

Trusting God's Timing and Promise

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You go ahead and turn with me to First Peter chapter 5. We will start with verse five this morning. Before we go into the verse, I would like to give a brief introduction.

We are going to be moving from Peter's instructions to the elders that we saw in verses 1-4. The Apostle Peter now is going to be addressing the younger believers and then all church members. The connection is established by the phrase we are going to see in verse five that says "likewise." That highlights that both the pastor leaders and those they guide are called to embody the same Christlike humility that we will find also in the young believers and all church members. The believers are called to willingly submit to their appointed elder as part of their service to Christ. And much like those in leadership are instructed to not lead under compulsion, it is clear that throughout Peter's letters no individual is given the power to force others into submission. Nowhere do you find in Peter's letter that concept.

The concept of humility was not new when the New Testament was written. However, in the Greek equivalent we see that this word humility was commonly used in a negative sense. Before the arrival of Christianity, the word humble held a distinctly negative meaning. It was a term typically applied to slaves, conveying a sense of cowardice and a general meanness of spirit all throughout. The remarkable power of Christianity is clearly seen in the adoption of this word that was used in a scornful way and its transformation and elevation to a concept of great honor, namely in the Lord Jesus Christ. In earlier times, the very notion of humility had a very low estimation to people. It was considered a source of shame. To call a man humble was an insult. Such a quality seemed incompatible with the self-respect essential for the good activity of the people.

The churches in Asia Minor to whom the apostle Peter wrote were immersed in the Roman honor-shame culture which placed high value on status. Daily life revolved around securing public prestige and patronage and social advancement. Another way of putting it, moving up the corporate ladder was not a new thing to us today.

The Apostle Peter introduced a radically countercultural concept, namely humility. This command to put on humility is what we find as imitators of Christ. As believers we are to put on humility, which fundamentally is an inverted world power. We are living inverted world power structures. Look at what Jesus said in Mark 10:42-45:

But Jesus called them to him and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be

great among you, shall be your minister: and whosoever of you will be chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

The Greek verb “be clothed” in verse 5 conjures up this image of a slave putting on his work apron. The idea was he is to tie it and then go into service, and publicly it was visible to all people that this was an intentional act of humility. Again negative connotation. It was an intentional act of putting on this act of humility and it would strike the Greek-Roman listeners. Typically in the social status the slave was the lowest. So again it is an inverted world status symbol as it were, calling ourselves humble individuals.

The Apostle Peter presented this as a Christ-modeled way. Again going back to what Jesus said in Mark 10:42-45. And we see that this was a practice of all Christians that they would put on as it were this apron representing humility and knowing that everyone would be thinking of them negatively. And so in 1 Peter 2:21-22 it is for us to remember that this is what Peter said: For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.

It was putting on Christ. That is the idea. And this was to be characterized by the elders serving the younger members and leading them in this way.

Let me just dive even deeper into this. Sit in this environment that these first-century believers were in: house churches. Remember they were scattered about all around Asia Minor and they gathered and there were appointed elders in all these house churches and there were young people and church members and they were to submit to them with this authority that Christ has given to the elders. But these house churches were not very big. They were not big homes, but they were able to fit 30 to 50 people in these intimate settings. Just imagine all these people from all over of different backgrounds and cultures and status and they were to have this dynamic relationship with each other and exercise humility that would be visible in each one of these homes. Just think about the tension, the strife that could have happened if they were not in Christ, if they were not following in the footsteps of Christ. But that was not the case. They were able to come together knowing that out in the world they were treated as low status, negative, shameful, and they would go out knowing that I am representing Christ. I am Christ in invisible form as it were.

The Apostle Peter recognized there was going to be this tension in each one of these homes. And so he gives words to the church. And one of the big tensions was the young people. You are going to just think, wow, this is like the same that we experience today. The young people resistant to older people’s guidance. This was the tension. There were older people there, younger people, and there was a big clash and tension.

