

Give Up Already!

1Peter 5:6-11

In order to win, you must surrender!

You don't have all the answers.

You can't fix it yourself.

Surrender will lead to a happier, healthier, more fulfilling life.

Submission Relieves Anxiety:

1Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

Peter tells us that if we humble ourselves under God's mighty hand, He will take charge and take care of us. When He takes over, we can cast all our worries on Him, letting Him tend to the harsh realities of life.

We live in a stressful era. Jobs, advances in technology, raising a family, school events, PTA and so many other things push us to get it done.

As we get older, we face the anxiety of deteriorating health, or challenge of having enough to live on when we retire.

We have countless sources of anxiety in our culture.

That is why you need to give up and surrender to God.

When you turn your troubles over to the Lord, He will take care of things in ways you cannot. God knows the end results of all these stresses. He knows what you need and what those around you need.

You can let go of your worries and let Him resolve the problems of the world, including your problems.

Submission Keeps You Safe:

1Peter 5:8-9 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

Peter reminds us that we have an enemy out there who is seeking to harm us. He tells us the devil is active in our world, trying to create hardships and challenges for us. Like a lion, Satan is looking to pounce on you and create heartache in your life.

We must admit that we live in an uncertain time. At any moment we could be the victim of violence.

We can face hardships with foreclosure or lost jobs.

There are countless risks that can give us trouble at any given time.

That is why it is good to humble ourselves before the Lord.

First, He is bigger than Satan. In every contest between God and the Devil, the loser is always the Devil. So, when you turn your life over to God, you are putting your future in the hands of a guaranteed winner.

Second, God can protect you from the influence and consequences of Satan's attacks.

Peter doesn't promise that you will not suffer or face hardships. You will suffer if you surrender to the Lord. Satan will redouble his efforts to harm you or seduce you.

But God promises that whatever suffering you experience in this life will be more than offset by the glory He will give you in the next life. You need to surrender to God so you can live life unafraid, confident and calm, even in the face of uncertain times.

Submission Keeps You Going:

1Peter 5:10-11 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Life is full of threats. Peter pulls no punches in telling us we will face suffering as a result of Satan's attacks.

In the face of life's harsh realities, some people give up and quit trying.

They quit trying to succeed, to have a better life, to be a better person.

Some turn to drugs or alcohol in effort to escape pain & tragedy of life.

Others turn to multiple sexual encounters, hoping to find enough pleasure in life to obscure the hardships that come.

Some even reach a point of despair that they take their own lives.

In our culture, suicide is on the rise, especially among the middle aged.

But, if you humble yourself before God, you have a bigger reason to live and live successfully.

When we can look beyond this life and its troubles, we can stand up under the strains of the world.

Satan can do his worst, and God will ultimately turn his worst into our very best, giving us eternal glory in His presence when this life is over.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

When we turn over our lives and futures to God, we can then endure whatever life throws at us.

You Need To Give Up!

As long as you try to carry your own burdens, fix your own problems, handle your own challenges, you will come up short.

You will face stress, anxiety, worry. You will have to face the worst things in life on your own without the stamina to endure and succeed.

But, when you surrender to God you can let go of worries, you can face life's difficulties without crumbling, and you can endure all that life does to you, because you know you are on the winning side.

So, Give Up Already!

David Thurman