

He careth
for you



HOWARD MCNALLY

*He careth
For you*



*‘Casting all your care upon him
for he careth for you’*

1 Peter 5:7

In this little verse of just eleven words in length Peter mentions a person by the use of ‘him’ and ‘he’. If you read the verses before and after, the context shows that Peter was talking about the Lord Jesus Christ. This is **THE CHRIST** in our text.

Reading the verse again he uses the words ‘your’ and ‘you’ and by these words they are people who he calls ‘saints’ in the opening verse of I Peter chapter 1. Let us call them **THE CHRISTIANS** in this text.

The verse begins ‘Casting all your care’ - again you can see Peter is speaking about Christians with cares. Here we have **THE CARES** in the text. Some people think when a person becomes a born again Christian everything is fine and all goes well in life - not so - nothing could be

further from the truth. Christians as well as non-Christians all have cares and the word means worries, or anxieties. Peter is quoting from Psalm 55 where it says there to cast thy burden upon the Lord. Surely we would all agree that we have had those awful troubles at different times in life.

Peter, in speaking of cares - he gathers them all together - not just some of them - or even most of them, - but all of them. He gives good advice how to handle all our troubles when they come about us.

The first word in the text is 'Casting' and this is exactly what we should do with all our cares. Casting all your care upon him - meaning the Lord Jesus. This is **THE CASTING** in the text and what a very interesting word this is. The Greek word used here for casting also appears in Mark 2:21. It says there - 'no man seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment'. The meaning behind this word is to cast, or to stitch our cares to the Lord - in others words - to bring your burdens to the Lord and leave them there. Leave the Lord with the responsibility of sorting out and solving our problems, our cares, our worries and all our anxieties. It is so easy to take our troubles to the Lord in prayer, and when we get up off our knees, to take them away with us. The Banbridge hymn writer - Joseph Scriven - was so right when he penned those great words in 'What a friend we have in Jesus':

Oh what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear..

Why?...All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Why take all our troubles...to the Lord? Peter gives us a very clear reason. At the very heart of the verse are the words 'He careth for you'.

This is **THE CONCERN** in the text. In fact another translation of this verse says - He is concerned about you. Yet another translation puts it like this - He is interested in you. Perhaps the best phrase of all is an old German translation which states - it matters to Him about you. Sometimes when we are in a fix - and we think no one else cares about us - remember these lovely words that He (the Lord Jesus) cares when no one else does. Peter knew, maybe more than any of the other disciples, that the Lord really did care for him. Right through Peter's life he had proved again and again that the Lord cared for him. Can you see all these things in the text:

THE CHRIST in the text,

THE CHRISTIANS in the text,

THE CARES in the text,

THE CASTING in the text, and finally

THE CONCERN in the text.

Let's turn now from our text above and see **THE CIRCUMSTANCES** in Peter's life when he knew the Lord really did care for him.

In Matthew 14:22-31 the scene is in the middle of the sea of Galilee, and the time is the middle of the night. In verse 25 'In the fourth watch of the night' and that's between 3am and 6am our time - the Lord Jesus walked on the water to go to meet his disciples. This was yet another mighty miracle performed by the Lord Jesus at the Sea of Galilee. He really did walk on the water in the Sea of Galilee. In verse 26 'when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled' - and no wonder. If you and I had been in the ship that night, and saw someone walking on the water we too would have been scared. In verse 27 'Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid'. The Lord immediately wanted to comfort them. In verse 28 Peter said 'Lord if it be thou - who else could it have been - no one else could walk on water. Peter went on to challenge the Lord by saying in verse 28 'if it be thou, bid me come to thee on the water'. The Lord instantly said back to Peter in verse 29 'Come' - but would Peter come out of the ship and walk on the water, to go to Jesus? It says at the end of verse 29 'he walked on the water, to go to Jesus' - that's what it says - and this is a second mighty miracle performed by the Lord Jesus - Peter, by the power and by the word of the Lord Jesus was able to walk on the water. I believe in both of these miracles. While Peter kept his eyes upon the Lord all was well. In verse 30 it says about Peter 'he saw the wind boisterous, (or strong) he was afraid, he began to sink, he cried out saying, 'Lord, save me'. He took his eyes off the Lord, and things went wrong. It's the same all through life. We need to keep our eyes upon the Lord at all times. He

began to doubt the Lord's power and the Lord's word. Yet the Lord immediately verse 31 'stretched forth his hand and caught him'. The Lord only needed to use the one hand, not both hands like you or I when trying to save someone from drowning. The Lord rebuked Peter by saying verse 31 'O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?' Peter could say -

“WHEN I DOUBTED HIM - HE CARED FOR ME.”

How often have we too doubted the Lord's power or His word and yet we still know - He cares for us.

