

21.570y Substance of Prayer Meeting Address given by our Pastor
LaT971 on July 6. 1982.

Lesson. 1 Peter 5.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Peter 5. 6-7.

One of the great evidences of the grace and life of God in the soul and nearness to the Lord, is to receive the the sanctifying grace of God and to bear fruits so they are visible to the child of God, to the whole Church, and to all with discernment. As you know, there are three parts which form a whole to sanctification. Sanctification means to be made like the blessed Object that fills our souls with His glory, the Lord Jesus, to be made like Him. For we are so unlike Him naturally in our fallen state, and the remnants of that state in a body of sin and death. There is the better part, but the other part is so offensive; not like the Lord Jesus, opposite to Him. Sanctification means to be made ^{like} the Lord Jesus in spirit, nature, practice, thought, motive, and in life. "They took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Wonderful for that to be so conspicuous to others. There must have been a radiancy divine shining in them, so they 'took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus'. In our lives how often has it been the case with us? Does your wife take knowledge of you that you have been with Jesus? and do you take knowledge of her that she has been with Jesus? Do the children see it in their parents? How favoured are parents if they see it in their children! That is sanctification, to be made like Him.

Doctrinally there are three parts to the subject. The first is when by His grace the Holy Ghost enters the soul of a poor sinner He begins the process of sanctification, to set him apart for God, for Christ, for His indwelling, for better use, to be the Lord's servant, to live to the glory of God all his days and to be with Him in Paradise. He begins to prepare your soul, and you cannot prepare yourself, for the personal advent of Christ to your soul when He comes with all His glorious train. This is the greatest event ever known by a child of God on earth. You then wish to be with the Lord, you have no mind to stay here. Job

bemoaned the fact that he was not cut off before the darkness; that the Lord did not take him before he came into great darkness: he wished he had gone. When the Lord enters, blessed days you will know on the face of the earth. Would to God we could stay there, but there is a battle before us. How many feel the Holy Ghost in them the hope of Glory? Do you ever feel Christ in you the hope of Glory?

The second part of sanctification is the divine flow of the sacred operations and work of the Spirit. This is to prepare the child of God for Heaven; for the time when the Lord takes our breath. No child of God is taken without the Holy Ghost's sanctifying preparation for Heaven. I am not just to name one individual, but this was blessedly evident in dear Mr Burd. The Holy Ghost so sanctified him and he knew where he was going and had no fear. He said, "There is no peace here; there is where I am going." That is sanctification. The Lord has made you ready. And dear Mrs Ford for a while was as a person going on a long journey. When you are going away all your cases are packed and you are waiting for the conveyance to take you. That is how she was, waiting for the chariot and the angels. That is sanctification; to fit one for Heaven. Do you feel the Lord is preparing you for Heaven? You older friends, and it could be the younger ones, is the Lord making you ready for Heaven? Are you more spiritually minded, living close to the Lord, with a blessed heart and spirit to the things of God, and with sweet foretastes? Do some of you say, "This is above my head."? My friends, seek it. I hope you will not be robbed by the things of earth. Ask the Lord to give you that blessed spirit.

The third part of sanctification is the visible part. It is fruit in the soul, beautiful fruit, and one of the greatest is humility. This brings me to the subject matter. Peter had been through a tremendous lot, he had been in Satan's sieve. He had thrice denied his Lord and proved the wickedness of his heart. The Lord convinced, pardoned, restored him. He said to him, "And when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Aren't you concerned that the Lord would so sanctify things and dispensations so you come out with precious fruit? As Mr Frank said to me in an illness, "I hope you will come out nearer the Kingdom." That is sanctification. To return to the case in hand. Do you not see the abundance of the sanctifying influence in the apostle Peter? This

chapter is full of humility. It was not Peter. He was a strong, rugged character, impetuous, hasty, and he says, "Humble yourselves." All through the chapter there is humility. He had said, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder." There is not much of that now, in the Church of God or in the nation. It is hardly seen. He goes on, "Humble yourselves therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." The foundation for the subject is filial. "For he careth for you." He is your loving Father and Friend, and He is speaking to His dear, eternally loved, adopted children. You could not have a greater word than "He careth for you." Think of it: if you have a person who is caring they watch and do all for your comfort and relief. The dear Lord careth for you. Not many knew dear old Henry Sayers at Leatherhead, a blessed saint of God. Not long before he died this was made a blessing to him. He was living alone and he lost his pension book, and he was in such a state about it. The dear Lord brought this to his heart. "He careth for you." Someone returned the book to him and it broke Henry down, and he was near to Glory. "He careth for you — soul, body, dear ones, your providential path." You could not have more.

It is the will of God that we should have the same spirit as His dear Son. "He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death." It shows the dimensions, the efficacy of humility. He became obedient unto death. So if we are humbled we should become obedient to death, even a martyr's death. This is sweet humility, no rebellion, but a falling into the hand of the Lord, sitting at His dear feet: no quarrel with the Almighty, no self-pride; sweet humility. This is the way to blessing in the Church. So he says, "Humble yourselves." The people of God are so ashamed of themselves when they ^{see} sinful nature asserting itself. They say, "Lord, make me a little child in humility, humble, teachable, and mild." He says, "Cast all your care on Me." You will say ~~what~~ a tremendous word! "all your care. Think of the volume of it! your anxieties, exercises, responsibilities, with a family, in the ministry, in the Church of God, for your immortal soul, the future, providence, all your care, things so impossible with men. Cast it all on Him for He careth for you. You are His children. This word was sweet to me in the night and we have been singing about it. "He engaged to manage all." and I did need the Lord to manage for me, by the way and to the end. You will never be able to

manage your lot. You have talents, but if you think you will manage all, you will find you cannot. You will be as Jehoshaphat, "Neither know we what to do." He engaged to manage all, so take it to Him by His help. He undertook to manage all, to control all. All of you must be in a position where you cannot manage your lot. If you tried to you would find so many blunders and you got into confusion with everything. "He engaged to manage all,
By the way and to the end." That will be Heaven.