

Thank you, Linda, for sharing that. Wow, thanks for sharing your heart. And I am just convinced that as we share from 1st Peter Chapter 5 today that you're going to see that what she's shared is what you're going through and you're gonna find that there's some things in this text that are just gonna help you. Let me say a word of prayer for you.

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for Linda's testimony. Thank you that in this moment where we are all in this together, all going through so much, that we can have the comfort, that You're there with us, that You'll help us through. And so Lord, I pray for my words right now that they'll be healing, they'll be helpful, that they'll be encouraging. And Lord, more than that, that your Word will get to where it needs to be in our heart, in our life.

We ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

All right, we're at the end of the book of 1st Peter, the last chapter, Chapter 5. I'm really excited to bring you this because here Peter opens up—just like Linda just did, just like many of you have done—shared his story and what's going on, and now he sits down and he writes to a church that's dispersed going through some tough stuff and he says hey, because of my story, because of what I've gone through, there's a couple things that I want you to hear and I want you to know. So let me just read a few of the words of this so that you'll see this, and I'm starting at verse 5 in Chapter 5 of 1st Peter and it says this, and this is the second half of verse 5, it says this:

⁵ . . . "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ¹

— let that sink in a moment, and then he says this, here's the outtake of this:

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.

— he says this:

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

– 1 PETER 5:5b-11 (ESV)

Peter had told his story many times; everyone reading this would have known his story, even many of you know his story. Let me rewind to one of the scenes in the story of his life that is quite well known. It's between the time that they were in the upper room right before Jesus would be taken through these trials, ultimately to the cross, it's between that moment and the moment they get to the Garden of Gethsemane, and Jesus is looking at His disciples and He makes this comment in Matthew Chapter 26, He says you're all gonna fall away on my behalf tonight.² And Peter is taken back by this, and in his own mind he thinks they might but I certainly won't. Listen to what he says; he says even if they fall away, I never will.

¹ Cross references: James 4:6, James 4:10, Proverbs 3:34, Isaiah 57:15, Matthew 23:12, Luke 1:52

² See Matthew 26:30-35

³³ Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away."

– he even amps it up one level, he goes even, Jesus, if I have to die with you, I will not deny you —

Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

– MATTHEW 26:33, 35 (ESV)

And that's when Jesus speaks to him and tells him what's about to happen. And the warning in that should have popped off this alarm, an alarm in his head that should have said, "Watch out! You're headed down a path you don't want to be headed down." And as I was reading this text and as I was thinking about that moment that he had with Jesus, and I was looking at him writing this to these people at that time who were spread out and going through incredible suffering in their time, much of that suffering for their faith, I realized if we were to hear the alarm that should have gone off for Peter. There were two alarms that I believe that he mentions here that leads ultimately to our enemy, our adversary, the devil wanting to devour us that we need to hear about. The first alarm is pride, the second alarm is anxiety.



Pride is the most ancient thing that began with Satan when he was in Heaven and his pride welled up within him and he wanted to be like the Most High and he was cast out of Heaven.³ And here's what we remember when we think about that, when pride wells up within us it is the most ancient sin we can go with, it is one that here it says God is opposed to. So in other words, when we're acting prideful God's opposition comes hard against us. We don't want to be there. So when we

see pride jumping up in our life and if you're alive and you're living in our world that really begs you to power up and be prideful and, you know, believe in yourself and, you know, stand for yourself and be all about me and about getting what I can and doing whatever it takes to get there, if you sense that welling up within you where all of a sudden you're defending everything in yourself and you're never wrong and you have to have your way, it's in that moment that there's this alarm that has to go off.

There's a part of me that wanted to do that on this video, have this big strobe going in circles with this loud noise. But I don't know, like, I hate those moments. There's nothing – like, I remember being in a hotel one night in California and something must have happened that triggered the alarm in the hotel, sometime I'll tell you the whole story. And I'm laying in bed and all of a sudden in the middle of the night, I think it was two o'clock in the middle of night, these strobe lights start going off with the loudest, most piercing sound because evidently the way it all came out it looked like it was a fire but turned out it wasn't. I just remember just sitting straight up in bed, I'll never forget that night.

