

1 Peter 5:6-14 Discussion Questions

Sermon Outline

- **Introduction**
- Reviewing last week
 - 1 Peter 5.5
- Humble and Watchful (6-8a)
- Spiritual Warfare (8b-9)
- Supernatural and Natural Teammates (10-14)

- **Humble and Watchful (v.6-8a)**
- Peter ends the main part of the letter with three imperatives
 - Humble yourself
 - Be Sober-minded
 - Resist the devil
- Humble- "The mighty hand of the Lord"
 - Echoes the language of the deliverance of Israel (at least 10 times)
 - Exodus 3.18-20
 - The very same hand that delivers, exalts at the proper time.
 - Trusting the character and care of God is proof of your humble trust.
- Be sober-minded- not unaware and under the influence of something other than the Spirit of God
 - 1 Peter 1.13
 - Trusting the Lord's power and being actively watchful is necessary because of the real enemy, we face . . .

- **Spiritual Warfare (v.8b-9)**
- Peter expresses the evil and threat facing the elect exiles in the broadest sense- not just the government or the opposition of unbelieving society, but the devil himself.
 - NT writers are not bashful to allude to spiritual warfare
 - Ephesian 6.10-13
 - Matthew 6.9-13
- Active Resistance

- **Supernatural and Natural Teammates (v.10-14)**
- The God of grace and power will sustain you as he sets the world right

- Silvanus, the Christian brotherhood, Mark and Peter greet and exhort them
- They have one another

- **Implications**
- God is unchanged in our suffering
 - 1 Peter 3.21b
 - ***Because of Christ's victory over suffering and the evil that causes it, believers are free to live with hope and courage in the midst of a broken, unbelieving world.***
- Advise for Christian community
 - Listen
 - Point to the character of the Lord
 - Pray

Discussion Questions

Read 1 Peter 5:6-14

1. Peter instructs us to humble ourselves. What does it look like to humble yourself? How do you do it? (In other words, do you humble yourself or does God humble you, or it is both?)

a. Who or what has God used in your life to teach you the most about what humility is and what it looks like?

b. Peter explains that we are to humble ourselves “under the mighty hand of God,” meaning with a great trust and confidence in God’s power and care in our lives. How does trust and confidence in God’s power enable us to more easily humble ourselves?

2. In the sermon, Pastor Mike used the illustration that often we try to carry all of our stuff on our own, and while we think we are okay and got it, it is clear to those watching that we don’t.

a. Practically speaking, what does it look like to try and do things on our own versus relying on God’s help? How can we tell if we are operating out of the flesh or the Spirit?

- b. What are you currently trying to carry and it is becoming increasingly clear that you can't and you need to look to God for help?
3. Peter also exhorts us to be "sober-minded" and "watchful." What does this mean? What's the difference between someone that approaches life in a "sober-minded" fashion and someone who doesn't?
4. The reality of a spiritual enemy emphasizes the fact that natural wisdom and strength are insufficient; we *need* supernatural wisdom and power to live out the Christian life because our struggle is essentially a spiritual one.
 - a. How does being humble and watchful better prepare us for spiritual battle?
 - b. How else can we prepare ourselves for spiritual battle?
 - c. Peter says that if we resist the Devil, he will flee. How have you seen this play out in your own life?
 - 1) What does resistance look like and when you successfully resist temptation? How do you do it?
 - 2) What happens after you resist? Does the temptation go away, or is it just not as strong?
5. Pastor Mike mentioned some facts about how lions hunt. One of them is that they don't attack groups, but isolated prey. While it is doubtful that Peter had this fact in mind when he compared the devil to a lion, this danger of isolation get biblical support from other passages.
 - a. Where and when do you experience the most spiritual attack or temptation to sin?
 - b. Similarly, when are you the most vulnerable to the Devil's attack? When are you the weakest and the most inclined to give in to temptation?
 - c. What do you do to try and avoid the above circumstances?

d. How do you avoid being spiritually isolated? What's the difference between having a lot of Christian friends or attending a lot of Christian events, and actually walking in Christian community?