward the end of all things, and the inheritance that is ours.