

God has provision for us in our times of suffering. In order to embrace this provision, Peter lays out a process of what we are to do to embrace this provision.

I. We must learn to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God in times of trouble. (v6)

- A. React to persecution and suffering with an attitude that is pleasing to God.
- B. Be submissive to the training of God as He is using this difficulty in our lives to develop us. Therefore, let us adjust our character, conduct, conversation and commitments to align with the precepts and plans of God accordingly in our time of trouble.
- C. Expect God to lift us out of the trouble when He determines the time is right – “whether in this life or in the life to come, He may lift you up from your humble conditions and exalt you in the way that seems best to Him— perhaps only in terms of increased spiritual blessings and deeper fellowship with Himself, perhaps in terms of responsibility, reward or honor which will be seen by others as well.”¹

Key Point: The prerequisite to God’s exaltation is humility to His will.

II. We must cast our cares upon God in times of trouble because God cares for us. (v7)

- A. We are to put the responsibility on God or to make God responsible for handling those concerns in our lives that have become so consuming to us that they have disrupted our minds and personalities.
- B. We are to trust God to handle the matters that have consumed us, because God thinks about us, concerns Himself with us and takes interest in us.
- C. We are to stop worrying and start placing our confidence in the God who is concerned about us and takes personal interest in us.

Key Point: Since God is concerned about our welfare and controls our welfare, we should accept that He will allow us to fare well according to His will and good pleasure.

¹ David Walls and Max Anders, “I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude,” *Holman New Testament Commentary Vol. 11*, (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 92.

III. We are to be of sober spirit, alert, resisting the devil with our faith in times of trouble, anticipating the devil to attack, while understanding that we are not alone in our suffering. (v8-v9)

- A. We are to be clear-headed, self-restrained and keep our minds from anything that will cause confusion as we anticipate the attack of the devil.
- B. We are to keep watch for the attack of the devil in times of trouble. Satan works through tempting us to sin through the desires of our hearts that are out control (James 1:13-15). He also seeks to work through family members not fulfilling their roles within the family leading to the temptation to sin (1 Corinthians 7:1-5). Moreover, he seeks to disrupt the leaders of the church, attacking their credibility (1 Timothy 3:1-7). In addition, Satan seeks to corrupt the church so that evangelism and discipleship do not take place (Revelation 2, 3).
- C. We are to resist the devil, firm in our faith, through embracing all of who God is and all of what He promises to us, living our lives according to His precepts, loving others accordingly, as well as understanding that other believers are experiencing the same suffering as us.

Key Point: God gives us the power to resist, but we can't resist without keeping our heads clear, our spiritual eyes open to the enemy, our hope fixed on the reality of God and His promises, and our lives lived in accordance with His precepts.