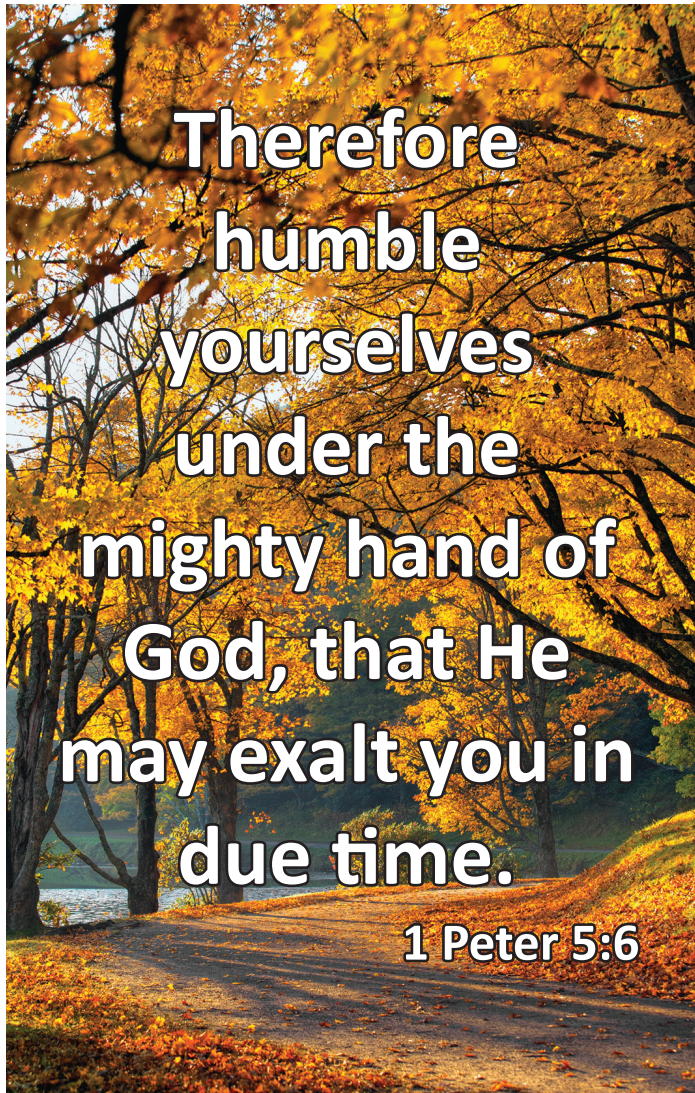


Cecil and Lisa Paxton Ministries

October 2023



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Therefore
humble
yourselves
under the
mighty hand of
God, that He
may exalt you in
due time.

1 Peter 5:6

Greetings to you all, our partners and friends!

Month of October

During the first week of the month, we will be attending the Andrew Wommack Ministries Ministers' Conference in Woodland Park, Colorado. We are looking forward to this time of refreshing in the presence of the Lord.

On Wednesday, October 11, we will be ministering at Pastor Lawson Perdue's church, Charis Christian Center, at 7 p.m. Charis Christian Center is located at 10285 Federal Drive, Colorado Springs CO 80908. For directions, call 719-227-0380.

Facing Multiple Challenges

Many Christians today are facing a variety of problems with not only healing but also relationships and/or finances.

The Effects of Anxiety

Often, our initial response to these kinds of overwhelming challenges is acute anxiety. But we must bring our hearts back to a place of hearing God's voice so that we can receive the wisdom that James 1:5 promises.

James 1:5 (NKJV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

In 1 Peter 5:7, we are told to cast anxiety upon the Lord. Anxiety is our enemy! Anxiety will make us sensitive to ourselves and insensitive to the help of the Holy Spirit. Before we can cast our care upon the Lord successfully, we need to experience humility of the heart.

First Peter 5:5 says that *"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."* Through unbelief, our hearts become exalted against God. The answer is a humble heart. Out of love, God gives grace—an undeserved enabling ability of the Holy Spirit—to a heart that is humble. Those with humble hearts make receiving about Jesus and not about themselves.

First Peter 5:6 tells us how to experience a humble heart: *"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."* Humbling our hearts involves time, as it is a process of experiencing the mighty hand of God. The Holy Spirit helps us in this process.

At times, when there are serious issues of unbelief within our hearts, we just simply need to tell ourselves

that we cannot trust the way we see our problems. Humbling ourselves means submitting to God and putting what He says above what we think. We can't always see past the emotional pain, so we need to come to the place where we realize that we cannot trust the way we view everything.

After we experience 1 Peter 5:5-6, casting our anxiety upon the Lord will not be just a formula of what we are supposed to do. Rather, when we cast our anxiety upon the Lord, our hearts will back up what our mouths are saying.

In 1 Peter 5:8, we are told that the devil attacks those who are targets—Christians who are full of themselves in relationship to their problems. The devil is *“seeking whom he may devour.”* Once we are free of the anxiety, we simply cannot be tempted where there is no temptation.

James 1:14

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

Issues of Unbelief

When we are faced with multiple life problems over a long period of time, the problems can not only dominate our hearts with anxiety and fear but also create issues of unbelief.

Unbelief is simply beliefs established from a human perspective in relationship to the various problems.

