

**1 Peter 5:5b-11**  
**“Humble and Alert”**  
**Exegetical Notes**  
**Prepared by Robert W. Rice**

**Background**

Simon Peter, the same man who was a prominent disciple of Jesus, wrote this letter to aid its readers in enduring and preparing for an outbreak of persecution. In the immediate context of this passage, Peter has just spoken to the elders of the church, letting them know to shepherd the flocks that God has given them willingly and not with selfish motives (5:1-4). He has also spoken to the younger men and the congregation reminding them to submit to the authorities that God has placed over them (5:5a).

**Verses 5b-6**

*All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

-Peter begins and ends with a command to be humble in our lives.

-He gives two reasons to obey this command:

+Peter quotes from Proverbs 3:34 which says that those who hold themselves above others are in opposition to God, and he is set against them, but those who are humble and trust him are given grace.

+Peter then reminds that those who remain under God's mighty hand will be lifted up in His time which is the proper time, in God's plan

**Verse 7**

*Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you.*

-This verse is both a command and a reassurance. It tells us both what to do (give God all our anxieties and fears) and why to do it (because God cares for and loves us).

-However this verse is not a sentence by itself but instead a continuation of the previous verse, so it is a definition or act required for us to humble ourselves, to give our worries to God who always cares for us.

### **Verses 8&9**

***Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.***

-Peter reminds us to be both calm or sober and watchful. He then explains why we must be on guard, because constantly the enemy is attempting to swallow us whole and lead us to destruction.

-He then tells us how to fight our enemy, we must resist him and we do that by standing firm in our faith, literally being immovable. Comfort comes by knowing that Christians throughout the world are enduring suffering and trials.

### **Verses 10&11**

***And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.***

-The end of these verses tell us that God gives us grace and that we must suffer. However, when we wait on the Lord he will restore us and make us strong. We can stand firm because of his power.