

1 Peter 5.6-14. How to Keep Moving  
“How to Keep Moving”  
1 Peter 5:6-14

Silvanus...

**Decision Making Framework: What factors are guiding our approach?**

**STEP ONE (JULY 6-August 15)**

- **Sunday Worship:** Online at 10:30am
- **Watch Parties:** Connect with Friends for worship per Massachusetts guidelines
- **Outdoor Fire Nights:** 7-8pm @ Victory Park on 7/10, 7/24, and 8/7
- **Continue:** Community Groups, Equip Groups, and Serve Medford at Mystic Comm Market

**STEP TWO (AUGUST 16-September 12)**

- **Sunday Worship:** Back at Medford High for In-Person Worship (\*Summer Time: 9-10am) + Continue Online
- **Continue:** Sunday Watch Parties, Outdoor Fire Nights (9/4), Groups, & Serving at Mystic Market

**STEP THREE (SEPTEMBER 13-TBD)**

- **Sunday Worship:** Fall Kickoff at Medford High (10:30am) + Continue Online
- **Fall Groups Kickoff:** Details Forthcoming
- **Continue:** Sunday Watch Parties & Outdoor Fire Nights (10/2)

**Pray... for Silvanus and RHC Reopening...**

*Introduction:* Pg. \_\_\_\_

I was praying this morning with our pastors for our church family and specifically the leaders of RHC.

Jesus is the ultimate leader. That is such good news: peace, confidence, resolve to keep moving...

But as we follow Jesus, we will face opposition. Any great endeavor and this is the greatest endeavor, will bring opposition.

What will stop you? Peter understands...

- You will stop you.
- Your enemies will stop you. There is an enemy behind your enemies.

Today, as we wrap up our series in 1 Peter... Peter gives his final instructions... to overcome. He says...

**The Point: No matter the opposition you face, keep moving by God's grace.**

**Read 1 Peter 5:6-14**

**1. Be humble before God. (5:6-7)**

Peter connects his instruction to humble ourselves with what he just said in verse 5, with the word “therefore.”

## 1 Peter 5.6-14. How to Keep Moving

We need to look back to verse 5, where Peter tells everyone in the church to “Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

- That’s why he tells us to “humble ourselves.”
- How? An accurate view when we look in the mirror begins with an accurate view when we look up at God!
- Humility recognizes our proper place before God. He is in charge. We are not.
- Humility is so essential that Jesus begins his most famous sermon with a call to humility. It is the starting point.

### “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” - Jesus, in Matthew 5:3

- But this is not just humility in general.. Of putting others before yourself, but a humility toward God in light of their present, difficult circumstances of suffering.
  - Don’t measure God’s character by your circumstances.
  - God is still there. He is still working.
  - We can trust him.
- And when we do, here’s the paradox... at the proper time, he will exalt us. [While God does have great ways of exalting us in this life, Peter points us to the end when he will exalt us with eternal life in his presence forever.]

### One sign of humility: casting our anxiety on God.

Look at verse 7: “casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

- The word “casting.”
  - Tells us how we can humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand.
  - God does not want us to worry and the implication is that anxiety is a form of pride. It’s not totally trusting God with our future and circumstances,
  - And think about it: Pride has no place because it is essentially role confusion!
  - But God in his grace says: “Cast them on to me!”
    - Pic... Fishing...
    - God, I’m taking these anxious thoughts about my job, about my finances, about what they think of me, about the virus... and I’m throwing them into your hands.
  - That’s what that word communicates. We put the responsibility on GOD!
  - And God says, “Thank you! I’ve been waiting for you to hand them over from the minute they came into your heart and mind!”
- Why? He cares!! “He cares for you!”
  - He’s not only powerful and sovereign.
  - He’s a Father who loves us with a love we can’t understand!
- What are you anxious about?
- Step... Journal... This past October...
  - Two columns...

T: The first step to keep moving forward in our spiritual journey with Christ is to “Be humble before God.” But that’s not all. Peter says, we also need to...

## 2. Be alert before your enemy. (5:8-9)

Not only do we have the problem of our own pride. We have the problem of an enemy that wants to take us destroy us! Listen to verse 8 again. “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

# 1 Peter 5.6-14. How to Keep Moving

Peter is clear. We have an enemy!!

Think about this at a deeper level. . . . In the midst of the suffering, the fiery trials, the various trials (all phrases he uses throughout his letter), there is a Spiritual Enemy that stands behind all human enemies and opposition.

