**1 Peter: Basics to Growth in Christ, Pt 2**

1 Peter 5:8-10

**1 Peter 5:5-14**—You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. **6**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7**casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. **8**Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9**But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. **10**After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. **11**To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen. **12**Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! **13**She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark. **14**Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

**Context**

In this final section of Peter’s epistle, he goes back to the basics. He wants to remind them of the fundamentals of growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

**Godly Mindset Basics**

1. **Subject to Godly Authority**

**1 Peter 5:5a**—*You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders*

1. **Clothed in Humility**

**1 Peter 5:5b-6**—…*and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.* ***6****Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,*

1. **Casting Cares on Christ**

**1 Peter 5:7**—*casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

1. **Sober in Spirit**

**1 Peter 5:8a**—*Be of sober spirit*

1. The imperative of being sober

**1:13***—Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

**4:7***—The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.*

* 1. *Sober* (nēphō)—to be sober, to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect; to abstain from wine (keep sober)[[1]](#footnote-2)
  2. Metaphor: it includes ordering and balancing life’s important issues, which requires the discipline of mind and body that avoids the intoxicating allurements of the world[[2]](#footnote-3)

**2:11***—Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.*

**Luke 21:34***—“Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap”*

**Romans 12:1-2***—Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.****2****And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

1. **Vigilantly on Alert**

**1 Peter 5:8b**—…*be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour*

1. Fierce and relentless spiritual opposition
   1. The awareness of that truth must never become dull

**Hebrews 6:12***—so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

* 1. We should never become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin

**1 Corinthians 5:6**—*Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?*

**Hebrews 3:13***—But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

* 1. We never want to become victims of the enemy

**2 Corinthians 2:11***—…so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.*

**Ephesians 6:11***—Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*

**1 Thessalonians 3:5**—*For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.*

1. Therefore, *be on the alert*
   1. Be watchful; stay wake
   2. Metaphor: Give strict attention to, be cautions, active[[3]](#footnote-4)
   3. Spiritual forces of wickedness attack
      1. Directly

**Genesis 3:1-7** (The Fall of Man)

**Mark 1:13**—*And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.*

**2 Corinthians 12:7***—Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!*

**1 Thessalonians 2:18***—For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.*

* + 1. Subtly

**2 Corinthians 11:14**—*No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*

* 1. Keep watch

**Matthew 26:41**—*Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

1. *Your adversary, the devil*
   1. “Your” enemy—personal in nature
   2. The is the enemy of God, His holy angels, and all of God’s people

**Job 1:6-8**—*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.****7****The Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”****8****The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.”*

**Zechariah 3:1**—*Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.*

* 1. *Devil* (diabolos)—prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely*[[4]](#footnote-5)*
     1. The ruler of this world

**John 12:31**—[Jesus speaking] *Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*

**Ephesian 2:2***—…in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

* + 1. He commands demonic forces as well as the fallen world system (personally and through demons)
  1. *He prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour* (i.e. **Job 1:6-12**)
     1. *Roaring lion* (**Ps 7:2; 10:9-10; Ezek. 22:25**)—a vicious hunter pursuing his prey
     2. *Devour*—to drink down, swallow down[[5]](#footnote-6)
     3. The imagery is not wounding, but destroying
     4. Reflective of what occurred in Roman entertainment
     5. Daniel in the lions’ den (**Daniel 6:16-28)**
     6. Satan and the demons hide unseen in the spirit world, but do their work through human agents[[6]](#footnote-7)

**1 Timothy 4:1-2**—*But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,****2****by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron*

(Cf. **2 Peter 2:1-22**)

* + 1. How does Satan seek to devour believers?
       1. Direct attack (i.e. Job, Peter, Paul, the church in Thyatira, through the Antichrist, etc)

**Luke 22:31-32**—“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; **32**but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

* + - 1. Through his demons

**1 John 2:15-17**—*Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.****16****For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.****17****The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

* 1. Therefore, be on the alert
     1. He has been defeated by Christ

**Romans 16:20**—*The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

* + 1. We stay on guard and pray

1. **Resilience in Faith**

**1 Peter 5:9**—*But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.*

1. Our resistance is based on our faith

**James 4:7**—*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

1. *Resist him*
   1. *Resist*—to set one’s self against, to withstand, oppose[[7]](#footnote-8)
2. Stand *firm in your faith*
   1. *Firm*—strong, immovable, solid, hard rigid; stand solid[[8]](#footnote-9)
   2. Our firmness/resistance comes from the whole counsel of God revealed in Scripture
      1. We fix our resolve on defending ourselves from the onslaughts through a firm footing in the Word
      2. It is God’s means of defense through biblical revelation

