

**12.18.2011**  
**1 Peter 5.6-11**  
**A theology of the Resurrection**

[6] Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, [7] casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. [8] Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. [9] Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. [10] And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. [11] To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Introduction**

Good morning Summit Church! My name is Spence and I am one of the pastors here at the Summit. I came to the Summit almost 10 years ago now as a college sophomore and by God's grace have been deeply privileged to grow up here with you.

I do want to say a special thank you to our small group leaders here at the Summit. I pastor the small group community here and believe without hesitation you play one of the most vital roles here. I know the hard work you put in and am grateful for you. I brag about you unceasingly to other pastors I know because I get to serve with you and they don't. If you aren't in a Summit small

group yet that is one of your application points. Go ahead and write it down.

Ok, so right now at this moment we are one week away from Christmas morning. Pretty awesome right! I cannot wait. I've got to young boys who are 3 & 2 and our first little girl is on the way in February so Christmas at our house is a pretty fun, largely A.D.D. experience.

Actually cute moment - My boys are so excited about Christmas day. They are anticipating it like crazy this year. Guess its their age. So we are having fun with it. Zeke: I walk in from work "Daddy you cannot have your Christmas present" Ben: Yeah, It's a movie. You can't have it.

**TRANSITION**

Now we are trying to talk to our kids about what advent means. Advent means arrival. In the bible there are two arrivals of Jesus. The first arrival is the one we celebrate at Christmas. It is where God sent Jesus the king to save us from SIN. That's the first advent. The SECOND advent is when Jesus the king comes to set up his permanent earthly rule over all of creation and in doing so eliminate all suffering. The Second Advent Relieves our Suffering. The Question for all of us is how do we live between those two times.

In the letter of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter this is the framework Peter is writing in.

Peter, our author, is standing in between these two advents writing to a group of Christ followers telling them how to live in this in between time. See these people were facing persecution and discrimination for claiming to be Christians. The backdrop of this letter is suffering. And the

dirty little secret in this room is that a great deal of us are suffering. Now, to be fair you are probably not scared of the same type of persecution they were. someone busting into your small group, dragging you to the RBC center and feeding you to lions. BUT, you are suffering in some way.

Christmas is the time where so many of us put on facades and tacky sweaters and let our days be “merry and bright” while the reality is many of us are in pain. We need an answer to it. Peter drops a massive dosage of HOPE right here at the end of his letter to leave Christ followers dwelling in as he signs off.

**And his main point is this: The hope of the resurrection gives you power to live today.**

So we are going to dive into this jam packed little passage, walk through it verse by verse, and be encouraged at how the two advents offer us, and our city, great hope this Christmas.

Turn in your bibles to 1 Peter 5.6-11.

Here we go:

[6] Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, [7] casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

**Point 1: The resurrection replaces worry & Fear with HOPE.**

Peter knows his audience. A group of people easily prone to worry and fear given their circumstances. But what he does here is dive beneath the fear to what causes it: Pride. See you worry because you believe things should turn out a certain way and you aren't sure if they will. You are the authority on the future, not God. Your worry indicates you don't trust God and instead trust yourself. This is Pride.

How do you combat Pride? HUMBLE YOURSELF.

Therefore - what is it therefore? Context: in the previous verses Peter calls the church to clothe themselves in humility towards one another. Cites Prv 3:34.

See here is what Peter knows: In light of what Christ did for us (first advent), we have no other character trait to put on but humility. God gives grace to humble, but opposes the proud (v.5) so humble yourselves.

This theme of humility is all over this letter. Humble yourself. Submit yourself. The letter is filled with prescriptions for how to humble yourself:

1. Authority - Government (2.13), Church (5.1-4), God (5.6)
2. Roles you play - Marriage (3.1-7), work (2.18-20), friendships
  - a. Jesus washing of feet? Humility. (John 13.12-16)
3. Suffering - Everywhere! Humble yourself to suffering.

This is the posture of the Christian. Not one of pride but one of deep, others-minded humility. Now, let me say here this is not meant to be a doormat with no self-esteem. It's a posture. A disposition.