When the alarms go off in our life that there is pride it should cause us to sit up straight in our bed with the alarm and the strobe lights going off and cause our blood pressure to rise and go, "I have to do something about that." And that was the alarm that should have gone off that I think Peter's wanting to write to these people here when Jesus says you're all gonna fall away on my behalf tonight. And what Peter's response is is yeah, maybe them. You see, that's pride, "Couldn't be me!" I get that; you get that. We so get that. And we just sort of shrug it off going, "Yeah, yeah, that's me." And there's even those of us who are trying to defend, "Well, you know, there's a certain amount of pride that's right and there's"—you know, and we're trying to defend that right now. And God, again, says I oppose that

³ See Isaiah 14:13-14, Ezekiel 28:11-19

pride. And what Peter's saying is I should have had that alarm when Jesus said this is going to happen tonight; I should have been able to look at Jesus.

I was looking at another passage over in the book of Matthew just the other day and it was about this woman who was coming to Jesus for healing of her daughter, and I noticed that over and over there's this response by her going, "Have mercy on me, God. Help." And there's this recognition that I don't have this, and that's what the message that Peter says next, he says, "*Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God.*" There is in that humbling of yourself this recognition that I don't have this.



Let me jump to the second one real quick, the second one's anxiety. Anxiety is something that many of us are feeling in this time. I mean, it's probably the one thing that I hear over and over mentioned to me by people that I'm talking to, whether it just has to do with their own personal life and their own relationships or their own business life and this changing, uncertain world that we live in; whether it has to do with world events, if it has to do with much of what's taking place in society right now. It's – even with all the racism things being talked about, there's a level of anxiety, everyone trying to figure it out, everyone trying to talk about the different things and trying to make sure that they're in the right place and trying to grow in these things and all this kind of stuff and that anxiety is growing. And what we find here is there's a lot of fear of man and it's one of the signs of anxiety, a fear of what people can do to you. There is a piece of this where it's a matter of seeing life without Jesus in it, because one of the things that we keep on saying is like, "You need Jesus in your life." That's going to really go a long way with this.

When all of a sudden we decide to go it alone, when we decide to become prideful, that I've got this, that takes Jesus out of the equation. The very next thing that pops up is anxiety. That's why I say the first alarm is the alarm of pride and once that happens I've got this all by myself, then anxiety pops up because I don't have Jesus anymore to walk me through this, and that anxiety builds and builds and I don't see my life with Jesus anymore so I don't have an outlet, I don't have any place to go. And what it ends up doing is it breeds suspicion towards other people and now all sudden I'm not even treating other people right and that ultimately separates us.

Some of you can really relate with Psalm 42, verses 5 & 6. It says this:

*⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation ⁶ and my God. My soul is cast
down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.*

– PSALM 42:5-6 (ESV)

That is really at the heart of anxiety, that turmoil that is within us. And it's when we hear those two alarms starting to ring that we should be brought straight up out of our seat and realize that the words that we're hearing whispered in our ear are from the enemy. It's really hard in that moment to know that. That's why I'm just bringing it in terms of alarms. If you see these alarms or if even as you hear me talking you're going, "Yeah, I see some of that in me." Or if you're about to hear what I think the enemy is whispering into my ear saying, "God doesn't love you. You're not enough." "Why doesn't God fix this? Where is He in this moment?" "You deserve more. You deserve better." Ultimately here's what the enemy says: You are going to have to take care of this; you are going to have to fix this. Now we're going back to the pride, because he's the king of pride, he wants to do that, it's all about self and he knows that that's where destruction is at and he says, "You are going to have to save yourself." And it's

in that moment that we go absolutely crazy trying to become our own savior and everyone else's savior. It's in that moment that we step out of the grace of God. I love it, in the very last paragraph that I didn't read to you in Chapter 5 of 1st Peter it says this:

¹² . . . this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

– 1 PETER 5:12B (ESV)

What's the true grace of God? Nothing I did—everything He did. I can't get to Him on my own. I can only trust in Him to get me to Him. And so now all of a sudden when I realize there's none of me and it's all of Him, the pride goes away and in that moment I'm trusting Him completely for my salvation.

