

HOW GOD CARES FOR THE CHRISTIAN

Introduction

- 1) The Christian must fully embrace the truth that God cares for him/her (1 Pet. 5:7)
 - a) We are taught to humble ourselves before God, cast our cares upon Him, and resist our adversary, the devil (vv. 6-9); it takes humility to seek help from someone else
- 2) Knowing that God cares for us, what will He do to help us and how will He provide this help?
- 3) Peter declares that God will “**perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle**” us (v. 10 NKJV)
 - a) God’s promise to those who endure sufferings (infirmities and testing)
 - b) Provided by the God “of all grace” (grace now and to come – 1 Pet. 5:12; 1:13)

I) **PERFECT**

- A) **Katartizo** – to render fit, complete (Vine); make one what he ought to be (Thayer); put in proper condition (Arndt & Gingrich)
 - 1) Put all parts right with one another; right ordering and arrangement; restore, mend
- B) Mending, framing, and restoring (Mk. 1:19; Heb. 11:3; Gal. 6:1)
- C) We need this perfecting from God (1 Thess. 3:10; 2 Cor. 13:11; Heb. 13:21; 1 Cor. 1:10)
 - 1) Only God can mend the suffering and hurting; fits us together properly and completely
 - 2) Available through inspired Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17 – “thoroughly furnished” *exartizo*)

II) **ESTABLISH**

- A) **Sterizo** – to fix, make fast, to set (Vine); to make stable, firm (Thayer); confirm (AG)
 - 1) Steadfastly set, fixed (Lk. 9:51; 16:26)
- B) We must avoid doubts and unstable ways (Jas. 1:6-8; 2 Pet. 2:14; 3:16)
 - 1) Many ways Satan can cause unstableness – education, material goods, friends, etc.
- C) Need to be established in our faith – resist evil (1 Thess. 3:2; 2 Thess. 3:3)
 - 1) Available through God’s word (Acts 14:22; Rom. 16:25; 2 Pet. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:9)

III) **STRENGTHEN**

- A) **Sthenoo** – strengthen (Vine); to make strong (Thayer, AG); used only here in NT
- B) Problem of physical and spiritual infirmities – makes us vulnerable, defenseless, at risk
 - 1) God helps us in our infirmities (Matt. 8:16-17; Rom. 8:26; Heb. 4:15)
- C) Danger in spiritual weakness – result of sin, apathy, discouragement (Rom. 5:6; Heb. 12:12)
- D) We need to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Eph. 6:10)
 - 1) Available in the knowledge of His will (Col. 1:9-11)

IV) **SETTLE**

- A) **Themelioo** – to lay a foundation (Vine); to make stable, establish (Thayer); found, lay the foundation of (AG)
- B) We need to be grounded in the solid foundation of truth (Col. 1:23; Eph. 3:17)
 - 1) Too many today are unsettled, unanchored, and groundless without a “truth-center”
- C) Avoid the sands of error and build your life on the solid rock of truth (Matt. 7:24-27)
 - 1) Available in hearing and doing the words of the Lord (v. 24)

Conclusion

God can make your life complete, stable, strong, and settled – what more could you want? Peter was told to strengthen his brethren (Lk. 22:31-32) – he did so in revealing how God cares for us. Obey God, cast your cares upon Him, and let Him strengthen you each day.