

Are You Doing God's Will Part 9

Humble Down - Humility Brings God's Grace

“1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10 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 glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. 13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. 14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.” (1 Peter 5:1-14 KJV)

We will continue in this part from verse 5.

“5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5 KJV)

“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder”: Here Apostle Peter started to speak to the younger and exhorted them to be subject and submit to the teaching of the elders, because that will be for their benefit. Their submission to the elders shows that they are humble and has humility, therefore, because of that they will be rewarded and promoted through the grace of God. Submission to the elders it shows also wisdom and understanding, because the elders are with more experience than the younger and will lead them in a better way. The elders know God better, know His will better, know the Word of God better, and they have better experience in life than the younger.

“Yea, all of you be subject one to another”: Here to submit and to be subject to one another as in ***Ephesians 5:21 “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”*** *It is not the matter of whether elder or younger but to what the Word of God dictates. If a younger told me a word that is correct according to the Scripture I need to obey this Word of God.*

“And be clothed with humility”: ** Both the elders and the younger should be clothed with humility. * The elder they clothe themselves with humility when they continue to be willing to be opposed and resisted by the younger and be willing to continue reaching new people and exercising their rules in feeding the flock and taking the oversight. * The younger they will be clothed with humility when they are willing to follow the instructions of the elders who are placed over them in the Lord, and when they are willing to give up their own plan and will.*

Nothing can take the grace of God faster than the pride, arrogance and the lack of humility: ***“For God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5 KJV)*** **The more we refuse to suffer as elders and resist to obey God and go and do what He asks us to care for the younger and reach new people and disciple them, the more we are resisted by God. * But the more we are yielding to His instructions to go and do the work, the more we are comfortable with the grace of God and well provided and successfully guided by Him.*

** As for the younger the more they refuse to follow God's instructions through the elders, the more they are opposed by God. * The humility of the younger is their willingness to listen to the instructions of the elders and their willingness to wait for the promises of God to be fulfilled in His due time.*

I will speak now about an issue we as church had been repeated in our midst. Along the years we were instructed by God through His Word about the preparation of Godly marriages. Because of failure and lack of preparedness of marriages we put Criteria for marriage it contain two aspect, *first*, the preparedness of the man and the woman spiritually and materially to be fit for the task of marriage, *second*, the voice of the Holy Spirit to determined the partner that God had prepared for that particular man and woman. We started to apply that since several years, but many of the youngers, most of them did not comply, and they went ahead to get married without preparation or got the wrong partner because they refused to wait upon God till He send them the right partner. Now to those who were prepared and would not wait upon God, they left the church in order to marry what they like, their own choices, their own will and the pattern of the culture that they came from. And even for us, we were not willing to keep them in the church after they marry their own of wrong partner and became bad example to others to follow. Now after they will leave the church and with in a period of 6-12 months after their leaving, we noticed that God would sent a person to the church who can be a fit partner to that man or to that woman who left or who had dismissed from the church after marrying their own will. We therefore would say if that person would stay now here is the partner that is for him. I even started to ask God, why Lord you did not send that person earlier and relief us? He answered me, ***“God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5 KJV)*** He told me also, they need to wait for me till I would come with what I promised them. *Listen, younger, you cannot make God hurry with your resistance. You may pressurize the elders but you will never be able to manipulate God with your disobedience and you will not receive His grace unless you humble down and repent.*

We as elders, our willingness not to compromise with the younger in order to please God, would be honored by the Lord and it will be considered as humility before God when we don't look to receive favor from men or when we don't fear men.

“6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.” (1 Peter 5:6 KJV) *Here now the conclusion of the matter, whether elder or younger everyone need to humble himself under the mighty hand of God; the elder to persevere in their struggles to lead the younger, to lead our children, our disciples and the flocks of God and the younger to be subject to the instructions of God that he is sending to His church through the elders.*

Such submission of both to this will of God is their subjection to the mighty hand of God, and this mighty hand will lift them up in due time. As we humble ourselves in God’s hand and surrender our will to Him, we will be lifted up by the Lord. As we humble ourselves, His grace will reach us and we will be promoted further by the Lord.

