**The Christian Paradox of Resting and Wrestling**

**(1 Peter 5:6-11)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1.** Peter’s exhortation in verse 6 is a passive imperative (lit. be humbled). How does verse 7 help us understand his meaning? How are believers to be humbled/humble themselves? Why is this a humbling thing?

**2.** How do Christians know that the promise of verse 7 is solid and trustworthy? In other words, what has God done in and through his Son to prove that verse 7 is a precious promise that believers can rest upon (cite from 1 Peter 1-4 and other passages of Scripture)?

**3.** Why does Peter call believers to sobriety and vigilance? What does Satan aim to do to them? How would you explain the tension between the promise of final perseverance (cf. Romans 8:30) and Peter’s earnest warning against apathy and spiritual laziness?

**4.** In what way(s) does Paul’s exhortation in Ephesians 6 regarding spiritual warfare help us understand what Peter means when he calls us to “resist [Satan], firm in your faith” (v. 9)? How might the knowledge that other believers are enduring similar trials as our own serve to strengthen and encourage us?

**5.** How can Peter refer to their suffering as having taken place for “a little while” (v. 10) when some of the early Christians suffered for extended periods of time? What gospel promises does Peter give in verses 10-11 to encourage and strengthen suffering believers?

**6.** What tensions have you wrestled with as a Christian? How have you sought to be biblically balanced? When are you most tempted to pridefully hold on to your anxieties rather than casting them upon Christ? Why? Describe a time when you battled against the onslaughts of the Devil who tried to crush your faith. What specific promises from Scripture proved helpful? In what way(s) did the fellowship of other (suffering) believers prove helpful? How can you rest in the promises of verses 10-11 while simultaneously using them to battle against the Devil’s attacks?