Let's turn now to Luke 5:3-10. Again the scene before us is the Sea of Galilee, on an altogether different occasion. The Lord is in Peter's very own ship. Remember of course a ship in New Testament times was simply a little row boat with maybe a small sail. After the Lord had preached to a crowd on the seashore, he told Peter in verse 4 'Launch out into the deep and let down your nets'. Simon answered in verse 5 'Master, we have toiled all night, and have taken nothing'. It was daytime now, and this was not the time for fishing. Is this what Peter, the experienced fisherman was thinking? It was as if he knew better than the Lord Jesus. Did he forget? Did he think that Jesus was just as so many thought 'a carpenter's son'? He was more, oh so much more. He was the

Master - 'The Master of all'. The Master of the seas and even of the fish in the sea. Peter seemed to be arguing somewhat with the Lord, and was making it clear that it was night-time when you go fishing. We have been out all night long, and taken nothing. Still with verse 5 'Nevertheless at thy word, I will let down the net'. Some people think that Peter was obedient here - but not so. Peter was disobeying the Master's request as we shall soon see in the story. If you read the verse carefully, the Lord had said 'let down your nets' - meaning not just one net, but all your nets for the word nets is plural. Peter's answer was 'I will let down the net' - not all the nets - just one. Peter was being disobedient when he let down just one net, and verse 6 goes on to say 'they enclosed a great multitude of fishes and their net brake'. Of course it did - disobedience always brings disaster. Peter should have let down all the nets - for the Lord knew that just one net would not do for all the fish that would be caught.

They asked for help, and the others came to their aid. It says in verse 7 'They came, and filled both ships, so that they began to sink'. The catch was so enormous, that not only was the net broken, but the ship was now beginning to sink. How wrong, - how very wrong Peter was. In verse 8 when Peter 'saw it' - when he saw the net breaking, and the ships sinking, and the great number of fishes caught, and the cost of his disobedience, we read 'he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord'. It was good that Peter owned up, and admitted to his disobedience. The Lord could have easily turned on his

heel, and walked away from Peter that day. Instead, he went on to say to Peter in V10 ‘fear not from henceforth thou shalt catch men’. He was inferring that Peter would become a gospel preacher, and see many people come to trust in the Lord Jesus as their own and personal Saviour. That day Peter learned another lesson -

“WHEN I DISOBEYED HIM - HE CARED FOR ME.”

Now let’s move on to Luke chapter 22. The setting is the upper room where the Lord Jesus spoke to His eleven original followers. Eleven, for Judas Iscariot had left the company to betray our Lord Jesus for those thirty miserable pieces of silver. The Lord Jesus turned to Peter and has this message in particular for him. In verse 31 we read ‘Simon, Simon’ - yes He says the name a second time to emphasis it, - to impress upon Peter and the rest of the disciples the serious nature of his words. ‘Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat’. Yes, unknown to Peter, but certainly known to the Lord, the old devil was after Peter. He is out to get Peter, to see him fall, to see him fail. That is the very same with every true child of God. Peter said in his first epistle the devil goeth about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Our great adversary is the devil, and is out to bring us down as and when he can. Let us not dwell on that, but rather, what the Lord Jesus went on to say. Peter was to find out that the Lord cared for him. ‘I have prayed for

thee'. Peter was in imminent danger and did not know it, but the Lord made him aware of the situation and greater still assured him - I am praying for you.

We Christians live in danger, sometimes we see it in front of our very eyes - other times we don't. Like Peter we have the assurance that the Lord is in heaven right now - and the Bible says in Hebrews 7:25 'he ever liveth to make intercession for us'. What a comfort to know that there, at God's right hand, is my Saviour, the Lord Jesus, and He is praying for me. Bearing my name before his Father's throne, for my protection and well-being in the midst of all and any danger.

Sometime ago a Christian friend made me aware of a group of devil worshippers near the housing estate where I used to live. They were praying that Satan would split up every Christian couple in the area. It made me think of this instance of Peter, of the unseen danger from Satan and his followers. Let's take courage from the thought that whether in danger from the devil or from his followers - the Lord cares, really cares so much that He is constantly praying for us.

"He careth for you" - even when in danger. That day Peter knew something more about the Lord -

"IN THE MIDST OF DANGER - HE CARED FOR ME."