Now, in these verses Peter tells why we can be humbled before God and what the fruit of that humility is. Check it out.

## 2 Ways the resurrection replaces fear & worry with hope:

### 1. It displays the POWER OF GOD.

**He is mighty.** **THE POWER OF GOD.** Notice “Under the MIGHTY HAND of GOD.” This is same “mighty hand” language is used in the Exodus to talk about God’s hand over Israel as he brought them out of Egypt. His hand disciplined and his hand Saved them. It was God that brought 2 million people out of slavery. He is all powerful and Peter needs you to remember that right here. So you can humble yourself under that mighty hand. He’s in control not you. Feeling you get at the Grand Canyon. That Kind of Humility. How small you are.

- a. **The Resurrection proves God is in control.**  
All questions of God’s control is settled when Jesus gets out of the grave.

### 2. It displays the LOVE of GOD.

**He Cares for You.** This is **the LOVE OF GOD.** See there is a very important little wording thing going on right here at the start of verse 7. The word “casting” (Epiripsantes) is “ is an instrumental participle” and it describes how you go about humbling yourself under God’s hand. You cast your anxieties. Your fears. Your worries. All onto him. So you can humble yourself because he cares for you. This is the childlike humility. My kids always want their daddy in a strange place. Why? Because they can lay down their fears & anxiety b/c they know Daddy will take care of them. Daddy loves them.

- a. Question for you. What keeps you up at night? What do you check on all of the time?

Illustration: Grilling. Grillmasters know not to worry your steak. You let it cook and trust the cooking process. A rookie pokes and prods at it, resulting in tougher steak. What are you checking in on all of the time?

Where do we see both The Power of God and The Love of God most fully on display? The resurrection. Notice how he says “in the proper time God may exalt you.” This is the hope statement right? Something else is going to happen. Watch this. Here is your resurrection theology. Are you ready? It’s crucial to understanding Peter here.

The first resurrection serves as a promise that the second one is going to happen. That’s why Paul calls Jesus the “first fruits” from the dead in 1 Corinthians 15. He rose, then one day we will too.

**The resurrection confirms the power and love of God, which means we can trust him. SO we can lay down anxiety and fear, and pick up HOPE. (REPEAT)**

Let me tell you where that gets real personal to me. My biggest fear since the day we found out Courtney was pregnant with our first child is that one day I would lose one of my kids. - Story of Miscarriage.

1 Thessalonians 4 - [13] But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep....17b **so we will always be with the Lord.** [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

My wife and I believe that Child is with Christ. And that gives us great hope. Because the best thing you can give your child is Christ. And now one of mine has him and a way I long for.

PASTORAL Aside: “proper time” some would use this verse to tell you that if you humble yourself, God will heal you or bless you or answer your problem in this life. I think that is doing a disservice to the emphasis of 1 Peter. The entire point of the letter is pointing us towards the eternal hope we have. That we will be with Christ FOREVER. Eternity is what we are to orient our lives around. Not the temporary. Now, when God DOES relieve suffering in answer to prayer, we see it as a sign pointing us to the final relief from suffering. It’s a reminder he is still at work. So, while God MAY bring about relief from suffering through our prayers in this life, that isn’t what we put hope in. We put hope in something certain: Eternity with God.

**So the HOPE of the resurrection confirms the power and love of God which means we can trust him. SO we lay down anxiety and fear, and pick up HOPE.**

[8] Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. [9] Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

**Point 2: The Resurrection gives power to resist the devil**

Action Verbs again: “Be” (both sober-minded and watchful) and “Resist”

Ok, remember the back-drop of the whole letter here: Suffering Christians. Peter alludes to it here.

But then he drops something in that he hasn’t touched yet the entire letter. THE DEVIL. One of the most un-touched subjects in the Christian faith. Because we have a hard time in the educated western world getting our head around such a concept we largely dismiss it. Listen, I need to tell you the devil is real, though you probably don’t live like he is.