And you want to talk about anxiety, you want to talk about the alarm of anxiety, Peter again is the guy who knows about this. Again, everyone knows his story that's reading this. The trials for Jesus are taking place; He's being shuttled from one place to the next. Peter, after having blurted out so boldly, you know—Not me! Not me! It couldn't be me. I'm gonna be with You till the very end—the text tells us that Peter is following at a distance behind Christ and he enters into this courtyard.

This young slave girl, whose name is not even mentioned in Scripture, lets him into the courtyard and he sits down, he's got his ball cap down over his nose, he's wanting to hear and sees looking way in the distance to see what's going on, he thinks that he's totally unseen, unnoticed, when this little slave girl looks and says, "You are the guy that was with Him!" And Mr. I've-Got-This and the rest of these guys may not have it but I've got this, looks at her and responds back in that courtyard. He's anxious, he's fearful, he's scared, he's nervous, and if all these people hear that I was with Jesus who knows where this is going to go? He becomes self-protecting and he realizes I've got to take care of this myself, and he looks at her, "I don't know the man." And three times over the next hour as she pokes at him again this gets more and more till he's swearing on God Himself that he doesn't know the man. And then the rooster crows.

Peter's a guy who understands what it means being at the bottom. That's why when he writes to these people who are in suffering he's one who understands that suffering. And here's what Peter, a man who truly did love Jesus, the text tells us that in the story that as Jesus leaves one of the trials He's walking back and just then he gets eye contact with Jesus and the story tells us it just tears Peter apart because he knows he just denied Jesus. He knows he just let Him down. He knows that he should have listened to Him then when He was warning him so he could be humble, instead he prides up. He didn't hear that alarm in that moment and it changes him, and it's that change that caused him to say to us these next words that I've just got to say to you, if there's a passage of Scripture I would encourage you in this time to read over and over it's 1st Peter 5 starting at verse 6:

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God . . .

– 1 PETER 5:6a (ESV)

And humility in the time that this was being written in all the Greek literature at that time – not existent, and it was only in the New Testament that you see this concept of humility which was totally shown to us by Jesus and His example. It's only in the New Testament; some nine hundred times in the New Testament that humility is spoken of. This isn't something that mankind comes up with. Everything in our mindset goes the opposite way, it goes towards pride. We need to, he says here, humble ourselves. This is something that we're going to have to figure out and Peter's message is humility is a choice. He made a choice—God, I got this, won't happen to me. You'll never find that with me. I know what I'm talking about. I know what's gonna happen. I know how it's all gonna turn out. He's got it all figured

out. You and I are a lot alike. Oh man, we are so bold. We're bold with current events. We're bold with what's going on in our families. We know when we look at that family or that situation or that country, we know and we are boldly staking it out. And he goes hold on a second, humility here's going to be a choice that we need to recognize.

Now here's where this choice becomes really simple. There is a place inside of us when we understand the Gospel and the Gospel message is simply this: I am a sinner. I deserve Hell. My sin, the price of that sin, is eternal separation from God and there is nothing I can do in and of myself to fix that. Catch the weightiness of that for a moment. Some of us are running around awfully prideful because we're pretty good. We've got this degree. We've published, been published in this way. We've been through this training. We get to speak in these locations. I have this title at my job. We live at this address. We're connected with this person. And there's something welling up within us that goes, "Yeah, I'm a pretty good person." We actually think through the list of all the things that those around us would say good about us, but the Bible says that even the best thing that we can possibly muster up is desperately wicked and sinful.