The word *unbelief* can indicate faithlessness, disobedience, distrust, or a lack of confidence in the promises of God.

Mark 9:24

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

When this father said this, it was not a statement of faith but, rather, revealed the actual condition of his heart. This man had experienced so much bad concerning his demon-possessed son and for such a long period of time that he had serious issues of unbelief, even though he knew of God and His ability. When it seems like you experience only bad and no good, then bad becomes permanent to you and good always seems temporary.

The challenge of the problems concerning his son had dominated this man's heart to the point that he

not only had a problem but also had taken on the identity of the problem. He had become the problem! His words, actions, and emotions were a reflection of the problem.

In Mark 9:23, Jesus gave him the answer on how to receive, but when Jesus said *“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes,”* the effect of His words did not bless the father. These words instead produced emotional pressure that resulted in tears.

When the father said *“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”* he was choosing to believe out of his intellect, but there was a conflict. His heart was not backing up what his mouth was speaking as he said *“help my unbelief.”*

There were issues—beliefs established from a human perspective as a result of constantly dealing with the severe challenge of this problem with his son. That unbelief did not make him a bad person, as this was not a character issue but a heart issue.

We can have unbelief within our hearts, and God still loves us, as our issues do not change who God is. However, that unbelief can affect our ability to receive from God as well as how we feel toward God. But it does not affect God's love for us.

One of the main tactics of the demonic realm is to get us to focus on ourselves in relationship to our challenges so that we will limit Jesus in our lives. When we are looking at ourselves, we simply are not looking at Jesus. Hebrews 12:2 says, *“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,”* and that is describing establishing our identity in Jesus in the promises of God.

You see, receiving is about a person—Jesus Christ. Receiving is not a formula that only involves the intellect through the choice of will.

No, it is about His body, His blood, and the cross. When you put His body and His blood in a place of prominence within your heart, taking significance off of problems, you will make receiving about Jesus and not about yourself.

Speaking the Promises of God

Once your heart is open to receive, then you can speak the Word of God, the promises of God, and faith-filled words inspired by the Holy Spirit.

David is an example of the word spoken before the manifestation of the promise.

1 Samuel 17:45-47

45 Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47 Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.”

David’s confidence was in the Lord, not in himself. David said, *“This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand.”* If more believers would make receiving the promise about Jesus instead of what they do, their time of receiving would be free of so much of the stress and anxiety that come through self-effort.

Also, notice that David brought the manifestation into the now when he said, *“This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand.”* Too many Christians are passively waiting on God to bring about a manifestation of the promise. The promise has already been given,

so believe the promise and begin to believe that it is yours now! Faith aggressively brings the promise to you, as the promise has already been given. It belongs to you!

David didn’t even possess a sword when he said, *“I will strike you and take your head from you.”* These were faith-filled words, and I believe that they were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Speak the truth in Christ, not the facts of the problem. David’s confidence was not in his self-effort, as he said, *“The battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.”* Believe that the battle is the Lord’s, and don’t make it yours. Jesus has given you the victory—believe it and receive it!

Thank You!

Lisa and I are very grateful to you, our friends and partners of this ministry, as together we are seeing lives changed. We believe that you, our partners, are greatly prospering—spirit, soul, and body—as you experience increase in the seed you have sown multiplying and increase in the fruits of your righteousness. God’s richest blessings in Christ are already yours. Believe and establish this truth in your hearts and have open hearts to receive all that God has given you in Christ Jesus.

Love and blessings,

Cecil + Lisa

2021 Toyota Tundra Truck

The truck is paid in full, and all the work has been completed. We are so grateful to our heavenly Father and so grateful to all our partners and friends of the ministry who have helped CLPMI to operate without debt.

This truck is meeting a twofold need within the ministry: hauling and ministry travel. At times, we need the ability to transport material or equipment for the ministry building. Also, with all the traveling we do around the United States, we have actually been in every state. Sometimes it is wiser to fly, but when we have meetings close together within driving



distance, it just makes sense to drive. This saves the ministry the price of the airline tickets and car rentals.

This truck is a tool for touching lives for Jesus, and we bless the seeds that you have sown, believing that God will multiply and increase the fruits of your righteousness (2 Cor. 9:10).

Testimonies from Friends and Partners

- I am so thankful for the teachings from Cecil.
- Thank you so much for your book, *Issues of the Heart*. My heart is being changed to love in relationships because I am getting free from harmful judging that I was not seeing that I was doing. I am reading chapters over and over and thinking things through into peace and deep thankfulness.
- Thank you once again. It still brings tears to my eyes when I think of yesterday's conversation with you. I so appreciate [it] and am immensely grateful to you for

taking the time to speak to me. I realized how stuck I was with my surroundings and am ready for a journey with the Lord, which would ultimately heal my heart. Yes, what you said is very true—my past so hardened my heart, and with every passing day, I was plunging deeper and deeper into hopelessness, helplessness, and despair. I have downloaded your book, *Issues of the Heart*, and am looking forward to reading it and understanding it! I have 1 Peter 5:5-7 in front of my eyes! I want to be the real me, His blessed daughter! Much love and blessings!

Website Teachings

On our website, free teachings are available for download—both digital audio and e-books. Physical CDs, CD albums, and books can be ordered via the website as well. We believe that this will bless many people not only in the USA but also around the world.

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