- C.S. Lewis in *Screwtape Letters*...demon named screwtape to his nephew / rookie demon named wormwood about how to secure the damnation of an ordinary man.
- In response to wormwood's question "is it essential to keep the patient ignorant of your own existence?"
- "That question has been answered for us by the High Command. Our policy, for the moment, is to conceal ourselves... I do not think you will have much difficulty keeping your patient in the dark. The fact that 'devils' are predominantly *comic* figures in the modern imagination will help you. If any faint suspicion of your existence begins to arise in his mind, suggest to him a picture of something in red tights, and persuade him that since he cannot believe in that (it is an old textbook method of confusing them) he therefore cannot believe in you."<sup>1</sup>

Or as the other great theologian from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Kevin Spacey, says in the movie *Usual Suspects*

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<sup>1</sup> C.S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters* (Harper Collins, New York, NY 2001) 31-32.

“ The greatest trick the Devil has ever pulled is convincing the world he doesn’t exist.”

Peter here is pulling back the curtain of our world to show you what is really going on. Satan does not devour you by jumping out from behind a tree and stabbing you with a pitchfork. HIS BATTLEGROUND IS YOUR FAITH!

Look at that text. He’s a hunter. He is a hunter looking for food. And you are what he feasts on. - Last Zoo Trip.

Remember those 2 things Peter wants you to remember about God? His Power and his Love? Satan’s path to devouring you is making you doubt those very two things. Satan doesn’t attack you with pitchforks. He comes along side you and asks you the same question he’s been asking since the Garden of Eden....”has God really said?” He devours by replacing your HOPE with DOUBT. Think about it: In the midst of suffering and difficulty, perhaps more than at any other time, we are tempted to doubt these two things about God.

**1. His power.** We begin to be unsure whether he is really in control of all things - otherwise, why wouldn’t he intervene and make my life better?

**2. His love.** We begin to doubt whether God’s so called grace and kindness is all its cracked up to be. If he is so loving and generous and good, why am I suffering so much? Why doesn’t he do something about it?

And When DOUBT replaces HOPE Satan begins to devour you. Instead of EMBRACING suffering as something that unites you with Christ, you begin to try to AVOID it. Because you’ve lost your HOPE. You’ve lost sight of the resurrection. Of the end game. And Peter knew how that

played out because it had happened to him! He is talking about this on the other side of walking through it. How does Satan “DEVOUR YOU” when it comes to Suffering? Well, what you need to know is that there are sinful ways to deal with Suffering, and God-honoring ways to deal with it. Here are the sinful ways you deal with Suffering.

1. **Back away from Suffering** (Matt 16.23). Peter is the only guy Jesus called Satan! Peter was trying to convince him NOT to go to the cross and Peter calls that satanic. Backing away from suffering is satanic. This is the life of self-indulgence. Put up a comfort perimeter.
2. **Denial of Jesus that leads to relief.** Then, Jesus tells Peter Satan is going to lead him to deny Jesus. (Matt 26; Luke 22.31) We do this too.
3. **Deal with suffering through escape valves & not Christ.** So you deal with suffering of a bad marriage through adultery or materialism. You deal with Stress through porn or alcohol. You indulge the lusts of the flesh to find relief. But instead Satan DEVOURS you. You become addicted to these escape valves and Satan DEVOURS your life!

So Peter says “RESIST HIM.” Not flee, or Bind, but RESIST. It is a defensive position. How can we do that? We know the battle is already won. The HOPE of the Resurrection gives us power to resist the devil. That’s what “standing firm in your faith” means. When our eyes are fixed on the coming victory over Satan, we are able to resist his lies. So we can embrace Suffering because we know it is temporary and we will get eternal relief from it!

Illustration: Sports. Insanity workouts. Listen, I’m trying to shed the “least likely athlete superlative that I seem to be winning around our staff.” Like everytime I play a sport with them I hear all these guys say “wow, spence, I never

would have thought you could play...insert whatever sport." Apparently I am the least physically impressive male on our staff to look at. So, in my sin I let fear of man's opinion get to me and I started insanity. A freak workout program.,....