And so there is a need for each one of us to have salvation, that's why Jesus went to the cross because on that cross He took on Himself all of our wickedness—if we would give it to Him—and He gave to us all of His righteousness. And so anything that happens in our world that is good and right we immediately reflect it back to Him, that's what this idea of giving Him glory is all about. I don't think that's something that we grasp much. We do it a lot when it comes to a sports player, we give them glory or to our own child, we give them glory, but here's our job as a person and it's part of humbling myself, I humble myself by constantly giving glory to God; constantly reflecting that back, anything good that's coming my way, anything that is right, anything that has happened that possibly could receive any praise, I just send it all back to God. Jesus, it's because of You, it's only because of You. Period. I won't take that for myself.



And Peter knows what he did in that courtyard. He's at the very bottom and he realizes that he let the enemy in, and I'm pretty convinced that he thought he was done at that moment. And when Jesus looks at him and he recognizes I powered up and I went on my own strength, that he gets eyes with Jesus there's that moment of reminder. It's like when you're a kid and your parent looks at you. Oops! They know. That's why I love here—humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that powerful hand of God. And sometimes we don't like that. We think somehow being free would be better.

A real simple, quick story. When we lived where we, you know, we used to live in Arizona. We lived in a very rural area, not a huge population, but we had all the big amenities, malls and that kind of stuff, but they weren't very populated and it was just lovely to go through it so we felt very safe there. We knew the area, we knew the people, we knew all the store – the people running all the stores. And so our kids could run 30 feet in front of us or linger back 30 feet behind us, I mean, I'm checking over my shoulder but I have my eye on them and I know where they're at, and it was a lovely way to grow up. There was a lot of freedom and openness, BUT fairly regularly we would go to Phoenix, 100 miles south of the town we lived in, that my kids grew up in, you know, little kids, you don't realize that things are different there and it was dangerous in those places. I mean the stories were very, very scary, at least as a parent. And you know what I'm talking about those of you have been parents. It's just like there's something inside of you that worries about the worst. And so when we got to those places I'd tell the kids before we got out of the car, I'd tell my daughter you're gonna be with mom, and son, you're gonna be with me. You're gonna stay with me, you're gonna stay with me the whole time. And I had this way

of—because my son would just take off, that's what they did all the time, it was the natural feeling that they'd have, and I'd just put my hand on his shoulder and I'd keep it there and I'd steer him and he didn't like it. And he'd try to pull out from underneath it and he'd look at me like, *I don't need that dad, I'll stay with you.* And I knew he wouldn't, and so I kept on putting it there.

And here's the simple piece of this is: I was keeping him safe, he didn't know that. He didn't like it. He felt held back. Actually, he was freer than if I were to let him go because if I'd let him go and something bad would have happened, an evil, wicked person would have done something horrible to him and I knew it. And here when we humble ourselves and let God put His big hand on our shoulders, yeah, in that moment He's protecting us from the adversary, the enemy. Remember the two alarms: Pride – "I've got this, I'm all my own, I can run anywhere I want, it's okay." The second alarm – anxiety. Now all of a sudden I have a life without God. And he's saying listen, here's your choice right now, you can choose to not let those alarms ring. You can choose when they do ring to go, "No, I'm going to humility. I'm gonna let God's hand be on my shoulder. I'm gonna choose His hand. His hand as opposed to the adversary who's gonna say, "Come here, it's okay. It's okay over here." That's what he did back in the Garden. Aw, God didn't mean that. It's not gonna be a problem. And here's what he says, he says when it comes to the adversary. Verse 9:

⁹ *Resist him,*

– 1 PETER 5:9a (ESV)

Instead, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. And what I love next, he says here:

⁷ *casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

– 1 PETER 5:7 (ESV)

You know the word *casting*, Peter can't help himself, he talks like the person that he is, he's using words that are current in their culture but also words that are current to him, he's a fisherman. And so he was constantly casting nets out, throwing them out, and what he's saying here is whatever those anxieties are in you, when that alarm rings take – or you're about to see it ring – rather than letting that build up until the enemy gets to attack you, take those and cast them, thrust them, throw them on the Lord. Keep bringing them to Him. And it's fascinating to me, he says here in due time He will exalt you.

