

SERMON STUDY GUIDE - April 26, 2026

Powerful, Not Pitiful — Cast Your Care and Walk by Faith

Based on the message by Blake Bradley

OVERVIEW

In this message, Blake Bradley walks through 1 Peter 5 and the life of Peter to reveal a powerful truth: believers are not meant to live weighed down by anxiety, fear, or defeat, but to walk in faith, authority, and identity in Christ.

Many people carry burdens God never intended them to carry. Worry, stress, fear, and distraction can quietly shape how we think and live. But Scripture gives us a clear instruction: cast your care on Jesus, stay sober-minded, and resist the enemy.

Through the example of Peter, we see both failure and restoration. Peter stepped out in faith, lost focus, failed under pressure, and even denied Jesus. Yet God restored him, strengthened him, and used him powerfully.

This message is not just about understanding truth, it is about living it. We are not called to be pitiful—we are made to be powerful.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

Read → Respond → Reflect

Open your Bible. Read the Scripture. Let the Word answer the questions. The goal is not just understanding, but transformation through alignment with God's truth.

SECTION 1 — CAST YOUR CARE

Focus

We are not meant to carry anxiety—we are called to cast it on Jesus.

Read

1 Peter 5:6–7

Respond

1. According to verse 7, what are we instructed to do with our anxieties?
2. What reason does Scripture give for why we can cast our care on Him?
3. In verse 6, what role does humility play in releasing anxiety?
4. How does trying to “figure everything out” reveal pride or self-reliance?
5. What does this passage show about God’s care for you personally?

Reflect

- What am I currently carrying that I need to release to the Lord?
 - Do I truly trust God with my situations, or do I try to control them?
 - What would it look like to consistently cast my care on Him?
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SECTION 2 — BE SOBER-MINDED AND RESIST

Focus

We must stay spiritually alert and actively resist the enemy.

Read

1 Peter 5:8–9, John 10:10

Respond

1. What does it mean to be “sober-minded” according to 1 Peter 5:8?
2. How is the devil described in this passage?
3. What are we told to do in response to the enemy?
4. According to John 10:10, what is the enemy’s goal?
5. What does resisting the enemy look like practically in your life?

Reflect

- Where am I allowing fear, worry, or distraction to influence my thinking?
 - Do I recognize spiritual attacks, or do I entertain them?
 - How can I begin to respond with faith instead of fear?
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SECTION 3 — KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Focus

Faith grows when our focus stays on Jesus, not our circumstances.

Read

Matthew 14:22–33

Respond

1. What caused Peter to step out of the boat?
2. What happened when Peter shifted his focus to the wind and waves?
3. What does this story teach about faith and fear?
4. What does Jesus do when Peter begins to sink?
5. What does this passage reveal about stepping out in obedience?

Reflect

- Where is God calling me to step out in faith?
 - What “waves” are distracting me from trusting Him?
 - How can I keep my focus on Jesus in difficult situations?
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SECTION 4 — FAILURE IS NOT FINAL

Focus

Even when we fail, God’s mercy restores and recommissions us.

Read

Luke 22:54–62, John 21:15–17

Respond

1. What led Peter to deny Jesus in Luke 22?
2. How did Peter respond after realizing what he had done?
3. In John 21, how does Jesus restore Peter?
4. Why does Jesus ask Peter the same question three times?
5. What does this reveal about God’s grace and restoration?

Reflect

- Have I allowed failure or shame to define me?
 - Do I believe God can restore and still use me?
 - What step of repentance or surrender is God calling me to take?
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SECTION 5 — WALK IN YOUR TRUE IDENTITY

Focus

You are not made to live defeated—you are made to walk in power.

Read

Acts 2:1–4, 2 Corinthians 10:4–5

Respond

1. What changed in Peter after being filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2?
2. How did his boldness contrast with his earlier fear?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 10:5, what are we called to do with our thoughts?
4. What does it mean to “cast down imaginations”?
5. How does understanding your identity in Christ change how you live?

Reflect

- Am I living more “pitiful” or “powerful” in my daily life?
 - What lies do I need to tear down and replace with truth?
 - How can I walk in boldness and authority this week?
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FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

God has not called you to live weighed down by fear, anxiety, or defeat.
You were created to walk in faith, authority, and freedom through Jesus Christ.

Peter’s life reminds us that failure does not disqualify us. When we turn back to Jesus, He restores, strengthens, and establishes us. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in you.

You are not meant to carry what only God can carry.
You are not meant to be pitiful—you are made to be powerful.

Cast your care on Him. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Resist the enemy. Walk by faith.