As elder we continue humble ourselves before God, even we taught many and they went ahead with their own plan or will, that will not discourage me to go and help other younger people and care for them. Those whom I care and nurture, but went away with their own plan and will, I have still my reward from God of my care for them, I have my big capital in Heaven, even today my desire is to increase it and to have a higher reward from God as I humble myself and go forward to care for others. As well as those who went away they need to go back to God and follow His instruction so they can make it to Heaven.

“7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” (1 Peter 5:7 KJV) God will care for us and He will provide for our needs. As we are willing to give up our own ways and put aside our dreams and wishes and our own plans and follow God, He will care for us and support us. Also don’t think that God does not know or aware of the troubles that you are passing through. He is just there beside you in all the hardships that you are passing and be sure He is caring and He will continue to care for you.

“8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8 KJV) Now all the above explanations is needed to make you avoid a certain and more profound danger in your life and that danger is the devil who is roaming around and watching you and waiting if it possible that you can be attacked and empowered. Be vigilant and be alert to obey all the instructions to humble down before God in the description that He needs you to be; to live a life of prayer and to trust Him that He will continue to care for you and lift you up in times of troubles and comforts you in all your struggles and in such a way you will be avoiding what the devil can do against you. Otherwise if you will not abide with these instructions it will be easy for the devil to attack you and devour you.

“9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” (1 Peter 5:9 KJV) This is the battle that all the brethren all over the world are exposed to and that is the description of how they are resisting it. Humility will bring the grace of God to us and will enable us to resist and get protected. *Pride, arrogance and lack of humility, doing our own, zeal without knowledge, make us opposed by God, depriving ourselves from God’s grace, and make us more susceptible to be attacked by the devil.*

“10 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.” (1 Peter 5:10 KJV) Such trials and the way we handle them as prescribed will invite God to help us and strengthen us and it will be turned to be a blessing to us, for God will allow such times of interactions between the elders and the younger to perfect us, establish us, strengthen us and make us settle, have fruit of what we passed through. ***“11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 5:11 KJV)*** Glory to God who will be the one to strengthen us and establish us in a such marvelous way.

Here Apostle Peter at the end of his message to the elders and the younger he gave them example of two young persons; Silvanus and Marcus.

“12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.” (1 Peter 5:12 KJV) Peter in this letter wrote to the body of Christ and to us today His church a brief exhortation helping us to understand how we can stand with the grace of God. Peter sent this letter to the church from Rome by a faithful brother his name Silvanus. When you are faithful, God shall use you and send you with messages to people who need the aid of God in their lives.

With the letter he sent to them the greetings from the church in Rome, whom here called Babylon, which Peter meant Rome, ***“13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.” (1 Peter 5:13 KJV)*** ***“elected together with you”***, means no difference for those who receive the grace, for they are the elect of God. When he says, ***“and so doth Marcus my son”***, Marcus might be his real son or Marcus was his spiritual son, as was Timothy and Titus to Paul. Marcus or Mark could be also the cousin of Barnabas as Paul wrote about him here: ***“Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him.” (Colossians 4:10 KJV)*** ***“12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. 25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.” (Acts 12:12, 25)*** Marcus or Mark could be the writer of the Gospel of Mark. The example of Peter and Marcus and what Peter wrote ***“Marcus, my son”***, describes to us the heart of the message of today that the elder and the younger should work together. * *The elder is the father with white hair, less strength, but more wisdom. * While the young can jump and run fast, with black color hair but need the wisdom of the elder that can give him the Word of God and the guidance of God in a more clear way.* The Scripture shows us that Peter went to the house of Mark *sister's son to Barnabas*, in Acts 12:12, and the same Mark went with Saul and Barnabas in Acts 12:25. That Marcus or Mark whom Peter knew he left Paul and Barnabas in their missionary journey and caused pain to Paul. But the same Mark Paul praised after in ***Colossians 4:10*** after he did well again.