And I think it's a reminder that these things don't happen immediately. And someone asked me this week as we were having a back-and-forth conversation about this, it's like, so if you're supposed to cast it on Him why doesn't He just immediately fix that? Why is it like that? And as we talked about it and we discussed it back and forth, and you may want to even write in the comments right now, in the chat, your thought why doesn't He immediately fix this if we cast it on Him? Why doesn't he immediately fix it? As we were talking about it there were a couple things that came up. One of those things was that when we cast it on Him we're taking it away from ourselves. The word itself actually means "to cast out" and then it talks about rolling back, so evidently they take the nets and throw them out and they'd roll them back. Those of you have been fishermen, you cast, you can bring it back; you cast and you bring it back. So, many times when we cast our cares on Him, it feels good for a moment but then it comes back to us and then we're feeling it again. And he says keep on casting them on Him. And in doing so what happens is we build this character of trust with God and we get to trusting Him and knowing Him.

Can you imagine if all we had to do is cast it out once and we were done and walk away? You know, you think about a fisherman, if all they ever had to do is cast it out once and they got all that they

needed, they wouldn't have to have much skill. We're in a process here, we're building a relationship with God and He knows that in order to make it through some of the really, really, really tough stuff ahead, we're gonna have to learn how to cast these little things right now. We're gonna have to learn to cast every little thing here. And what I love when in the next phrase here he says "*because he cares for you,*" oh, He loves you. Oh, how He loves you. He knows every little detail about your life. He wants to know every little thing.

One of the things that's been a joy to me and my daughter coming home during this weird little timeout that we all have and working from home is that we've had the opportunity to talk about a lot of things. She's been gone for a couple years and so oftentimes a phone call you can't catch up on everything. I want to know about every little detail. I want to know about every little friendship. I want to know about every little decision because I care about all those things. And it's not being micromanaging, I just care about those things.

Your Father in Heaven loves you so much he cares about that. I think sometimes we get in this oh, the God of Heaven, this big God, you know, He doesn't need to be dealing with my little stuff. Or we think I gave it to Him five years ago, we threw it out. And there's this word in this casting that talks about that net rolling back, cast all your cares upon Him, He cares for you—give it to Him and keep giving it to Him and give Him more because what we learn in this, going back to our chat, is a constant dependence on Him. It's not a once and done, here you go, I'm out, I'll go do my thing. He wants to have this relationship with you. He loves you so much that He—if you'll let Him—you can be under His mighty hand. Did you underline that? Mighty hand. Satan is going to come in and be your adversary and destroy you. You don't want that. I don't want that.

Let me wrap up. The resolution's cool. In fact, I've brought you this verse a number of times in this series because sometimes this discussion about suffering has gotten heavy. I don't know about you, I'm ready to hear some good news. I have been exhausted by the news over the last 10-12 weeks and once in a while during these times I've heard a story that was this bright spot, this really cool thing that is happening and I don't know, it's just for a moment you breathe easier. It's as if the sun comes out for a moment. So as you're reading through this—originally, the original readers of this would have gotten it and read the whole thing, not just little chunks all the way and had someone sit there and talk endlessly about each little chunk, they would have just read through the whole thing. And as their coming up to the end they would have come to verse 10—by the way, they weren't verse numbers in it, that's for us to help our understanding, but verse 10 says this:

¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while,

— that goes back to this isn't about what we've done, it's just all about what God does for us, and *whew!* and understands. He loves you so much. He loves you, He loves you. You got that? And there's nothing of me, nothing I've done, so I give Him the glory, everything good going on right now it's all because of Him, nothing because of me. Anything right in me is not because of me, it's all about Him. And read what it says:

the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ,

— and here it is —

will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

— 1 PETER 5:10 (ESV)

