

This is Your Captain Speaking - #10

Series: This World Is Not Our Home

1 Peter 5:1-11

‘1To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade.

5In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” 6Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 8Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.10And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11All power to him forever! Amen.’ [NIV]

PRAYER

OPEN: On a passenger flight a pilot began his usual comments to the passengers: 'Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon and welcome on board flight 428. "Most of you already have your seatbelt fastened. Now we will demonstrate how you did that." “To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight.

It works just like every other seat belt, and if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised.

"Just a few observations: According to Paul Simon, there may be 50 ways to leave your lover but there are only 4 ways off this airplane. In case of an emergency your flight attendant will assist you on leaving the plane through the exits. "This aircraft is equipped to land on water... Once." "In the event that this flight becomes a cruise, all you lucky people get your own itsy bitsy, teeny weeny, yellow polka dot bikinis beneath your seat—minus the itsy bitsy, teeny weeny, and you get no polka dots...The beautiful yellow life jacket is equipped with a water-activated light. How in the world that works, I have no idea, so if you figure it out, please do let me know."

After reaching altitude, the pilot came back on and said, 'We've reached cruising altitude of 35,000 ft. and will be turning down the cabin lights for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants.'

After a while he came on again and said, "We're on our final descent, and we'll be landing as soon as we get closer to the ground."

After a bumpy landing he says: "That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault, it was the asphalt.

The flight attendant then chimed in, "We ask you to please remain seated until Captain Kangaroo bounces us up to the terminal."

TRANSITION: Now, obviously, that pilot and crew were just having fun with the passengers. I'm sure they just wanted to liven things up a bit. But pilots and airplane crews are very serious about their instructions.

In fact, one webpage had wordings the pilot might give in the event of: Turbulence, Depressurization of the cabin...Aborted takeoffs, Bomb threats, Hi-jackings, emergency landings, engine failure.

ALL those instructions reinforced that the Pilot's role was to tell passengers what they needed to know to have a safe and comforting flight.

Throughout this letter we've been repeatedly reminded that we are strangers and aliens in this world. We're just passing through. And because this world is not our home, the Bible repeatedly tells us that we will encounter difficult times. So, here in chapter 5, Peter is telling us what WE (as Christians) need to know.

We will suffer. We will be persecuted for our faith. And so, we need to be told how we're going to ride out the storms of life. We need to be told what's being done to protect us. And we need to be assured that God will always be there with us.

The 1st thing Peter does in this 5th chapter is to introduce us to the flight crew. These are the ones who are on board to watch over you and protect you. These are the ones who are trained to keep you safe and help you navigate when life gets difficult. Who are these people?

I. Captain - Spiritual Elders.

1 Peter 5:1-3 tells us ***"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."***

There are three words used to define the role of the one who leads the church: Elder, Bishop and Pastor. All these terms refer to one and the same person. The word Elder in the Greek is the word Presbuteros. It refers to a mature or older man who has been elected to serve.

That's why 1 Tim. 3:6, says the very young were not to be ordained: ***"He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil."*** [NIV]

When we see the word Bishop, it is the Greek, Episkopos, Overseer. Again, both of these words refer to the same person. In Titus 1:5, Paul tells Titus

to "ordain elders in every city," and then in (vs. 7), he continues, ***"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God."***

The third word used for this position is the word Pastor: ***'So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,'*** [Ephesians 4:11, NIV]

The word Pastor is the Greek word *Poimenas*, meaning, 'a Shepherd.' Notice that in verse 4 of our text, ***Jesus is called the Chief Shepherd.*** There is a different Greek word used here for Chief Shepherd. It is the word *Archipoimen*, meaning, Head Shepherd or Chief Shepherd. Thus, as a pastor I'm an Under Shepherd, pastors are the Lord's *Poimenas*.

The role of elders.

A. He is to FEED the flock (vv. 1, 2a)

1. Every pastor should spend enough of his time in the study of God's Word and in preparation for his teaching and preaching, in order that he might correctly and adequately feed his sheep. In Acts 20:28, the pastor is admonished: ***'Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.'*** [NIV]

Do you remember the discourse between Jesus and Peter after the resurrection in John chapter 21, Jesus tells Peter three times to feed His sheep.