And let’s look at that, will you? In verse five it says this: Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Okay, so humility in the younger takes the form of submission. Humility takes the form of submission. That is what we see here. But the thing is a natural energy and drive of the youth is typically channeled into activity that unfortunately leads to excess self-assurance and a desire of control. Just think of young Peter remembering himself in his youth and how he thought he was in full control, that he had so much assurance in himself. And so he knows that this is an issue with young people. And so he deals with this concern that these house churches are dealing with the elders and the church members the young. Consequently these young individuals would often find themselves resisting the guidance and counsel from their elders.

Young members should and ought to humbly submit to the wisdom and experience of their elders. I can recall in my own personal life how I did not make a lot of mistakes because I listened to wise counsel. But many young people that do not tend to make more mistakes. So this dynamic that God has done for all of us to help the older and the younger, this dynamic Peter wants to address and address it not to just them but to all of us. And you will see the similarities that we are still struggling with today as it was in the time of Peter because the spirit of self-control is still very much in the flesh. And it is so much stronger in young people because the natural tendency is again self-assurance. I can do this. I can do this. I am young. I have time.

This mutual humility in the local church shared by both the young and the elder was extremely vital. The enthusiasm of the younger generation can be a source of inspiration. There is a positive side of it. These youth were energetic. They wanted to serve Christ. They wanted to do something. And then the older were not as enthusiastic. So there was this counterpart balance that was going on between the older and the younger that was again vital for the church's health. Another way of putting it the wisdom and experience of the elders can serve as a vital moderating influence on the impulsive tendencies often found in the young.

We have the much wiser elders that can pour wisdom and then you have the younger people that can pour out their enthusiasm and energy and when you have both working together you find the health of a thriving local church. Choosing to honor godly authority instead of fighting against it again was a deliberate act of submission that the apostle Peter was trying to persuade them to think this is good. This is good for you. This is the way God designed the local church because all local churches if they are healthy will have multi-generations. Amen. We should see multi-generations and we have that here at Calvary Royal Baptist Church.

Here is another text found in Hebrews 13:17. It is a very popular verse that we are familiar with, but I will repeat it here: Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account. It assures that when leaders, pastor, elders, shepherds do it with joy and not with grief that the submission will take its form and that brings great joy that the church is healthy. There is a dynamic going on that there is no tension, that it goes beyond the tension as it were that we see beyond the immediate what the flesh desires of self-control and assurance amongst the young that they just submit to the elders and see that this is God's design

again and it just helps the church to thrive and to grow. This is how spiritual growth takes place. The whole church benefits when this takes place. And again humility manifesting in submission would unlock the grace that God wants to pour out. Think about that to both the leaders and to the congregation itself because this beautifully illustrates the body of Christ if we operate according to his design.

Let me share with you Ephesians 6:1-3. This is speaking about the family unit. Now how similar it is to the local church: Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Such a good and rich text, is it not? To live a long life. That is a promise from the word of God. This act of obedience is to be tied to each family unit. So again the local body is family units in smaller parts and it is representative of the local body and we share this everyone again benefits not just in a local church but each family unit.

All of you it says to be subject one to another and be clothed with humility. Look at this text here in verse five again where it says all of you. That means all church members. That includes all the older and the younger. He says be subject to one another. Here is one of the one anothers. There are 39 of them in the New Testament. We see one of them here. And he says all of you clothe yourself with humility. The idea is that no one is exempt in clothing oneself regardless of their age, regardless of their role in society, regardless of their status in society. This is for all of you. It is a command and it widens to every believer, not just the dynamic of the old and younger, but maybe even older and older and younger and younger. So we are to be clothed and it pictures again putting on the apron of a slave and humility is not optional outerwear. In fact if you can think about it is what we leave on. It never says to put off humility. Whenever you see putting on you never see it in the sense of putting off. The only sense that you see something being put off is our old life, our flesh, but never when it comes to what God wants for us to be a blessing.

And so yielding to the elders is an opportunity to be filled with grace, filled with maturity, filled with growth, spiritual growth. And so when you think of it that way then it is not a duty anymore.

Apostle Peter goes in more into this and says look it is not something you think of as in the world like it is a duty or you know it is actually for your good and if you think that way we remember that God supports this humility in one's life it will build healthy relationships. And I can say that they were having healthy relationships because we have Christianity today if it was not for these believers that took these instructions and received it with meekness that we would not have a church dynamic here today. Just think about that. It is a wonderful thing to know that we can trust our God and his word that he has something to say for us even now.

