

Humility

2 Absolutes

God the Holy Spirit: (GHS)
God's Holy Word:

Eternal, immutable Person who always performs His ministry
God's Word (1Pt 1:25) Stands forever

1 Variable

The Human soul **Our beliefs & behavior**

GHS is going to do what He does & the word is permanent & eternal. It is the heart of the believer that must change for us to be stable and successful in the spiritual life.

Peter was a great leader and had a pastor's heart. Pastors are driven to learn about God and how life works so that they can lead others to the green pastures and still waters. In order to teach others, the pastor must find God's plan for himself, he must go first. Peter was always willing to go first. One his important journeys where he went first, was the road to humility. He discusses the processing he went through in 1Pet 5:6-7.

(1 PETER 5:6) HUMBLE YOURSELVES, THEREFORE, UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD, THAT HE MAY EXALT YOU AT THE PROPER TIME

Context: Peter is writing to church leaders about their oversight of the church. In this context he discusses God's process of humbling believers.

Vs 6 – Humble yourselves – tapeinoo (A.Impv) – corrective command
Passive voice – Allow yourself to be humbled – enter in & surrender to God's process

- Man is not capable of humbling self in the spiritual realm – supernatural process
- God's training program will bring us to humility if we allow it - willingness

1. Man born with OSN + Sp Death builds beliefs that place self at the center
2. Self centeredness causes man to think too much or too little of self
3. 2Cor 10; Rom 12:3 – those who think too highly of themselves – pride
4. better than others; depend on their own works; take excessive responsibility
5. Too little of themselves – not good enough; guilt – failure; don't deserve
6. Humility frees the believer from self centeredness – establishes reality/self
7. Peter had human viewpoint ideas about himself that needed to be changed.

1. Peter's Overemphasis on Self

(Mat 16:21-23) Peter rebukes the Lord

Vs 21 – Jesus explains the divine plan – DBR

Vs 22 – Peter rebukes & seeks to change the divine plan

- Peter had false beliefs about the mission of Messiah – Political & military leader
- Peter believed his desire & view of Messiah's mission warranted a rebuke of Lord

Vs 23 – Jesus rebukes Peter – focused on the things of man not God

(Mat 26:31-35) Peter depends on & over emphasizes power of the flesh

Vs 31 you will all fall away – fulfillment of prophecy
Vs 33,35 Peter refuses to accept/admit he will deny Jesus

- Peter believes he must generate loyalty by means of the flesh – human will
- Peter believes he must generate courage by means of the flesh

(Mat 26:69-75) Peter is broken by his failure

Vs 69-74 Peter's 3 denials as predicted by Jesus
Vs 75 Peter weeps bitterly – human/flesh system was broken

(Joh 21:1-22) Jesus Confronts Peter's Depression

Vs 3-4 Peter & disciples go fishing – business trip to earn money
Vs 5-11 Jesus demonstrates God's provision for ministers – not business
Vs 15-17 Jesus challenges Peter to give up guilt & resume his spiritual mission

- Peter felt guilt & was discouraged by his failures & was close to giving up
- Peter was overemphasizing his failures just as he had emphasized his works

2. God's Program to Produce Humility

Adversity breaking our false system

(Heb 5:8) Even Jesus learned obedience through suffering
(Deut 8:1-4) Exodus – desert to humble you; hunger/feed you
(Mat 26:69-75) Peter is faced with extreme pressure; folds up & breaks down
(2Cor 12:2-10) Paul was given thorn/flesh to prevent him from becoming arrogant

- Paul was overwhelmed by adversity; forced him to see limits of his human ability
- God revealed how He uses our limits to magnify His omnipotence in our lives

Encourage to trust God's system

(Joh 21:15-17) Jesus challenges Peter's love – feed my sheep

- Jesus challenged Peter's motivation – love/Lord – do your job in the kingdom
- Jesus challenged Peter's faith in God's enabling power to accomplish the mission

(2Cor 12:2-10) God rejects Paul's prayer – encourages him instead – grace sufficient

- Lord reminds Paul that he already had sufficient grace to endure the thorn

3. Peter learned to abandon his own ability & depend on God's power

1Pt 5:6-10 – total emphasis on God

Vs 6 – God's power & promotion – humbled under mighty hand of God
Vs 7 – God's love – cast your cares on Him – not handle them yourself
Vs 8 – God's fruit & God's enemy – self control & alert – watching for the devil
Vs 9 – God's plan & word – firm in the faith; knowing – resist the devil by faith/word

Vs 10 – God's grace & production – little while; God Himself – restore, stabilize, strengthen, establish you

Summary

1. At first, Peter placed the responsibility on himself to produce Christian virtues.
 - Courage, loyalty, faithfulness
2. At first, before he was empowered by GHS he was dependent on himself.
3. Peter was willing to be humbled by surrendering to God's process for growth.
4. As Peter was broken and encouraged, he learned that power comes from God.
5. As Peter writes at the end of his life, he talks only of God, not himself.
6. Peter learned that all that God wants from us, He accomplishes Himself through us.