

1 & 2 Peter

Part 10– The Practice of Suffering

Assembly in Suffering

1 Peter 5:1-14

3 P's in Peter:

The Purpose – The Place – and The Practice of Suffering.

The Purpose is His — we live for the glorification of His name in Christ Jesus.

The Place is right here -in Society- in the workplace-in the marriage — in mercy and grace.

The Practice we adopt is love — with a clear conscience strong, unashamed.

1 Peter 5:1 *Therefore*, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

Luke 23:49* And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee were standing **at a distance, seeing these things.*

1 Peter 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight
not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for
sordid gain, but with eagerness;

3 nor yet as **lording it over** those allotted to your charge, **but proving to be**
examples to the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, **you will receive the unfading**
crown of glory.

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.

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.

SUMMARY: 1 Peter 5 exhorts elders to shepherd God's flock humbly and willingly, calls all believers to submit under God's mighty hand by humbly casting their cares upon Him, to remain vigilant against the devil, and assures that after suffering, God will restore, strengthen, and establish them.

Song: "Humble Under Your Mighty Hand" 1 Peter 5.

Wider Scope of 1 Peter epistle:

Purpose and Context

- Written to Christians facing persecution and social marginalization.
- Encourages believers to see themselves as exiles and sojourners, living with hope and holiness in a hostile world.
- Frames suffering as a refining process and a witness to Christ.

Main Themes and Structure

1. Living Hope Through Salvation (1 Peter 1:1–12)

- Believers are born into a living hope through Christ's resurrection.
- Salvation is described as imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.
- Trials and Suffering test and refine faith, which will result in praise when Christ is revealed.

2. New Identity as God's People (1 Peter 1:13–2:10)

- Christians are called to be holy, echoing Leviticus: "Be holy, for I am holy."
- They will be a chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, echoing Israel's calling.
- Urges believers to leave behind former ignorance and live in reverent obedience.

3. Suffering as Witness (1 Peter 2:11–4:11)

- Suffering is not punishment but a participation in Christ's own suffering.
- Believers are to submit to authorities, employers, and spouses with humility.
- Encourages good conduct so that even critics may glorify God.
- Christ's suffering is the model: "He suffered for you, leaving you an example.

4. Hope in Future Glory (1 Peter 4:12–5:11)

- Trials are expected and should be met with joy and trust in God's Sovereign plan.
- Elders are urged to shepherd the flock with humility and care.
- Believers are reminded to cast their anxieties on God, who cares for them.

This casting is the means by HOW Humility is achieved-obedience.

- Final exhortation: stand firm in grace, knowing suffering is temporary

Key Takeaways

- Suffering refines faith and connects believers to Christ..
- Holiness and humility are central to a Christian witness.
- Believers are part of a new spiritual family, called to reflect God's character.
- The letter is deeply rooted in the Old Testament, applying Israel's story to the church.
- Hope in Christ's return fuels perseverance and generosity.