Dear Open Door Family,

What do you do when you are faced by something hard, challenging, maybe even something that scares you? Do you work harder? Do you give up? Do you seek help? There are so many different responses when we are face by things like that. This week after prayer and consultation with the Elders and Deacons I accepted the invitation to speak to a group of Missionaries and Team leaders from all over South America who are meeting in Quito for a conference March 2-8th. It is one of those things which I am very excited about, but which is also scary. I long for God to use me to be an encouragement and a challenge to these servants of God. That is why these verses were so challenging.

1 Peter 5:6-7 (ESV) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, [7] casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6 (JBP) So, humble yourselves under God's strong hand, and in his own good time he will lift you up. You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern.

There is an amazing connection between casting our fears on the Lord and humbling ourselves. Humbling ourselves is the idea of admitting we NEED HELP. Once we have humbled ourselves then we can ask God for help. We know that HE cares for us. These thoughts from the Life Application Bible really challenged me. "Carrying your worries, stresses, and daily struggles by yourself shows that you have not trusted God fully with your life. It takes humility... to admit your need... Letting God have your anxieties calls for action, not passivity. Don't submit to circumstances, but to the Lord who controls circumstances."

PRAYER: Lord, God, thank you that you care for me. That is so far beyond anything I deserved. Thank You, for Your grace in willingly taking my worry and fear when I'm willing to trust You and "throw the whole weight" of my fears and doubts on You. Thank You, that You are always big enough to handle anything that comes my way.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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