



Unit I: "Living with Hope in a Broken World: A Bible Study on Life"

July 12, 2020

Lesson VI: "The Culmination of Our Hope"

Background Passage: I Peter 5:1-14

Lesson Passage: I Peter 5:5B-11

The Question: *Where will my hope in Christ lead me?*

The Point: What we hope for in Christ will one day be fully attained.

Memory Verse: "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt you at the proper time." (I Peter 5:6)

Overview of I Peter: *Date Written:* 64-65 AD; **Major Theme:** *Living victoriously in the midst of suffering and persecution. The book of 1 Peter was written by the apostle Peter to the church made up of both Jews and Gentiles who were undergoing intense persecution. This letter was written around the time that Nero had burned the city of Rome. Because of the widespread devastation and growing hostility from the homeless masses, Nero redirected the bitter resentment to Christians, blaming them for burning the city.*

Lesson Introduction: *Peter's theme throughout his first epistle was to encourage believers in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who were suffering persecution to remain faithful to Jesus their living hope, regardless of the cost. The apostle often reminded them of the blessedness of their status in Christ (1 Pet. 1:1-12; 2:4-10). He blended a reminder of their blessings with a call to maintain high standards of morality and holiness and emphasized the rewards of such conduct. He concluded his letter with more specific guidance around executing their assignment with humility and encouragement through culmination of our Hope, the imperishable crown of glory that we will receive.*

The first five lessons of our YOU literature have provided a phenomenal journey for believers in this season of calamity (Covid-19 and Racism pandemics, and political corruption) to be admonished, encouraged, and instructed on how to "Live with Hope in a Broken World." Lesson VI provides the eternal culmination of our Hope in Christ Jesus.

I. "When We Are Humble, God Exalts Us" (I Peter 5:5b-7)

- I Peter 5:1-5A, Peter gives instruction to his fellow leaders about how to shepherd the sheep and gave guidance to those under their leadership. He urged the younger members of these congregations to "submit yourselves unto the elder" (v. 5a) so that they could all **work together in unity and harmony**.
- **Humility** is the key to exaltation in God's economy and in His divine timing. We are admonished to clothe ourselves in humility, which is the antithesis of the world's view. God resists the proud (**Prov. 3:34**). Humility reminds us that we cannot handle things on our own but are admonished to **cast our care upon the Lord because he cares for us**.

- **Jesus is the consummate role model of humility**, demonstrated through His role as our Sacrificial Lamb, how He lived and walked in obedience to His Heavenly Father. (**Jn. 13:1-20**, washing the disciple's feet)
- **Guiding Questions:** *What does it look like to **clothe yourself with humility**: What obstacles do you need to overcome, or burdens do you need to release to Jesus today to be humbled under the mighty hand of God?*
- **Spiritual Truth: Humility:** *Humility is the key to being exalted by God, not a prideful "bootstrap mentality." It is an important part of serving others, creates intimacy with God, and remind us of our dependence upon God.*

II. **"When We Resist Satan, We, can Stand Firm in Our Suffering" (I Peter 5:8-9)**

- **Suffering** is a given for the believer! When we compare our suffering in the grand scheme of things we will reflect that they were momentary. Peter encourages believers then and now to rejoice as they share in the "*sufferings of Christ*" (**I Peter 4:13**).
- We are admonished to **view suffering from a global perspective**, realizing that we are not alone but intercede for the countless Christians being beaten, sentenced, arrested, imprisoned tortured, separated and killed for the cause of Christ.
- We must **remain spiritually alert** because Satan (adversary, roaring lion) is strong, loud, proud, and prepared for attack. He does not just want to annoy and frustrate us but desires to destroy us!
- Their **faithful endurance** would enable them to also rejoice when they enter their resurrected (*glorified*) state. (**Rom. 5:1-5; 8:28-38; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Phil. 3:7-11**)
- **Guiding Questions:** *What are some ways we can actively resist Satan? How can we learn more about persecuted Christians and share this knowledge to encourage others?*
- **Spiritual Truths:** *Our enemy is powerful, but Our Heavenly Father is Omnipotent, Omnipresent AND Omniscient. He gives us power through our faith to resist the devil. James 4:7, affirms that when we stand boldly against the devil in Jesus Name, he has no choice but to flee! Satan is a defeated foe and we serv a victorious King! Suit up in the full Spiritual Armor and stand in unity for the cause of Christ with fellow believers worldwide.*

III. **"After We Have Suffered, God Will Restore Us" (I Peter 5:10-11)**

- Sometimes, pain means things are getting better (childbirth, shots, surgery healing)
- Just as God affirms that believers will suffer, His amazing promise that He will **restore** us in His perfect timing (**Jn. 21:15-19**).
- In the meantime, *Jesus had all dominion and authority, and nothing can pluck us out of His righteous right hand.*
- **Guiding Questions:** *When have you seen healing result from pain? When have you felt God's restoration at work in your life and how were you changed as a result?*
- **Spiritual Truths:** Every good and perfect gift come from God—hope, calling, provision, strength, restoration, endurance, and reward. The suffering is a certainty, but praise be to God, it has an expiration date. God's amazing promise to restore us and put our feet on solid ground. Jesus is our Cornerstone (**I Pet. 2:6-7**), our solid foundation for all eternity!