## OUR ENEMY

- Peter calls him our adversary. It means the devil is our enemy.
- And the name “devil” means slanderer or accuser. He says, “You are not enough. You have done too many wrong things for God to still love you! You don’t deserve to be in God’s presence.”
- What does he do?
  - “Prowls around like a roaring lion.” He tries to intimidate us and cause us to fear. He wants us to cower back!
  - Animals that prowl try to sneak up on their prey.
  - Satan is all about surprise attacks!! He often attacks when we are...
    - Tired.
    - Alone.
    - Weak. Physically or Emotionally
    - Stepping out in Faith: Spiritual/Mission...
    - After Victory.
- What is his goal?
  - To devour us! He wants to destroy us. He is NOT NICE!
  - He is a liar and a thief that comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10)
  - Spiritual warfare is real. Please, please, please - read and study Ephesians 6:10-20...
    - It tells us... to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God’s might... And to put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil... for do not wrestle against flesh and blood...
  - Listen: Satan wants to take us out. He cannot take our salvation, but he wants to render us ineffective and useless in God’s kingdom purposes. That’s why we have to FIGHT BACK, and Peter shows us how!

But though the devil is our accuser, Christ is our Advocate!! He not only speaks on our behalf, he gives us what we need to...

## FIGHT BACK

- In verse 8, he begins by saying: “Be sober-minded; be watchful.” The NLT says: “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil.” (NLT)
- PIC: Of CIA agents... (In the Line of Fire - Clint Eastwood...)

But then he goes onto say in verse 9....

- Resist him. Firm in your faith, knowing that [you’re not alone!]... “the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood through the world.”
- There is resistance, but it’s not an resistance with empty words. It’s resistance with substance!!
- We declare the truths of our personal convictions: I know who I believe in. I know who my God is. I know the life he’s called me to. He is with me, and I’m part of a spiritual family.

## Jesus’ Temptation in the wilderness.... (Our kids learned this story in RHC Kids Live recently!)

- Retell the story... Led by the Spirit... at the end of the 40 days of fasting/prayer/temptation...
  - Tell the stones to become bread

## 1 Peter 5.6-14. How to Keep Moving

- At the pinnacle of the temple, throw yourself down - God will save you (quotes two Scriptures). Jesus rebuts and corrects.
- To a very high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. It's all yours if you fall down and worship me. And in that moment Jesus replied....
- **"Be gone, Satan!" - Jesus, in Matthew 4:10** – And quoted Scripture.
- We can talk back to the devil! It's biblical. It's Christian.
- When you're tempted. Talk back! Rebuke the devil and his demonic forces! Fight back!

T: Then, finally, the third way we keep moving forward is by...

### 3. Be strengthened by God's grace continually. (5:10-14)

From beginning to end of spiritual journey, it is all because of God's grace!

Grace is receiving that which we do not deserve!

We do not deserve our salvation. It comes to us by God's grace.

We do not have the resources in ourselves to live for God, but he gives it to us by his grace!

Look closely at verse 10. Right now. Look down at your Bible or listen very closely.

- God is the God of all grace. God is the source and giver of ALL GRACE! The suffering and opposition we face may be great, but God's grace is greater!
- Look at these four terms... God is the one who himself restore, confirm strengthen and establish us!
- All of these terms work together to communicate how God is empowering us and working within us. He restores (we need it!). He confirms. He strengthens and establishes!

Here's an amazing promise!! Memorize it. Right now!!

#### **"But he gives more grace . . ." (James 4:6)**

Say it... "But he gives more grace..."

Say it with me...."But he gives more grace..."

Whatever your facing... "But he gives more grace."

Whatever your anxious about... "But he gives more grace..." (a little louder)

Whatever scheme the devil is preparing against you, right now: "But he gives MORE GRACE..."

And then finally, he goes on in verse 12 and says the reason he has written to them is to exhort (encourage) them to stand firm in the true grace of God.

We receive grace from God's word. Keep receiving - day by day. Pick up your Bible. Turn on your app! Read and receive.

And we also receive grace from God's people. That's how Peter ends his letter in vv. 13-14.

*Conclusion:*

**What is God calling you to do this week?**

## 1 Peter 5.6-14. How to Keep Moving

- Who is he calling you to love? P.
- How is he asking you to display his kingdom? P.
- What spiritual step will strengthen you? P.
- What is he telling you to give up? P.
- How is he inviting you into a deeper experience of his goodness and power? P.

God is speaking, by his grace, to each one of us. Stand firm in his grace.

And listen... when you step out, it won't be easy. There will be something or someone to distract or seek to slow you down, so I'll say it one more time...

**The Point: No matter the opposition you face, keep moving by God's grace.**