B. He is LEAD the flock (vs. 2a)

1. God has placed upon the pastor the greatest of responsibilities—caring for souls and the spiritual lives of His people. That's why in Hebrews 13:17 it says, ***'Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.'*** [NIV]

In 2 Tim. 4:2, Paul said to Timothy, ***'Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.'*** [NIV]

The Elders are the first line of defense in the congregation. They are the ones who are shepherds and overseers of all of us. Elders are to be good fathers and husbands. They're to be men who KNOW what the Bible says and have the backbone to stand up for good doctrine. They're to be men who are so dedicated to Christ in their daily lives that EVEN the world knows they take their faith seriously and live for Jesus.

We've been blessed here to have David Bowden, Joel Keefer, and Shiv Singh as our board members as well as many mature Christians [Ron Dyson, Bill Donovan, Ken Finney]. These are men who you can trust and look up to. They're in it to serve Jesus and you are a blessed people because of that.

ILLUSTRATION: I read the true story of a man who was on a flight in California that had been delayed for some time in Sacramento. The flight attendant explained that there would be a 45-minute delay, and if they wanted to get off the aircraft, they would reboard in 30 minutes. Everybody got off the plane except one gentleman who was blind. His Seeing Eye dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of him the entire flight. He had apparently flown this very flight before because the pilot approached him and, called him by name. "Keith, we're in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?"

Keith replied, 'No thanks, but maybe my dog would like to stretch his legs.'

So, the pilot got off the plane to walk the blind man's Seeing Eye dog. Now picture this: All the people in the gate area stopped where they were. All eyes were focused on this pilot as he walked off the plane with the Seeing Eye Dog! And The pilot was even wearing sunglasses.

When the people saw this pilot with that dog, they tried to change planes. Now, why did they react that way? Because they thought their pilot was blind and they had no desire to trust their lives to a man who couldn't see.

Elders are called to LEAD and FEED the congregation. And as Jesus noted, you don't want the blind leading the blind.

And then he says... ***“In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” 6Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”*** [1 Peter 5:5-6 NIV]

Peter talks about the Captain - Spiritual Elders, and secondly, he talks about the...

II. Character of the Crew

A. A SERVANT'S SPIRIT

Now the very first thing that the apostle Peter says we must have is a servant's spirit toward one another. The Bible says in verse 5 that we are to be clothed with humility. That is an interesting phrase, be clothed with humility. What does it mean? In Bible times when people would come to a home that they would be entertained first by removing their shoes and a servant in the household would get a basin of water, gird himself with an apron, and begin to wash the feet of the traveler.

Peter was remembering that time in the upper room where the Bible says that Jesus took a towel and girded Himself and with a basin of water began to wash the feet of the disciples. And you remember what Peter said, he said, Lord you are not going to wash my feet.

Jesus said, Peter if I don't wash your feet, you have no part in me. And then Peter said, in that case, Lord, wash my head, my hands and all of me. And Jesus said, Peter, the person who has had a bath doesn't need to be washed all over.

What Jesus doing is symbolic of the fact that a person who has been saved doesn't need a bath, but as he walks down the roadway of life, his feet become dirty. ***We must have a servant's spirit.***

B. A SERENE SPIRIT

But notice what else he says, not only do we need to have a servant's spirit, but we need to have a serene spirit. Verse 7, 'Cast all your anxiety (care) on Him because he cares for you.' Isn't that a tremendous verse? Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

I tell you, there are three categories of people regarding trouble. You have either ***just been*** through a troubled time, ***you are*** going through a troubled time, or there is a troubled time ***just ahead*** for you.

So, Peter says, I know you have burdens, I know you have problems and as you minister to one another, remember you can rest your cares of Jesus, because He cares for you. This word cast is a strong word. It means with decisiveness, with deliberateness to give your problems to Jesus, not to hold on to your burdens.

But I noticed something here in I Peter 5. While Peter tells the Elders what they're job is. While he tells the rest of us what our job is.

NOT ONCE did He say "Cast Your cares on the elders, or pastor, or church leaders'." NOT ONCE did He say "These folks will make you strong and firm and steadfast. Why not? Because that's not our job. It's God's job! "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you"

I may fail you...church leaders and fellow church members will fail you. But God will always be there for you. He'll never leave you and He'll never forsake you.

One of my favorite passages in Scripture is from [Isaiah 40:28-31](#); ***'Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30Even youths grow tired***

and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.’ [NIV]

Jesus invites you today to cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you. We need to have a servant’s spirit, a serene spirit and thirdly,

C. A SOBER SPIRIT

In verse 7 we are told to be carefree, but in verse 8 he says don't be careless. You can be carefree but not careless.