Again I wanted to share with you another text where we see putting on. It is Colossians 3:12: Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.

The idea was in Colossians same idea but he is accentuating the different aspects not only of humbleness of mind but bowels of mercy, kindness, and meekness, and longsuffering. And they chose to do that daily. It was a putting on as a garment. You put on clothes every day and it was the idea you put this on every day. You remind yourself of what you have in Christ. You remind yourself what you are to offer to the local body and to the society at large. That when you do this as a continual action of putting on great things can happen in your life. And so the idea is this continual growth, continual strength, continual good witness to the Lord within the local body and to society. And so wearing humility, conflicts lessen, the tensions minimize, unity strengthens, and Christ is showcased to a watching world. Think about it.

Ephesians 4:1-2 says this: I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness (that means humility) and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love. You know that word forbearing? I looked at it. It is the idea of not keeping a record of wrongs. That is what forbearing one another means. I do not have a record on you. You know what? Christ has no record on me. Amen. So let us not put a record on anyone's name. And that again is to accentuate and mature a mature Christian would be and it would to the watching world they go what is this? Because we keep records you know the idea was the world does this but we do not as followers of Christ. And again it is putting on the character of Christ. It is not of us. Amen. It is of Christ that we are putting on.

And then let us look at this part where it says, For God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Apostle Peter quotes from Proverbs 3:34: Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly. And also we see this in the New Testament somewhere else in James 4:6 repeats the same truth but he added but he giveth more grace. He giveth more grace. The idea is pride invites active resistance from God. And humility is what attracts grace. Think about that. Do you really want to resist God? Let me just paint that picture for you what that actually looks like. Because resisted is a military language. And this gives a sense that God sets himself against the arrogant, the one that is proud.

Just consider some of these verses. I will not go through all of them but just think of Nebuchadnezzar and his downfall. King Nebuchadnezzar basically set out to say I am God. And then what happened was God abased him and made him into an animal and was literally eating off of the grass of the field and he had nails as long as eagles and just everything about him looked absolutely humiliating. So the idea is if you do not want to be humble God will humble you one way or another. And this is what he says in verse 37 Those that walk in pride he is able to abase. What about Herod's sudden death in Acts 12:21-23? Because he gave not God the glory, he was eaten of worms and gave up the ghost. So there are some extreme cases in scripture to humble us because otherwise we will be humbled one way or another.

Let us listen and be instructed. Amen. Because humility invites God's most abundant blessing when we listen to him to listen to his instructions. That is the first step to not being proud is listen to his word and not shrink the heart and in isolation and going I got

this. But what the idea is if you when you do that you shut off the access for all types of good blessings again growth and having the love of Christ in you and living in a way that is pleasing in God's sight. Ultimately you shut yourself off when you are proud of all that God has for you because grace on the other hand is favor that is inherently undeserved. It is exact opposite of pride. Pride is saying I want I can do this I have control and grace is saying I do not have control. I actually do not have control. That is the real reality. I might think I do but I do not ultimately. And then that is when God favors you cuz you know that you are undeserved.

And so that is one thing about this passage that we should get because we do not want to hinder what God wants to do more and more in our lives. Amen. Philippians 2:3 says this, Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Such a good truth here because again when we are in a situation where yeah there are opportunities to boast of yourself Look at what I have done Look at what I am doing in the world. But that must not be amongst us as believers in Christ. That is the way of putting it that we actually think of other people more higher than ourselves. And when we do that humility transpires into the local body and grace is poured in and we begin to see God move in amazing ways again the way that God intended and designed for the local church.

So humility welcomes instructions because Proverbs 11:2 says, When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom. We gain wisdom when we hear God's instruction. That is another way of putting Proverbs 11:2. Do we not want more wisdom? When we listen and we have that posture of humility we can gain more and more wisdom. So ongoing strength flows to those who depend on the Lord. And look at what Paul says as he says in 2 Corinthians 12:9, And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. To the natural world weakness looks down upon but to God he sees that as an opportunity to pour more of his grace again in an inverted world. Amen.