This is Peter's point in the next couple of verses:

[10] And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. [11] To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

No action step here. Just PROMISE. This is what you are to be encouraged in.

### **The Hope of the Resurrection sustains you in suffering.**

If this hasn't been clear up to this point let me make it clear now: You will suffer as a Christian. Suffering is certain, but also BRIEF. "oligon" - little while. Glory is eternal, suffering is temporal. We must not let satan confuse the two.

Paul says of suffering in Romans 8.18 that it is "NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED TO THE GLORY THAT IS TO BE REVEALED TO US."

See the most profound moment in Peter's life happened on bad Friday, just before resurrection Sunday. Where he denied Jesus. He then watched the savior die and hope began to give way to doubt. Darkness and death seemed to reign. See the death of Christ was not something Peter celebrated. Instead it brought about uncertainty, suffering, and fear.

But then, listen, SUNDAY came. On Sunday Jesus got up out of the grave. And THAT changed everything. Shortly after the resurrection scared Peter became Preacher Peter. In Acts 4 he goes before the same people he was so scared of and says "WE cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." What happened?

NOW this hope that Christ IS who he says he is and will DO what he says he will do has been made certain! So Peter had GREAT HOPE! That's the hope he's giving you. The GOD WHO IS ALL POWERFUL AND WHO LOVES YOU WILL NOT LEAVE YOU! YOUR SUFFERING IS TEMPORARY!

You say "But Spence you don't understand my suffering. Its too much" You are right. I most likely do not. But Jesus Does. He suffered the wrath of God poured out for the sins of the world. Hebrews 2.18 says we have a great high priest who has suffered like us so he is able to help us in our suffering.

For Peter, Jesus' resurrection was a promise of the future resurrection of all believers. That God is going to finish this story well. He will restore you. He will confirm you. He will strengthen you. He will establish you.

For some of you the burden of your suffering is SO HEAVY that today I can only pray the HOPE of Christ will lift it. You are in Bad Friday and you desperately need resurrection HOPE. Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith, and listen to me: SUNDAY IS COMING.

Listen to the apostle John as he describes this second advent. Listen to your hope:

[21:1] Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. [2] And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud

voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. [4] He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

[5] And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

This is Peter's hope. The God of all Grace is going to make all things new. And at the lynchpin of it all, God is going to dwell right there with us.

The Gospel HOPE is Jesus, the one who died for you, got up out of the grave. He got up. That changes everything for us. What do you hope in? What do you have faith in? That the God who raised Jesus from the dead is coming for you.

Are you consumed by worry? REMEMBER THE CERTAINTY OF THE COMING RESURRECTION

Are you fighting sin? REMEMBER THE VICTORY YOU HAVE OVER SATAN IN THE RESURRECTION.

Are you Suffering? REMEMBER THE HOPE YOU HAVE IN THE COMING RESURRECTION.

9AM CLOSE -

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The BENCH

Illustration on Worry: Horatio Spafford...it is well with my soul.

This hymn was written after several traumatic events in Spafford's life. The first was the death of his only son in 1871 at the age of four, shortly followed by [the great Chicago Fire](#) which ruined him financially (he had been a successful [lawyer](#)). Then in 1873, he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the [SS Ville du Havre](#), but sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business concerning zoning problems following the Great Chicago Fire. While crossing the [Atlantic](#), the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sailing ship, the [Loch Earn](#), and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone . . .". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died.

Last two verses of song:

But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait, The sky, not the grave, is our goal; Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord! Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.

So Christ is born, he lives 30 perfect years, dies, then VERY importantly 3 days later he gets up out of the grave! He doesn't die, instead he defeats death and ascends into heaven to be with God the father.

Here is why that is so important: because in our passage the writer alludes to a SECOND advent. At the second advent, the Jesus who rose from the grave is going to bring about the restoration of the world. It will be a new creation. The second advent or second coming of the savior will be one that will establish a new heaven and new earth and we, those who are followers of Jesus, will be with God forever in a completely redeemed earth. This is the "glory"