

HE CARES FOR YOU

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Pet. 5:6-7, NKJV).

The enemy is no less real just because he can’t be seen. Satan is prowling, sniffing for a hint of weakness, watching for a momentary lapse of awareness: *“a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Pet. 5:8).

The Christian’s defense is two-fold. First, we must *“resist him, steadfast in the faith”* (1 Pet. 5:9a). Such resistance requires knowledge of the Adversary. We must *“be sober, be vigilant”* (1 Pet. 5:8), study his character, tactics and goals so that we recognize the earmarks of his approach. It is too late when the lion is leaping.

The second, and most crucial, feature of our defense is refuge in God. Satan’s success can be disheartening, but Peter counsels believers to *“humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God.”* God *“gives grace to the humble”* (1 Pet. 5:5), and the favor of God far exceeds the significant but limited power of Satan. The proud vainly try to defend themselves, and God opposes them. But the humble know they are overmatched and cry to God for help. This is the very thing He is waiting to hear.

Peter insists that suffering is not evidence of God’s indifference: *“He cares for you.”* Remember, the one who pens these words has already been told that he will be in distress in his later years (Jn. 21:18). But Peter also knows that: *“after you have suffered a while, [God will] perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you”* (1 Pet. 5:10). Suffering, the theme of First Peter, has its place in our spiritual development. But God knows our breaking point and tempers such trials for our benefit. Long after the lion is vanquished, the sheep and the shepherds will wear *“the crown of glory that does not fade away”* (1 Pet. 5:4). JMJ