In verse 8 he says, ***‘Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.’ [NIV]***

Now pay attention, here he tells us what to do with the devil.

1. First, you need to RECOGNIZE him.

Illustration: There is a story about a college student who was desperately in need of a summer job. He discovered the local zoo was looking for help. When he went to apply, the zookeeper explained that they had recently lost their gorilla. “You just can’t have a zoo without a gorilla,” the zookeeper said. “We are expecting a new gorilla by the end of the summer, but, in the meantime, we need someone to dress the part. We’ll pay you well.”

The young student was hesitant, but he needed the money, so he agreed. After a couple of hours in the gorilla suit, he found himself almost enjoying the job. But in the awkward costume he could not always see where he was going, and he accidentally landed in the lion’s cage as he was swinging from a vine. The lion roared violently, throwing the college student into a panic. “Help!” he screamed. “I’m a man in this gorilla suit!”

Then he heard a voice from inside the lion whisper, “Shut up, or you’ll get us both fired!”

It would be impossible for a human to imitate the roar of the king of the jungle. A lion’s roar has been heard 5 miles away! It is a powerful roar that

is used by the lion to strike a paralyzing fear into his prey. The prey of the lion has reason to be afraid. A hungry lion can eat 30% of his body weight in one sitting. That's like an average man eating 200 quarter pounders.

I don't think I have to tell you, the devil is out to get you! Jesus said to Peter, ***"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat"*** (Luke 22:31). The same is true for us. Because Satan hates Christ, he also hates those who follow Christ. The devil will do whatever he can to defeat and destroy us and to make us ineffective in the Lord's work.

Let me tell you something, your adversary is not your boss, your adversary is not your wife, your adversary is not your parents young people, your adversary is the devil. The Bible says you need to recognize the fact that you have an adversary and anybody who lives godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution period – according to the Word of God, recognize him.

2. Secondly, RESPECT him.

He walketh about as a roaring lion. That doesn't mean that you cringe, that doesn't mean that you recognize his power as greater than the power of God because it isn't. It's like an electrician who has learned to respect electricity. He knows where the power is, he knows where the insulation is, he knows how to handle the wiring, but he respects the power of that electricity. He knows what it can do to him if he is not careful.

Story: I heard the story of the lion that walked through the forest one day and he saw a rabbit. And he roared at that rabbit, and he said, who is the king of the jungle? And the rabbit said you are o mighty, lion. Then he came to the monkey. And he roared and he said, who is the king of the jungle? And the monkey said, you are o mighty lion. Then he came to the bull elephant, 16 feet tall with six-foot tusks sticking out, and he roared at that bull elephant, and he said, who is the king of the jungle? The bull elephant reached out his trunk and grabbed that lion around the neck, twirled him around, threw him into the forest and the lion hit a tree and he slid down

like melted butter. He looked up at that elephant and he said, listen, just because you don't know the answer doesn't mean you have to get upset.

And we need to respect the fact that Satan is a serious enemy who is always at work. And just so you know, we don't have the power to defeat him, but we have the authority in Christ to do so. ***Not only do we need to recognize and respect him, but...***

3. Thirdly, we need to RESIST him.

Verse 9 says, ***“Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” [NIV]***

I think I know why Peter said this; I believe this is a personal testimony. Because Peter was not vigilant, he was not watchful of the devil. And Jesus warned him, He said, Peter, the devil has desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat. He said Peter the devil is just going to take you and you are going to deny me three times before the cock crows. Peter said not me Lord, everybody else may turn against you, and I will never turn against you. And in just a few hours, he had denied the Lord three times.

He wasn't watchful earlier in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was crying out in agony to the Father. Peter, James, and John were not awake, they were not alert, they were not watchful, they were not sober, they were not vigilant. They went to sleep as Jesus wrestled with the powers of hell.

You need to recognize the work of Satan, and you need to respect the work of Satan, and you need to resist him because he is like a roaring lion.

You can't resist the devil in your own power. You can't resist the devil in your own strength. You must resist him in the strength that is greater than he is. And that is the strength of God. "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."

If we are going to be triumphant in troubled times, we are going to have to recognize him, we are going to have to respect him, and as the body of

Christ, the family of God at this church, we are going to have to stand and resist him, steadfast in the faith.

The Bible says if we resist the devil, the devil will flee from us.

We need to have a servant's spirit, a serene spirit, a sober spirit, and...

D. A STABLE SPIRIT

Notice not only that he says we must have a sober spirit, but that we must have a stable spirit.

