

**Series: God Cares #1479**

**Title: 1 Peter 5.7**

***He Cares for You***

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world! Dear Christian person, are you living today with cares, concerns, and consternations? Are you burdened with a heavy load? Are you worried, anxious, and on edge? Are you lonely, isolated, and alone? Maybe there will be some other way to describe what you are going through and how this makes you feel? The truth is all of us, at one point or another, struggle in our lives and there are four words in Scripture that we need to both hear and believe. Are you ready for them?

Ready or not here they come: "He cares for you." He, meaning God, cares for *you*. Who needs to hear that today? Who needs to believe that today? Most likely, many of us.

What I want to do for the next several days is to talk about some of the struggles we have as Christians in this troubled world, and to see how God cares for us in whatever we are going through. I have a desire to speak pastorally and practically to see if I can be used of the Holy Spirit to be of help and encouragement to you, there by your radio or on whatever gadget you get the God Is Podcast. I hope you will be with us, and also that you will phone or text, pull aside a friend who you think will benefit from knowing of God's care for them in their life. Invite them to join us at this time on this station and/or via the God Is Podcast available from [godisministry.org](http://godisministry.org), that's [godisministry.o-r-g](http://godisministry.o-r-g).

Let's begin by setting the context for these words, "He cares for you," and defining what they mean. And then we will touch on some practical examples as we go along. These four words are found in the fifth chapter of the first epistle that the Apostle Peter wrote to early Christians on the run because they were being persecuted. These were believers who had reason to be anxious. In fact, the whole of the verse where our four words are found reads as follows. This is 1 Peter chapter 5, verse 7, "**Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.**" 1 Peter 5.7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."

Ah, so the need for God's care is *anxiety*. Do you struggle with anxiety? Is being anxious part of your day and night? Then, certainly, this verse applies to you. And Peter says, "Cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you." Furthermore, when we take another step back, in the text (considering context), in the verse before this one, verse 6, we read this. "**Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time...**" The more we read, the more we learn. Verses 6 and 7 of 1 Peter 5 read like this, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."

Peter is writing to persecuted and scattered Christians on the move and he tells them to "humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God..." I want to bring in our friend Kenneth S. Wuest. He is the Greek language scholar we hear from quite a bit on *God Is*. His *Word Studies* in 1 Peter is packed with insights regarding the language and we need this in order to understand what exactly is being said. Wuest writes, "The verb translated 'humble yourselves' is in the passive voice, which means that the subject of the verb is passive in the hands of God and is acted upon by [God] (*Wuest's Word Studies First Peter*, 128)."

What's he saying? Let's apply this to ourselves, today reading 1 Peter. We are the subjects, the people God is humbling. And we are passive. That is, we are the ones having something done to us. God is the One who is active. He is acting upon us. God is the One doing the humbling. We are passive in the hands of God as He does with us/to us what He wills. In this case His will is to humble us. Now there is an exhortation here: be humble. In other words, God is using the persecution and the suffering that has come upon us, in order to humble us. The verse continues, "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God..." God is actively doing something in your life, His mighty hand is on you, now respond to God with humility. Submit to God.

Verse 6 of 1 Peter 5 continues, “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time...” This is encouraging. If we respond well when God humbles us, that is if we are humble, *then* God will exalt us at the proper time. Dr. Wuest comments, “Humility in the life of a Christian is the prerequisite that God demands before He will exalt that Christian to a high place of privilege and honor in His service. As someone has said, ‘He must take a low place before God, who would take a high place before men.’ (128)” That is very well said.

God was providentially in the persecution and suffering of these early Christians. And God is providentially in the persecution and suffering you and I endure. We are exhorted to allow these struggles to humble us before Almighty God. *And* we are to do something else. We are also to respond positively to God by (verse 7), “casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” Because of the sincere trouble these Christians had, there existed that awful temptation towards worry. The Greek word here for “care” is the translation of a word that means anxiety or worry. And the word “all” carries the idea of the whole of their worries.

That is, bunch together all of your worries. Gather up all that makes you anxious, every last bit of it, and cast it on God. The word for “casting” means having deposited with. This means “a direct and once-for-all committal to God of all that would give us concern (129).” Did you get that? If we want to take the Bible to heart, if we believe God speaks to us through His Word, then do this: cast, deposit with God, make a direct and once-for-all committal of all your worry to the Lord. And do this *why*?

We circle back now to the four words with which we began, “He cares for you.” These words can be translated literally as, “for it is a care to Him concerning you” or “for you are His concern.” Wow. Hear this. Let this sink in. God cares for you. This means it is a care to God concerning *you*, *you* are God’s concern. God who has saved you and adopted you into His family, He takes the responsibility of your welfare unto Himself. This is the God who cares so deeply for us. The loving Father who watches over us and tenderly lifts all our worries unto Himself. And so, why worry?

To tie all of this together, let me make another comment about the context in which we receive these words “He cares for you.” Remember verse 6 talks about humility; God humbling us. Wuest shares this insight, “Anxiety is a self-contradiction to true humility. Unbelief is, in a sense, an exalting of self against God in that one is depending upon self and failing to trust God. Why worry therefore, if we are His concern. He is more concerned about our welfare than we could possibly be.

Furthermore, since the humbling process has been allowed to come to us in the permissive will of God, and He is using it to accomplish His purpose in our lives, [God] has it under His control and us in His care. In it all He is concerned about us, therefore, again, why worry (129)?”

These are some *great* thoughts fully worthy of our consideration. Let us give further thought to this and apply this in our lives. Have you understood that your worry and anxiety is a sin against God? By failing to trust God’s care for you, by resisting to deposit all your cares on Him, you are exalting yourself against God. You depend too much on yourself. We must call this what it is: sin. Friends, we commit sin when we worry. Let us confess this sin to God, through Christ, and find forgiveness for our iniquity.

And yes, as Wuest reminds us, God is in charge of the process through which He humbles us. As we regularly learn in our reading of the Bible, the sovereign and providential hand of God is on the back of every Christ follower. Whatever our circumstance is has come to us, ultimately, under the control and care of God. So why should we be consumed with so much worry? Answer: we must not be! Do you trust that God cares for you? Do you believe He does?

More about this next time discovering who God Is.

---END---