Peter who said ***“Marcus, my son”***, whether the same Mark of the *sister's son to Barnabas* or his own son or Peter’s disciples we don’t know exactly, but what we are sure of ***“Marcus, my son”***, that Peter was pleased with him, and their relationship in the life and ministry is

pleasant to God and a good example for us today that elder and younger should work together. When Peter said “*Marcus, my son, saluteth you*”, means Marcus knew the content of the letter and agree about it; that the younger should submit to the elder and the elder should feed the younger and have the oversight for him, and that is the heart of the message in *1 Peter chapter 5*.

“14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.” (1 Peter 5:14 KJV) Holiness and charity needed in the body of Christ. Peter witnessed the betrayal kiss of Judas to Jesus, and here reminded them of the opposite of what God would expect from them and from us today. With such a way of life, adopting humility and submission to the will of God, and submitting to one another, forgiving others their offences against us will make us receive God’s grace, and live in the peace of God. COVID 19 had stopped us hugging and kissing one another because what we were doing was only hypocrisy and was not real love. This is the high time now to repent as elders or younger to come back to God and humble down under His mighty powerful hand that He may lift us up in due time and give us more of His grace.

My Dear and Beloved:

- *Let us humble ourselves before God*
- *Let us start to fear Him and walk in His ways*
- *As elders let us continue to feed the flocks and take the oversight to guide them in what we are receiving from the Lord*
- *As elders let us not get discouraged or daunted when we are opposed, rejected or persecuted*
- *Let us do our part well in honour to what we had received from God, cherishing our salvation and all what we received from the Lord. Therefore let us do our part toward Him and toward His Church, knowing that Jesus will amply reward us when He will come back*
- *As younger let us humble ourselves to the elders and be subject to God through the instructions that we receive from God through the lives of our elders*
- *Let us submit to one another being accountable to one another in the body of Christ*
- *Let us give up our pride, our arrogance and our own plans and will*
- *Let us humble down before God to receive His grace and that he will lift us up in due time*
- *Let us cast all our burdens and concerns to God because we are sure that He will care for us*
- *Let us be vigilant and discerning, and in prayer so that we can resist the devil which is prowling around trying to devour those who are arrogant with pride and those who are opposing the ways of God*
- *Let us trust and obey God who will perfect us and establish us and enable us to withstand the devil which doing the same with all our brethren all over the world.*
- *Let us live in love and holiness so we can receive His grace and live in peace as we pray.*

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life.

Lord I thank you for the teaching that I had received from your Word, that I need to humble before you and before your will.

Lord I repent from the following sins _____. Lord I renounce pride, arrogance, lack of humility, anger, doubt, discouragement, un-forgiveness, easily giving up, doing my own plan, will and desire, non willingness to submit to the elders, and to one another.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I received from your Word.

Being elder I commit myself to feed the flock and to take the oversight to protect the people and teach them and train them so that they can face life and face the future events.

Being a younger, Lord I commit my life to submit to the elders and your instruction to me that I am receiving from them.

Lord I cast my burden unto you. Lord I give to you this problem of mine _____, Lord I trust you that you can solve it and that you will lift me up in due time.

Lord gives me more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to have the character and the attitude of Jesus in my life. Lord uses my life to be good example to others to know you and to follow you through my life. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit to go and preach your Word and to evangelize and to reach new people and to disciple them.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to the principle of this message of yours and humble themselves before you to obey and apply your Word in their lives, Lord blesses them, give them more grace, Lord comfort them and lift them up in due time. Lord care for them and solve their problems. Lord give them discernment to see the work of the devil and to resist it. Lord sustains them and provides all their needs so they will continue to serve you. Lord above all give them wisdom and knowledge to manage the affairs of their lives according to your will. Lord increases their faith and their trust in you and helps them to go on and overcome the obstacles that are ahead of them. Lord fights on their behalf and don’t allow the enemy to hinder them from progressing forward.

Lord I pray that you will go before us as a church and lead us to streets, buildings, cities, villages to reach new people and to bring Jesus into their lives. Lord helps us that our life and example will be attractive to others to know you and to follow you. Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit so that we can go and evangelize and make new disciples and complete the work that you ordained for us to do. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hands be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord

Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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