Look at verse 10-11, '***But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.***' [KJV]

Christianity is the only religious faith in the world that has the concept of grace. Every other kind of religion has the concept of working your way to heaven or working your way to please God. Only true biblical Christianity says that the only way to God is through His grace by faith.

Notice what grace will do.

1. First, Grace will make you FIT.

He says, the God of all grace, makes you perfect. Sometimes that word perfect is translated mature or complete. That is not the word used here.

The word for perfect here means to mend something that has been broken. Like fishing net that has been broken. Or a bone that has been broken, they set that bone and they allow that bone to grow back and the bone that has been broken becomes perfect.

What Peter is saying is, as you pass through problems and trials and troubles, you are going to get some bones broken, spiritually speaking, and you need to let the grace of God operate in your life to make you whole...to make you fit once again.

If you have been bent out of shape, if your attitude is wrong, if Satan is coming against you, if you have yielded to temptation, he is saying let God mend your life. Bring it to the Lord. **The grace of God will make you fit.**

2. The grace of God will make you FIRM.

Notice what he says here, he says, "and stablish you." That means you are part of the establishment. You are not going to be shoved around by the devil and you are not going to be blown about by every wind that comes along, you are going to be firm. You are going to stand where God wants you to stand, you are going to be where God wants you to be.

And then the grace of God will not only make you fit and firm,

3. The grace of God will make you FORCEFUL.

Look at this next verse, it says, "and strengthen you." What kind of strength? Not physical strength, not monetary strength, not intellectual strength, but he is saying the strength of God that comes from His grace. It is like the peace of God that passes all understanding. It doesn't make any sense. You don't understand why you are strong except to know that God is strengthening you during trouble and you are triumphant. And you stand in troubled times.

4. Lastly it will make you FIXED.

He says here that God wants to settle you, to settle means to lay a foundation, something on which you can stand in troubled times. Remember the story Jesus told about the house that was built upon the rock and the house that was built upon the sand. And he said the rock symbolized the foundation of His Word and His teachings. That is what he is saying here. He is saying God will work in your life; His grace will make you fixed. It will put a foundation under you so that if the whole world trembles you will be standing on the rock.

Some of you this morning need that foundation. Listen to me, here is the problem in your life, you are trembling and you are crumbling in troubled

times because you have never laid the foundation of being born again by faith in Jesus Christ; and that is why you are not firm, that is why you are not fixed, you don't have that foundation under you. And when the winds of problems begin to blow, it always carries you away.

You are fit, fixed, firm, forceful through the grace of God. What kind of grace is the grace of God? The grace of God is saving grace. For by grace, you are saved through faith.

CLOSING:

There are three great enemies that we have – the world, the flesh, and the devil. There are three kinds of trouble. There is the kind of trouble that blows you away. It hits you hard and bam, away you go, gone with the wind.

And then there is the kind of trouble that is a burden, it weighs you down, and you can't carry that heavy load any longer.

Then there is another kind of trouble where it seems like the rug is pulled out from under you. And the bottom drops out.

You could call these troubles unplanned, unrelenting, and undeserved.

And what happens when troubles come that are unplanned, unrelenting, and undeserved? So, what do you do?

I. CRY OUT FOR GOD'S HELP

II. FILL YOUR MIND WITH GOD'S WORD

We need to let this book comfort us. We need to let this Book strengthen us. We need to let this Book guide us, we need to let this Book fill us, and we need to let this Book energize us.

III. ACCEPT SUPPORT FROM GOD'S PEOPLE

IV. CLING TO HIS PROMISES

Well, the last thing is if you want God to sustain you in trouble, cling to His promises. There are over 7,000 of them in the Word of God.

The grace of God is not just a saving grace; it is also sustaining grace.

God's grace will sustain you; it will keep you standing when you are tempted. It will help you to stand firm in the face of temptation.

God's sustaining grace helps us to stand when we are tired.

Philippians 2:13 says, ***"for it is God at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose."***

God's sustaining grace helps us to stand firm when we are troubled.

God through His grace enables us to be sustained and to be faithful and to glorify Him no matter what unrelenting or undeserved problems may come in our lives. God's sustaining grace covers all of it.

It is grace that will sustain you now and grace that will sustain you through eternity and it comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

This morning why don't you trade religion for a relationship? Why don't you trade trying to work your way to heaven to trusting your way to heaven in the Lord Jesus Christ? Why don't you trade a foundation of sin for a foundation of Jesus as your Savior upon which you can always stand?