Here's what I love. Remember, we've told you two other stories about from Peter's life this morning, I'm gonna tell you one more. So I mentioned a minute ago that getting eye to eye with Jesus in the courtyard, you just feel like you want to slink away. You've been in that mindset. Some of you are like that right now, you've made some choices in your life, you've made some mistakes in your life and you look at it and, you know, they're pretty awful. You're even wondering why you even turned on this Livestream right now, maybe you're just a little surprised that you are watching it right now. I just want you to hear God's redemptive love for you. And that's what I saw in Peter, that's the difference between Peter and Judas. Judas doesn't repent; Peter does. Peter weeps. Peter is horrified by his sin. Peter looks at Jesus, "I love You. You are my God. I want to be right." But he's not convinced that that's even possible at this point. He doesn't know anything better because when the adversary gets in, when that alarm of pride rings and that alarm of anxiety rings and when you add those two things together the adversary takes off and says, "You're mine now. Here we go. God's not interested in you anymore."

So Peter goes back with his boys to fishing, they go back onto the water and they start fishing and there they are on the water fishing and they're getting nothing all night long. I mean, by the way, these guys that have given their lives to be in with Jesus and they go back to fishing, it's over. Jesus has risen from the dead at this point, they're on their boat, they've had a terrible night of fishing, they have cast their nets all night long, nothing has happened. They keep casting and they hear a voice from shore saying, "Have you caught anything?" The answer is no. "Throw out on the right side of the boat." He throws out on the right side of the boat and they have a super big haul.

In that moment Peter realizes wait a minute, that's Jesus' voice. He looks out, "That's You?" Grabs a jacket, throws it on, dives into the water and swims to shore and lets the rest of the guys pull the fish together. And he arrives on shore and when he arrives on shore and the guys come back to shore Jesus is sitting there, He's prepared breakfast for them; has a little charcoal fire lit up, has fish laid out on it waiting for them to arrive, and it's in that moment—John Chapter 21, you ought to go there and read it—and it's a little bit back and forth, He asks some questions.

By the way, when you've been in the middle of a struggle ask some questions, get to the heart, don't just make bold, mean comments, ask some questions, gain some understanding. And Jesus just keeps on asking some questions to bring clarity to Peter's thoughts, and in that moment Jesus restores Peter to ministry. It's a beautiful story. It's a story that you and I need to hear. And Peter wants you to know as he's, really, telling his story at the end of this writing to us says yeah, you're gonna go through suffering and, yeah, your pride's gonna well up in you and, you know, you're gonna go down paths you shouldn't have gone down and then you're gonna get all anxious and then you're gonna make some worse mistakes and you're gonna deny Jesus and you're not gonna go to the path you want and you're gonna see Him eye to eye and Satan's gonna lie to you. But if you'll come back to Him, Jesus wants to restore you.

Let me read verse 10 again, I just would love for you to grab verse 10, I'd like you to hold on to verse 10:

¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while,

— and after you've suffered a little while this, too, will end. The suffering is not going to last forever, you're gonna get through this, it's gonna be okay. Suffered for a little while, I know it seems like a long while; I think 11 weeks seems like an eternity. *After you've suffered a little while —*

the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ,

— He's calling you. He wants you. He's called you to be part of what He's doing. Here's what He's gonna do. He says He Himself, Jesus – who will restore you? Jesus will restore you.

will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

– 1 PETER 5:10 (ESV)

It's what He did to Peter. Peter's speaking from his own experience, just like Linda was speaking from her experience prior to this message in that testimony. Peter is speaking from experience, Jesus will restore you. He's going to confirm you. He's gonna let you know, yes, I do love you, and yes, I did choose you, and yes, I did call you, and yes, I have a plan for your life, not to harm you but to give you a hope, to give you a future. Jesus is inviting you back in to strengthen you, to help you. I know you weren't strong there in the courtyard. I know you were weak, I told you you were gonna be weak, you didn't listen to Me, you're gonna listen from now on. And you've learned a lot and you've grown through this and you're going to the next step. He says I'm gonna strengthen you and I'm going to establish you.