Let us go on to Matthew 26:69-75. It records that late on the Thursday night, the day before the crucifixion that Peter denied the Lord with oaths and with curses - not once or even twice but on three separate occasions and all in accordance with what the Lord Jesus had said would come to pass. Peter was the one who so arrogantly said he was willing even to die for the Lord Jesus. How right, how utterly righteous it would have been for the Lord to be done with Peter once and for all. But no - the Lord had told Peter he would deny Him and it would be done three times before the cock would crow twice. When Peter saw the prophecy come to pass he went out and 'wept bitterly'. After the Lord's resurrection, on the very first Easter Sunday that ever was the Lord came to meet with Peter first. The Lord did not go to the faithful first - but to the failure of His company - to Peter. He knew where Peter was, and He knew how Peter felt. He knew what Peter needed. He went to restore Peter to fellowship with himself.

In Luke chapter 24 the scene is Resurrection Sunday. The Lord had been crucified on that Good Friday, then had been dead and buried, but on that particular first day of the week He arose from the grave alive on the other side of death. Alive and alive for evermore.

We are told from this account in V34 that 'the Lord had risen indeed and appeared unto Simon'. Those very words show us that the Lord cared for Peter - a care that Peter did not deserve due to his oaths and curses and

denials concerning the Lord Jesus.

Can we not see ourselves so like Peter at times? We can be so great at talking, but when it comes to taking our stand alone for God, we go to pieces. Greater people of God than you or I have failed. It happened to Peter - surely that day Peter could say -

“WITH ALL MY DENIALS - HE CARED FOR ME.”

Moving on to John 21:1-6 the scene is once more by the shore of the Sea of Galilee with seven of the Lord's disciples waiting on a visit from the risen Lord. Judas at this time was dead - but I often wonder who and where the other four were on the day of that memorable meeting up in Galilee. Peter got fed up waiting for the Lord to come, and said to the others in verse 3 'I go a fishing'. Peter was the leader of the disciples and sadly they all follow his example and go out fishing with him. That night - surprise, surprise V3 says 'they caught nothing' - they should have been waiting for the Lord to come and meet them - they disobeyed, and things went all wrong.

As they return in the morning, it says verse 4 'Jesus stood on the shore' and we could add - he stood on the shore of their disappointment. They were downcast, dejected, depressed, and surely disappointed. We can all

get like this at times. They did not recognise it was the Lord at first. He asked in verse 5 knowing of course the answer ‘have ye any meat?’ How embarrassing it must have been for these to say ‘no’ - after all - they were experienced fishermen - and yet they had caught nothing. Someone has well said, - sometimes our disappointments are his appointments. Then the Lord called out in verse 6 ‘cast the net on the right side of the ship and ye shall find’. This time there is no hesitation, or disobedience, for the one net would do the job - there was in verse 6 a ‘multitude of fishes’ At verse 11 we are told ‘yet was not the net broken’ - why should it be - they had obeyed the Master promptly. John immediately says to Peter in verse 7 ‘it is the Lord’ - Peter could say that morning -

“EVEN IN DISAPPOINTMENT - HE CARED FOR ME.”

One last scripture reading is found in Acts 12:1 ‘Herod stretched forth his hand to vex certain of the church’. Verse 2 goes on to tell us ‘he killed James the brother of John’ and verse 3 ‘because he saw it pleased the Jews he proceeded to take Peter also’ verse 4 ‘he put him (Peter) in prison’.

In a very short time Peter was expected to die also. Verse 5 reads ‘but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him (Peter)’

Verse 6 tells us that ‘Peter was sleeping between the two soldiers bound with two chains’.

How calm Peter appeared to be even in the face of death itself. Maybe someone would say he was calm because so many people were praying for him, and God was answering their prayers. That may well be so, but I believe there was another reason which kept Peter calm. Away back in John chapter 21 the Lord Jesus spoke of how and when Peter would die. The Lord’s very words were in John 21:18 ‘when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee,...verse 19 this spake he signifying by what death he should glorify God’. Peter in Acts chapter 12 was still a middle aged man. Only when Peter was old did he die a martyr’s death. History records that Peter was crucified and he said - no not like my Lord and so they crucified him upside down. Was Peter calm because he remembered the Lord’s words of John chapter 21? In the prison and facing death Peter could say -

“EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH - HE CARED FOR ME.”

Let's quote this again and again and know with Peter, the Lord - He really does care for me.

WHEN I DOUBTED HIM - HE CARED FOR ME.
WHEN I DISOBEYED HIM - HE CARED FOR ME.
IN THE MIDST OF DANGER - HE CARED FOR ME
WITH ALL MY DENIALS - HE CARED FOR ME.
EVEN IN DISAPPOINTMENT - HE CARED FOR ME.
EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH - HE CARED FOR ME.

How sweet, my Saviour, to repose
On Thine almighty power!
To feel Thy strength upholding me,
Through every trying hour!