Let us look at verse six. Verse six says, Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Remember Apostle Peter is writing to believers that are suffering persecution and much so social pressure and uncertainty and the way that they are living out in these situations where tension is brewing with Nero on the rise and wanting basically destroy Christianity just that is the back end of all these people's minds The apostle offers a firm foundation for their faith. It is this verse. If you can think of that song firm foundation. This is one way to have that firm foundation. This assurance rest on two truths. Number one look at God's mighty hand. That signifies his absolute sovereignty. His absolute sovereignty. And number two the second promise is this in due time which speaks his perfect timing. Do we not want God to take over in our lives? Do we not want his perfect timing to roll out at the end in our lives Because when you rest on those two things your foundation is secure. Your faith will be secure because he has got it in his hands in your life and he is going to do what he wants to do in his timing.

So humble yourselves. says it is a deliberate choice as a believer to place yourself beneath God's authority rather than fighting for control because we are going to that is the battle that is the tension is it not and then it says under whose mighty hand pictures willing submission under whose mighty hand and it gives this physical illustration we can picture it a mighty mighty hand an active intervention of God recorded throughout scripture.

His hand reveals absolute authority. You know it you do not see his hand but you can imagine someone's hand just moving you along Let us go this way or let us go that way cuz I see the danger ahead or I see something that is going to be a problem for you. Do you not want that loving hand to move you aside when you think you are in control and you think you are going the right way and he is going Nope I do not think so. Is not that what a loving human father does You see your child running towards the street you go No son or daughter let us go back That is not where you are supposed to be. It is a loving hand of power. I mean whose hand is more powerful Amen.

So he puts this underneath the the I am sorry the elders are underneath the almighty hand of God. You see he is ultimately fully in control and saying Look you are in submission but you know what As me and as an elder as a pastor I am submitting under God. Just think about the passage in 1 Corinthians 11:1 Apostle Paul said that you will follow me as I follow Christ. That is the idea here.

So where can we see the absolute power of God Oh we can see it in Isaiah 48:13. He says Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth and my right hand hath spanned the heavens When I call unto them they stand up together. He not only lays the foundation but he makes everything rise. Amen. 2 Chronicles 20:6 says this And said O Lord God of our fathers art not thou God in heaven and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen and in thine hand is there not power and might so that none is able to withstand thee Meaning no one can go against your mighty hand because you have absolute sovereign control over everything.

See when we submit ourselves to God's authority is to acknowledge his absolute right to govern every aspect of our lives. Every aspect. The more control we give to him which we it is just in our own minds actually because he really does have all control It is just us admitting to the truth. Amen. Just admit to the truth that he is actually in full control. And look what God does in your life because his hand extends not only in guiding and protection but so much more. Look at what Jesus said John 10:28-29 And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father which gave them me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. So you are secure in God in Christ. That is the idea. The divine hand that governs also provides shelter for you and assures the security of your soul that no adversary can overcome. No one. That is the complete trust you can have in his almighty authority.

And then let us look at the timing. Well from sovereignty to timing. Says that he may exalt you in due time. Why is God's timing so important You might ask. Why is it also the best Well let me illustrate or let me share with you some passages again. Because God

ultimately sees the beginning and the end. That is why his timetable is perfect. See we we are going on a linear basis. He sees everything. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says this He hath made every thing beautiful in his time also he hath set the world in their heart so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. Exaltation is linked by God to his overarching redemptive plan and it transcends the scope of our individual progress in life to God seeing every individual from past and present to future. Think about that. We think our time and everything is so difficult. Think of what he is managing all across right now from eternity past to eternity future. That is the God we have that controls time. He understands everything and he is doing it perfectly.