You and I live around places, I mean, I don't know, everyone I talked to has had a tree fall in their backyard. A huge, huge tree, I mean, this thing was this big around [*gestures with his arms wide open*] fell in my neighbor's backyard. And when we went to the base of it – just no roots. I mean, the roots had rotted away. And He says I'm gonna get those roots down, I'm gonna establish you.

And by the way, that's why I continue to encourage you be going to your Bible. Next week we're gonna start the book of Proverbs. We're gonna be studying a series called HOW TO: LIFE. What I love about the Proverbs and I've even seen the Proverbs during this time come alive to me because I'm studying them in preparation with sharing with you in the weeks ahead. Even with what we've gone through in last week with the racism, what we were going through in the weeks before that with this plague and sickness and all of the unknowns, so just going to the Proverbs and just going how do you deal with relationships, how do you deal with finances, how do you deal with some of the many things that come at us in life—the book of Proverbs say that. That's why Peter is saying when you when you come before God and He and invites you back in He's gonna establish you, He's gonna throw those roots down so that when the storms come—you saw those storms coming, it was like everything was fine and all of sudden the wind started blowing and that rain just started coming across sideways in waves. And that's how these last couple months have felt. Like, what's next? I keep on saying I wonder what will happen next week. I wonder what will happen between now and the time you hear this message. The winds are coming, the waves are coming, it's just coming at us harder and harder and fast. And Jesus says please, please take a deep breath [*inhales/exhales*], once you've suffered a little while I'm gonna restore you, I'm gonna confirm, I'm gonna strengthen, I'm gonna establish you.

I want to invite you to Jesus. If you've never put your trust in Jesus, this is the Jesus you want to know. If you're one who has put your trust in Jesus but you're feeling like the wind is taking you and tipping you like this [*gestures being flattened*], I invite you to come back to Him and get in His Word and read it. We're gonna ask you for the next two months while we're going through the book of, well, actually three months, while we're going through the book of Proverbs, read one proverb a day. And the neat thing is there's one for every day of the month so just read based on today's date and just do that every day. If you do that we'll go through the book of Proverbs three times in the next month. He wants to strengthen you, He wants to establish you, He wants to confirm you, He wants to restore you. He loves you.

Let me pray with you.

GOD HAS CALLED US TO HUMILITY

SERIES: PAUSE | WEEK 9 | 6.7.2020

Jesus,

I know there's a lot of people hurting right now. I pray that they'll just feel totally filled up. I pray that they'll feel like just this fresh air blowing again and that they'll see the sun come out and they'll just feel like there's hope again. And we realize it's just a little while and that You're working and that You love us and You love them. And I pray that they'll just feel like they can cast their cares upon You right now, whatever they are. We love You.

It's in Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Hey, listen, I hope that you've been following along in your Word today. I hope that you'll jump in and start reading that a proverb a day starting right now and look forward to being part of it next week. I hope that you're inviting other people to come to these Livestreams.

I want to thank you for giving your gifts and your offerings on this right now. Many of you have signed up to just give electronically to give recurring; those things that we automate they get done. One of the things in my life that I just go, you know, I need to do this, I need to give my money to God first, He'll take care of the rest. And that's the promise He's made. He's got this. He's got the struggles we're going through, the sufferings were going, the fears we have, He's got all of this. And one of the easiest ways to begin putting our trust in Him is in the thing that we're so attached to, it's our money, just to give that back to Him. So thank you for giving right now. You can do that in that box that's just popped up in the chat, just click on that, very easy; but if it's easier for you to mail it in you're welcome to do that.

Listen, church, we love you. And I just pray for you this week and we just keep on praying, we'll keep on figuring all this out together and growing together. God bless you.

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