**God Really Does Care for You**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**1 Peter 5:5-11**

**Wednesday Evening**

**May 20, 2020**

**1 Peter 5:5-11**

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**At low points in our lives, we may be tempted to believe that we don’t really matter to God**

Saints, the hardships, difficulties, and suffering we experience may seem like evidence that the Lord doesn’t care, but this is not true. Some of the greatest saints in Christian history have endured unimaginable suffering without doubting God’s love for them.

Although the Lord has not promised us an easy life, even in the middle of our trials we can know with certainty that our lives matter to Him.

Saints, to matter means to be of importance to someone, and that is how God feels about His people. He knows each of us intimately—including our sins, failures, and weaknesses— but still loves and values us.

Even in the pain and suffering He allows in our lives, He is still caring for us, and His promises have not failed. Saints, one of God’s promises to us is found in:

**Hebrews 13:5**

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Saints, when John the apostle wrote the epistle of 1 John, he was an old man between 80 and 90 years of age. His letter was addressed to believers, and in the first three verses of Chapter 3, he encouraged them regarding God’s love displayed in their salvation.

**1 John 3:1-3**

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Salvation begins with a realization of our separation from God because of our sin. Then knowing who Jesus is and what He has done on the cross, we trust in Him to save us, forgive our sins, and reconcile us to God.

**Ephesians 2:14-18**

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father

Saints, once we are truly saved, we are forever changed and can never be the person we were before Christ because we are now united permanently to God for all eternity. The guarantee of this assurance is the Holy Spirit who comes to live within us forever.

**Ephesians 1:11-14**

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Saints, as God’s children, we are sensitive to sin, and desire to read His Word and live an obedient, godly lifestyle. When we do commit sin, we can come back to the Lord for cleansing, but if we continue in it, He will discipline us as a lovingly heavenly Father.

Although God allows trials in our lives for a variety of reasons, sometimes He uses them to turn us back to Him in repentance.

**Romans 2:4**

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

**The Evidence of God’s Care for Us**

Although we may feel that we don’t matter to anyone in this world, as God’s children we matter deeply to Him, and John gives us evidence that demonstrates His care for us.

**Biblical Principles in 1 John Chapter 3**

**1. 1 John 3:1**

“See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us”

The display of His great love is seen in all He has done for us.

**In Salvation**

God reached down into our lives through His Word and opened our minds and hearts to understand the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit convicted us of our sinful condition and our need for forgiveness. Knowing that Jesus was the only one who could save us, we trusted in Him for salvation and the forgiveness of sins.

**In Sanctification**

The Lord set us apart for Himself so we could live for Him. His Spirit now sits on the throne of our hearts guiding our lives, giving understanding of His Word, empowering us to obey God, and transforming us into the image of His Son.

**Hebrews 10:14-17**

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. 15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," 17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

**In His Provision**

God has promised to provide for all the needs of His children

**Philippians 4:19**

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”

Saints, Salvation would have been enough, but God also commits Himself to supply all our needs because He cares for us. His resources are inexhaustible, and our blessings in Christ are abundant.

**In the Holy Spirit**

Upon our salvation, the Lord sent His Holy Spirit to indwell us. Without Him, we would be powerless to live the Christian life. He is the one who enables us to become the person God created us to be.

**2. 1 John 3:2**

“Beloved, now we are children of God”

We all understand the special love parents have for their children, yet this is only a shadow of the great love and care God has for us as His children. He has showered us with spiritual blessings and promises, and nothing can ever separate us from Him.

**3.** **1 John 3:2**

“and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be”

Saints, what we see now in our world and in our human condition is only temporary. If we look at our society, we could become discouraged because it is worse than it has ever been. Many do not know God or understand us because they have ignored or rejected Him.

The busyness, riches, and pleasures of the world threaten to draw our attention away from the Lord and distract us from reading His Word.

Yet the scriptures are what we need in order to live as God desires. His commands do not deprive us of anything but give us what our heavenly Father knows is best when we obey them.

**4. 1 John 3:2**

“but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him”

When Christ returns, we will be raised to be like Him. In the greatest chapter on resurrection, Paul wrote,

**1 Corinthians 15:20**

“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep”

Saints, God not only provides everything we need for life and godliness in the present, but even greater provision awaits us in the future when we will be resurrected with glorious bodies.

Although we do not know what heaven will be like, we have the promise that our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, and we will be with God forever.

**5.** **1 John 3:3**

“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure”

Saints, our lives matter because God desires the best for us—that we live pure, holy lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. Knowing our glorious future should motivate us to obey God’s Word and be led by His Spirit.

**1. Do you ever feel that you don’t matter to God?**

**2. What circumstantial evidence supports this feeling?**

**3.What truths of Scripture prove His love for you?**

**4. How has knowing you matter to God motivated you to live for Him rather than yourself?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let's Pray! Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**