Notice that the sun and the moon wanes and waxes perfectly. Who is doing that God. He is the one that is pumping your heart right now at a rate that keeps you alive and breathing and listening. Amen. This is who our God is. So Proverbs 3:5-6 says Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths. Acknowledge him is his sovereignty and he shall direct thy paths in his timing. He will direct your path in his timing. So God does not break promises. He does not. He gives promise after promise after promise and he fulfills every single one of them. So we can trust our God. And he says Just humble yourselves that he may exalt you in due time. When God's chosen time finally comes the resulting exaltation will clearly be his doing bringing him glory and guaranteeing enduring joy for his people. You ever find that every time it is in his timing that you have joy no matter if it is something that is in the highs or the lows that you know it was God's timing for this to happen and you have a sustained joy in your soul knowing that he accomplished this in my life or in that person's life because his plan is perfect and that is another way of putting it with his timing.

Let me just give you some illustrations historical illustrations in the 4th century historian Rufinus records that when a plague struck Caesarea Christians stayed to nurse the sick and they embraced these sick individuals. And by doing so they went to the heart of the plague by the way in this in this record. And it was given an opportunity to share the gospel because the situation was just so meager so deadly. There was no reason for these people to be here. Yet the Christians went and helped these people under the plague and there was the gospel was shared to these individuals.

And then there a similar situation happened not too long ago 2014 the Ebola breakout. There was a story about it in Libya that these Christian physicians went out there and they saw conversions happening amongst these people because they saw the sacrificial service that again could not be explained by physical terms. They knew that this was God's sovereignty that he was going to protect them and that he was going to do what he wants to do was to save people. And it is usually in these situations that we are just amazed of God's power and God's timing. Amen.

Now some of the things that I want to share as far as things that do come across all of us and that is anxiety. We have all of us anxiety for the future. We are prone to it. That is one of the things that we wander and because there is a lot of burdens. Usually

anxieties comes because of burdens. You have good burdens sometimes bad burdens. Did you know the difference And so the next passage that we are going to see is it is difficult situation is difficult and there is all these burdens being poured and poured upon your shoulders as it were. And we are going to see that if you just allow those burdens to just weigh you down we are going to see in verse eight and nine that the devil like a roaring lion is going to seek to devour because he gets the weak one. The one that just says I am going to carry this burden. Is do some of you just are have a weight of burden on your shoulders right now that you have not released to God because you are you are at the side of the devil. And we are going to see that in verses 8 and 9 next week Lord willing. But let me just share with you.

If you have those burdens the next verse should comfort you. It should help you. No matter how heavy your burden is remember think about it God's sovereign power. Okay He has power over everything. So think about it for a moment. Verse seven. With that in mind let us read it. Read it silently with me. Casting all your care upon him for he careth for you. I love that. I love that.

Think about it. This word casting is an ongoing thing is intentional. It is I am going to do this. It is not a suggestion. This is a command. Cast cast cast. We see this in Psalm 55:22. And Apostle Peter repeats it because there it says Cast thy burden upon the Lord and he shall sustain thee. He shall sustain thee. It demonstrates God's longstanding invitation for his people to entrust him with all their anxieties transferring all the heavy anxiety to God's all powerful care because his strength far surpasses the weight of your burden. Do not let the devil trick you thinking Oh this burden is too heavy for God to carry. No.

Because you see there look at the emphasis. It says All your care. All your care. There is not a single thing that he cannot carry. And so he says think about it. This is Apostle Peter the fisherman. He uses an analogy that he would use casting as a fisherman. He says The action is linked to humility that I do not got this. I do not have control over this. I do not want control over this. That is where you should be at. Whenever anxiety is coming to you going I do not want control over this because I am going to mess things up. So and because Peter knew that he was holding on to a lot of stuff was he not

So this is from experience as well. And he is taking the verse from Psalm 55:22. He says Submit it all to God's mighty hand. It is the idea of throwing it. It is like you are not going to hold back. That is the picture. You throw it on the Lord. It was an illustration. The illustration was putting on a um a blanket over a donkey. You just leave it alone there. It is just leave it at rest. That is the idea. And so obedience here is active instead of the fear of anxiety. The purpose is to let go of that fear and all that comes with it. And it is a deliberate transfer again. Instead of dwelling on those fears and anxieties we consciously relinquish it to our mighty God. And every time we do that every time we do that we say God you got this.