**1 Peter 1:3***—seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*

**Hebrews 4:12***—For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

* + 1. It is a call to be resolved in knowing and believing sound doctrine
    2. We believe the truth and reject the lie(s)
    3. We defend the truth and expose the error

**Jude 1:3**—*Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.*

* 1. *Faith*—conviction of the truth of anything, belief; relating to God—the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ[[9]](#footnote-10)

**Hebrews 11:1**—*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**—*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,****4****for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.****5****We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ*

1. The same experiences of suffering were being accomplished by brethren who are in the world
   1. Persecution isn’t new
   2. Persecution is to be expected
   3. Persecutions come from the enemy of the gospel and the hater of God
   4. Many are suffering for the cause of Christ

**Hebrews 13:3**—*Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body*

* 1. God allows it to test our resolve and accomplish His perfect plan in our lives

**1 Peter 1:6-7**—*In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,****7****so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

1. **Little Suffering; Great Hope**

**1 Peter 5:10**—*After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.*

1. Such glorious hope
   1. Whatever difficulties we face in life, we have a confident resolve that God will bless
   2. Troubles have a sanctifying effect

**Psalm 33:18***—Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, On those who hope for His lovingkindness*

**Galatians 5:5***—For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.*

**Titus 1:2***—**in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago*

* 1. Hope that comes perhaps after suffering
  2. It will not separate us from the love of God

**Romans 8:31-32**ff*—What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?****32****He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*

1. Our God is the God of all grace

**2 Corinthians 1:3***—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort*

* 1. The grace here is in reference to our current need for grace

**4:10***—As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

**5:5***—You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

**Hebrews 4:16***—Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

* 1. This grace is provided so as to strengthen and conform us

1. God has called believers to His eternal Glory in Christ
   1. His effectual call (saving call)

**1:15**—*but like the Holy One who called you, =be holy yourselves also in all your behavior*

**2:9, 21***—But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; …For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,*

**3:9***—not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but [*[*e*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20pet%203&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30434e)*]giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.*

* 1. Paul identifies the same glory to which the believer is called

**Philippians 3:11-14***—in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.* ***12****Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.****13****Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,****14****I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

* 1. John likewise gives us the same description

**1 John 3:2-3**—*Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.****3****And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

* 1. The glory is the glory of Christ (Cf. **Phil 3; Romans 8**)

1. He Himself will do it (personally)
2. The process of conformity to Christ likeness is seen:
   1. Perfect—to fit sound, completed; bring to wholeness[[10]](#footnote-11)

(**Ps 1:6; Heb 2:10**)

* 1. Confirm—to make stable, place firmly; to set fast[[11]](#footnote-12)

(**Ps 90:17; Rom 15:8; 1 Cor 10:1**)

* 1. Strengthen—to make strong, strengthen; make sturdy[[12]](#footnote-13)

(**Luke 22:32; 1 Thes 3:2**)

* 1. Establish—to lay the foundation[[13]](#footnote-14)

(**Is 9:7; Rom 15:58; Eph 6:10**)

**Conclusion**

Peter is reminding us of glorious promises of our faith. They are secure because the One who makes the promises is faithful and true. He will do what He says He will do. Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians believers is consistent with the promises here and one that we pray:

**Ephesians 3:17-19**—*so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,****18****may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,****19****and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter

ESV Expository Commentary, Hebrews-Revelation, Vol XII

R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, Fundamental Attitudes for Spiritual Maturity, Part 1, 1 Peter 5:5-7, Feb 25, 1990, gty.org

Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

# Alan M. Stibbs, The First Epistle General of Peter (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.bluelettrbible.org)

1. Strong’s G3525 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. MacArthur, 280. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Strong’s G1127 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Strong’s G1228 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Strong’s G2666 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. MacArthur, 281. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Strong’s G436 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Strong’s G4731 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Strong’s G4102 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Strong’s G2675 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. Strong’s G4741 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Strong’s G4599 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. Strong’s G2311 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)