**Abundant Life Church**

**Sunday, May 24th, 2020**

**Title: Lifted Up**

**Text:**

6  Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, **that He may exalt you** at the proper time,
7  casting all your anxiety on Him, because **He cares for you**.
8  Be of sober *spirit,* be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
9  But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
10  After you have suffered for a little while, **the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ,** **will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you**.
11  To Him ***be* dominion forever** and ever. Amen.
**1 Peter 5:6-11 (NASB)**

**The Journey - Series**

1. Surprised by Joy 1 Peter 1: 3-9, 2:21-25, 3:17, 4:1-2, 12-13,
2. Don’t Go Back 1 Peter 1: 13-19, 2: 1-3, 4:3-7
3. Hold Hands 1 Peter 1:22-25, 2: 4-5, 4: 8-11
4. Shout 1 Peter 2: 9-12. 3: 14-16
5. Free at last 1 Peter 2: 13-20, 3:1-7, 8-12
6. Lifted Up 1 Peter 3: 8-12, 5: 5-10

**Bow Down!**

Fear is an emotional response to an immediate situation.

Anxiety is an emotional response to a perceived future situation.

Anxiety, in part, is the refusal to give our vision of the future over to God.

Anxiety, in part, is the thought that I would be a better manager of the situation than God.

Anxiety, in part, is vision limited to my strength while being blinded or confused about God’s strength.

Humble yourself – Our level of understanding is always incomplete. At best, our knowledge is partial.

Humble yourself – Give yourself over to the care of God.

I can place all my anxiety on the shoulders of God.

Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you;

He will never allow the righteous to be shaken. **Psalm 55:22 (NASB)**

**The Fight is Real! (Vs. 8-9)**

8  Be of sober *spirit,* be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
9  But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

Your Adversary – Your Enemy - Your Opponent Satan, the devil

Which leads to the next thought of Satan being on the prowl to attack and destroy a soul.

Earlier in Chapter five Peter described pastors as shepherds of the flock. Now, like a good shepherd he shouts out that there is a roaring lion attempting to devour a member of the flock. This lion is Satan and he is ever making a lot of noise, intimidating and tempting God’s people to have their vision solely focused on this earth and its problems. God lifts our eyes to His Kingdom and there we find peace.

The Greek word for ‘anxiety’ here is the same word used in the parable of the soils in Matt. 13.

The ‘worries’ of the world choke out the good seed preventing it from bearing fruit.

Martyrdom is not being devoured by the devil.

Being devoured by the devil is believing my unbelief instead of God.

Being devoured by the devil is acting on my fears, retreating from mission, careless living, allowing the pressures of the world to be internalized and move me away from Christ.

 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.
**Matthew 24:13 (NASB)**

 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.
**James 5:11 (NASB)**

There are times your faith must outlast the circumstance you find yourself in.

*Shared Suffering – Firm in your faith*

I am not a victim.

I am not a victim of circumstances, of others bad choices, of hard times, good times,

I don’t need luck.

I have the promise of an almighty God who is in total control, who rules over my life.

I humble myself under His mighty hand, find rest in the shadow of His wings, run to Him as my refuge, I find new strength and mount up with the wings of eagles, and feast in the presence of my enemies!

I have the blessing of His presence now and the promise that I will be with Him soon!

7  Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
8  Draw near to God and He will draw near to you…
**James 4:7-8a (NASB)**

**Your Time is Coming**

…that He may exalt you… vs. 6

10  After you have suffered for a little while, **the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ,** **will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you**.
11  To Him ***be* dominion forever** and ever. Amen.

In 50 years who would you want to be –

 North Korea is the worst country in the world for Christian persecution. It is led by a dictator named Kim Yung-un. In the last 50 years at least 200,000 Christians have disappeared. Today if it is found out you are a Christian you will be sent to a work camp. In 50 years, who would you want to be, Kim Yung-un or one of the Christians he has murdered?

In the book, *Lead like Jesus,* Ken Blanchard writes who could have imagined, at the time of persecution by the mighty Roman empire, that 2,000 years later we would be naming our children, Mary, John, Paul, Peter and our dogs, Nero & Caesar.

The devil and world powers think they are in control. All they can ever have is temporary power, temporary money, temporary thrills. Each and every moment the clock is ticking. Their kingdoms are failing as they, like dogs in a junkyard, fight over bones and garbage.

We have Christ – the creator God – The Holy Spirit alive in me – I have resurrection power in me and one day I am coming out of this body of death and will be fully alive in the presence of the eternal King of all Kings!

16  For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
17  Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.
18  Therefore comfort one another with these words.
**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NASB)**

51  Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,
52  in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
53  For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.
54  But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.
55  "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"
56  The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;
57  but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
**58  Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord.**
**1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (NASB)**