“Casting all... your care upon Him ,...
Casting all... your care upon Him ,...
Casting all... your care upon Him ,...
For He careth , He careth for you”

It is Thy will that I should cast
My every care on Thee;
To Thee refer each rising grief,
Each new perplexity;

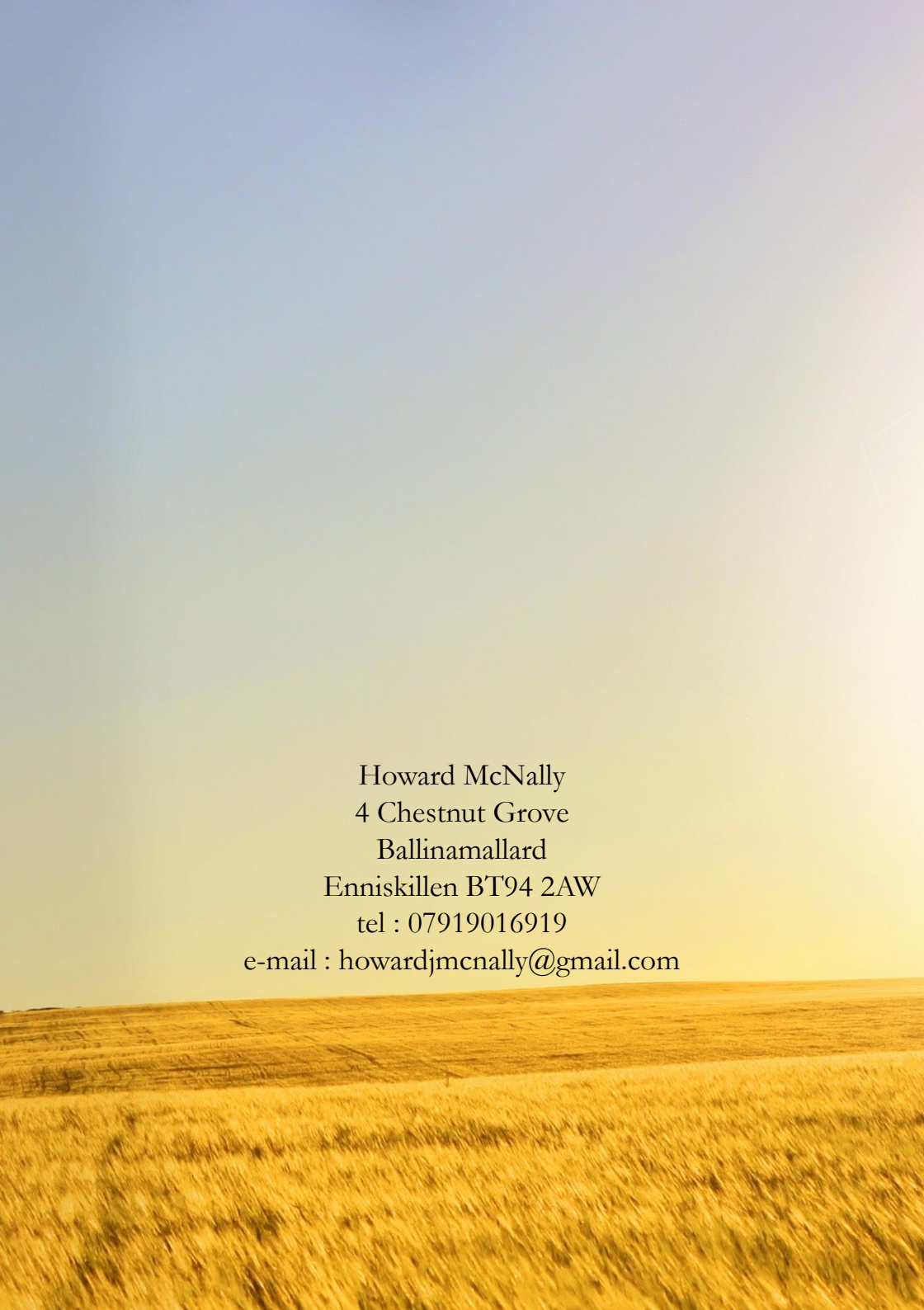
That I should trust Thy loving care,
And look to Thee alone,
To calm each troubled thought to rest,
In prayer before Thy throne.

Why should my heart then be distrest,
By dread of future ill?
Or why should unbelieving fear
My trembling spirit fill?

Written by H A Caesar in 1935

*‘Casting all your care upon him
for he careth for you’*

1 Peter 5:7

A landscape photograph showing a vast, golden field in the foreground, likely a field of tall grass or wheat, stretching towards a low horizon. The sky is a clear, pale blue, transitioning to a lighter, almost white glow near the horizon where the sun is positioned. The overall scene is bright and serene.

Howard McNally
4 Chestnut Grove
Ballinamallard
Enniskillen BT94 2AW
tel : 07919016919
e-mail : howardjmcnally@gmail.com