That is what it means here. He cares for you. He cares for you. You leave nothing to yourself. Big small chronic or sudden just practically there is financial pressures in this room. Have you really cast that burden to God What about health uncertainties What

about family conflicts and decisions that are going to come up in the future Do you cast all those and go God you have control over this and you know what the timing of all this to work itself out to give you all the glory

That is the idea. That is the practical reality. And even Jesus said this the Lord Jesus said this. Matthew 6:25,34 and chapter 13-32. He all these teachings were on this lesson of anxiety. And the idea is again do not think seek for these things. Do not hold on to these things that hold you back from seeking God and his trustworthiness.

Jesus parable of the seed describes this worry. And what is those worries The emphasis on the world and of riches. The world and of riches. So anything in the world and of riches those are things you can cast to almighty God.

Because why These things distract you from that which is best for you. God's care for you. That is ultimately the most important thing because you know what We cannot care for each other consistently. Other people if you try to cast it on other people we are gonna we are that is going to not going to work out. Not perfectly like the way God does it. How many of us cast our burdens to other people and how intentionally we have hurt people because of that.

It is so important. That is why to take God's word seriously. In Luke 21:34 he exhorts believers to be ready for his return the Lord's return and not get distracted by the worry of life. I got to take care of this in my home. I got to take care of my spouse. All these worries about this world. He says Do not worry about it. I will care for you on these things. I will take care of it. Anxiety again is one of those things that provides false sense of control making us believe that worry can somehow manage itself out. So it is a it is a false kind of faith believing that it will work itself out but when you do not trust God that it does not work out not the way God intended it.

So look at that word on him and it is the idea of our direct concern is to him. He is concerned about us. He wants to release our worries unto him. Every care on him. Psalm 37:5 says this Commit thy way unto the Lord trust also in him and he shall bring it to pass. I love that. He will bring it to pass. He will bring it to pass. His timing. His timing. His timing.

You see to God relationship is more important than things in this world. He wants that relationship that you sense that he is caring for everything in your life. and you can constantly cast out upon him and let him receive it.

Trusting his character frees our hearts from the grip of fear and places our lives securely in his faithful hand. Two more illustrations. George Mueller. It is recorded that he had 50,000 answered petitions many to feed the daily needs of the orphans in his orphanage. He deliberately cast a care upon God. He would do this right before they to serve in a couple hours. He would cast a care to him and then somebody would come and oh I have uh food by the way here receive it. And he would see this consistently over and over and over over again. He did not tell anybody about it about his prayer life

because he was so secure in God. Corrie Ten Boom who survived the German concentration camp.

She found strength in this part of the text. And she said this No pit is so deep that God's love is not deeper still. Think about that.

The gospel is not about adding more weight to your life. It is not. But it is about laying down the crushing burden of sin and receiving Christ's forgiveness and his ultimate peace for bringing us reconciled to God. But someone here I have been sharing mostly for Christians. Someone here is outside of Christ. Like you are carrying one of the most heavy burdens that you if you take on it will lead to death and that is your sin. A burden you cannot remove on your own.

The good news is that Jesus Christ died on the cross was buried and rose again so that you might be forgiven and you will be set free from that heavy burden of sin. He invites you to come. You come just as you are to sinner. And he says these words to you Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart and you shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Amen.

This time I would like for us to stand and we will go ahead and pray. Father thank you for this opportunity to speak your word. So much good instruction here for for us as believers to be greater witnesses for Christ in a world that we still see as much puts shame on Christians. But Lord you see us and you are that is different. Lord you you care for us. You care about everything in our lives and you also take care of our needs. Help us to continue to trust in you in this way so that we can be the local body that you designed for the older and the young and all church members to live under the submission over the human authority over the elders and then ultimately the ultimate authority the absolute authority of your under your mighty hand. I pray that you would do not only this good work Lord in each and one of our hearts but also to the unbelievers that they will hear the words of the Lord Jesus that I quoted from from Matthew. That they will take upon Jesus Christ and they will know the meaning of having their heavy burden of sin lifted because of what Jesus did on the cross the full payment for their sin. Let it these things be done in Jesus name. Amen.