

Becoming a Casting Christian 1 Peter 5:5-14

Introduction:

1. In the past few weeks we have been looking at the issue of faith in the Bible. It is crucial that every believer be growing their faith and becoming stronger in their faith.
2. Trials and problems are a part of life. You will never successfully avoid them. But you do have a choice as to how you will respond to trials.
 - When we respond right, it is evidence that our faith is growing and strong.
 - When we respond wrong, it is evidence that our faith is weak.
3. What is the right response to our cares, our worries, and our burdens in life? Please turn to **1 Peter 5:7**. The word “casting” means “to throw upon.”
 - Think about it – what is the key to gaining relief from a physical load you are carrying? Release it where it is supposed to go!
 - In the spiritual realm it is the same. Are you carrying a heavy load of cares, burdens, and problems? The key is, you have to release it – you have to let it go. You must release it where it is supposed to go – to God! Otherwise, you may unload in all the wrong places.
4. As a Christian you must learn to cast your cares upon God. When you begin to do this and obey God you will know that your faith is growing and becoming stronger. This text will explain why it is so crucial that every believer become a casting Christian.

First, a casting Christian exhibits a lack of pride. vs. 5-6

1. When you take your cares and cast them at the feet of Jesus, what you are in essence saying is, “Jesus, this problem is too big for me, my wife, my pastor, or anybody else. I need You!”
2. You know what that is – humility. You are admitting that you can’t do something.
3. Let’s read verses 5-6. Now verse 7 – they go hand in hand.
4. I love the expression, “*Be clothed with humility.*” **Illustration:** You would never dream of leaving for work and heading out the door naked. When we start our day without humbling ourselves before God and acknowledging our need of Him, we go forth spiritually naked.
5. Each morning, as we face a new day, we should, one by one, take each care and concern and humble ourselves before God and acknowledge our total dependence on Him.
6. God gives two promises to the humble:
 - Grace – the problem may not go away, but God will give you grace to handle it.
 - Exaltation – God will exalt (lift you up), but notice “*in due time*” (the proper time.)
7. What does God promise the worrier? Absolutely nothing – there are no promises at all.
 - **Illustration:** Sometimes when my boys were small they would have a helium balloon and it would be at the top of the ceiling. They would jump, get on the couch and jump, throw a toy at it, but finally give up, come to me and say, “Daddy, will you get my balloon?”
8. What problem are you dealing with today? This is what God desires you to do. cf. **Philippians 4:6-7**

Second, a casting Christian actively resists Satan. vs. 8-9

1. Who is our adversary according to verse 8? Is there a literal devil according to God's Word? He definitely is real, but Satan would love for you to believe that he is fictitious.
 - **Illustration:** a lion would love nothing more than for his prey to believe that he doesn't really exist.
 - The word "devour" literally means "to drink down, to gulp entire."
2. What do you think is one of Satan's most strategic weapons that he uses to devour people? I believe it is worry, which leads to discouragement. Can you relate to this?
3. Satan deceives you into thinking that you have to carry all of your cares and burdens on your own shoulders. Let's read **1 Peter 5:7** again.
 - You have a clear choice according to this verse. You can either have your cares or God's caring.
 - If you have one care resting on your shoulders it is not because you don't have a God that wants to shoulder it for you. The word "careth" means "to be of interest, concern." God cares!
4. How is the Christian to respond to the devil? Verse 9 – resist him. The word "resist" means "to stand against, oppose."
5. When you take your cares and cast them at God's feet, you are actively resisting the devil.
 - **Illustration:** Ever play hot potato? You have a situation that is a hot potato and you and Satan are passing it back and forth, so to speak. You try not to worry, but Satan seems to put it right back in your lap. You know how you win this game? Take the hot potato and cast it at God's feet. He won't put it back in your lap. He will take it and shoulder it.

Third, a casting Christian demonstrates total trust in God. vs. 10

1. The Bible says in **Hebrews 11:6**, "*But without faith it is impossible to please him (God)...*" It is so pleasing to God when He sees the heart of His children fully trusting in Him.
2. Why shouldn't we trust Him? Look at verse 10. God has an eternal plan and purpose for our lives. In fact, Paul taught that we have already been seated in heavenly places in Christ. We are God's workmanship, and His purpose for our lives extends into the eternal ages. **Ephesians 2:6-7**
3. He is the God of all grace and He has called us unto His eternal glory.
4. If you are saved and a child of God, you can fully trust your heavenly Father. Even in the trials of life, Paul said that God is working in them so that they will produce a far more eternal weight of glory. **2 Corinthians 4:17-18**
5. Are you saved today? Do you know Christ as your Savior? This is crucial.
6. Once you enter into a relationship with Christ you can lean upon Him and trust Him in every situation that life brings your way. You can become a casting Christian.