**1 Peter: Basics to Growth in Christ, Pt 4**

1 Peter 5:11-14

**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 helping these beloved believers to have a mindset toward godliness. 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. **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
2. Therefore, be on the alert
3. Your adversary, the devil
   1. He prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (i.e. **Job 1:6-12**)
   2. Therefore, be on the alert

A vast majority of people in our … world do not see the enemy of our souls as the Bible presents him. Many refuse to believe he exists, thinking of him as a mythological representation of impishness or mischief. Others worship him as some sort of god of the sensuous, and adopt a life of unrestrained wickedness. They too are deceived, for Satan is real, he is evil, and his aim is their destruction.[[1]](#footnote-2)

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
2. Resist him
3. Stand firm in your faith
   1. 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 (**2 Peter 1:3; Hebrews 4:12**)
      3. It is a call to be resolved in knowing and believing sound doctrine
      4. We believe the truth and reject the lie(s)
      5. We defend the truth and expose the error
4. The same experiences of suffering were being accomplished by brethren who are in the world
   1. Persecution is not new
   2. Persecution is to be expected
   3. Persecutions come from the enemy of the gospel and the hater of God
5. **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. The troubles have a sanctifying effect (**Ps 33:18; Gal 5:5; Titus 1:2**)
   3. Hope that comes perhaps after suffering
   4. It will not separate us from the love of God (**Romans 8:31-32**)
2. 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. Although God sovereignly controls our suffering (cf. **4:19**), He is still “the God of all grace”. Our suffering does not mean He neglects His children, for the “various trials” (**1:6**) through which He leads us are designed to “result in the praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ (**1:7**).[[2]](#footnote-3)
  2. The grace here is in reference to our current need for grace (**4:10**; **5:5; Heb 4:6**)
  3. 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 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)

This is God’s genuine grace that He does for us. Although it means suffering for a little while, God’s grace supports us, and glory awaits us.[[3]](#footnote-4)

1. The process of conformity to Christlikeness is seen:
   1. Perfect—to fit sound, completed; bring to wholeness[[4]](#footnote-5)

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

* 1. Confirm—to make stable, place firmly; to set fast[[5]](#footnote-6)

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

* 1. Strengthen—to make strong, strengthen; make sturdy[[6]](#footnote-7)

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

* 1. Establish—to lay the foundation[[7]](#footnote-8)

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

1. **Faithful**

**1 Peter 5:12**—*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!*

1. Loyalty of a fellow servant of Christ
   1. Silvanus (AKA Silas)
      1. Traveled with Paul (**Acts 15:40; 16:25**)
      2. Background: prophet (**Acts 15:32, 40**), Roman citizen (**16:37**)
      3. Likely the one who wrote the letter for Peter (amanuensis or secretary)
      4. Likely the one to deliver the message to the recipients
   2. He is a faithful brother, a model of godliness and faithfulness to the truth
      1. Peter specifically regarded his as a faithful brother
      2. He could be trusted
2. Peter gives his reason for writing
   1. Written briefly
   2. Exhorting the true grace
   3. Testifying to the true grace
      1. It is written to those who love the truth
      2. It is an identification of prophecy of Scripture

**2 Peter 1:20-21**—*But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation,****21****for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

1. *Stand Firm in it!*

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

**Romans 5:1-2**—*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,****2****through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

1. **Deep Love**

**1 Peter 5:13-14**—*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.*

1. She who is in Babylon
   1. Likely code for Rome

(**Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2**)

* 1. So as not to incite greater persecution

1. Affection shown through greetings
2. Mark (AKA John Mark)
   1. A spiritual son of Peter
   2. Not unlike Timothy was to Paul (**Acts 12:12**)
   3. Cousin to Barnabus
   4. Deserted on the first missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas (**Acts 13:13**)
   5. Later very useful to Paul (**2 Tim 4:11**)
   6. Author of the Gospel of Mark
3. Greet one another with a kiss of love
   1. Additional sign of affection
   2. Common in the early church
   3. Men to men; women to women

(**Rom 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12**, et al.)

1. *Peace be to you all who are in Christ*
   1. Many NT letters have admonitions related to peace

**Ephesians 4:3**—*being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

**Philippians 4:7***—And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

**Conclusion**

Peter has said much about suffering, and he has provided plenty of incentives to remain steadfast in our faith. Peter is desirous of these beloved believers to remain faithful to these godly foundational principles as they endure much hardship. These do not come without intentionality and purposeful thinking. If we are not diligent to place ourselves under the inerrant word of God through diligent study and faithful teaching/preaching it will not happen.

Peter gives us a sense of that in his second epistle that summarizes our goal:

**2 Peter 1:2-8**—*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;****3****seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.****4****For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.****5****Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,****6****and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,****7****and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.* ***8****For if these things are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Response**

There is only one appropriate response as we come to the end of Peter’s letter. We must, by His power and for His glory, “stand firm” in the glorious grace that is ours in and through Jesus Christ.[[8]](#footnote-9)

**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. DeHaan,149. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. ESV Expository Commentary, 357. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Lenski, 230. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Strong’s G2675 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Strong’s G4741 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Strong’s G4599 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Strong’s G2311 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. ESV Expository Commentary, 360. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)