

Have you ever felt like you've made decisions, but your life has ended up chaotic?

Larry Walters – Truck Driver – 1982 decided he was tired of feeling stuck

45 weather balloons – chair – BB gun, CB radio...sandwich – Tether – 16,000 – Planes
Shooting balloons – drifting down – powerlines – arrested - "A man can't just sit around."

Man had a plan...Man had provisions...thought had control... man ended up in chaos
How many times does life end up in chaos...even with our best thinking, strategy, planning
Taught to become more independent. Self-confident, self-reliant, and self-sufficient

- We admire the person who "pulls themselves up by their own bootstraps."

Greatest obstacle to faith isn't our weakness—determination to be strong w/o God?

Big Idea: Opposing self-sufficiency enables us to stand firm in God's grace

- Peter writes to believers who suffering, discouraged, and facing spiritual opposition
- Instead of telling them to trust themselves, gives them a completely different strategy

He tells them to humble themselves, cast every anxiety on God

Stay alert against devil, endure suffering with hope, and rest in the grace of God

Today we will finish Peter w/ four directives that help us put self-sufficiency in right place

1. **Humble yourself before God's Hand (6-7)**

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

- We live in an age of anxiety...1 in 6 people are on prescriptions to help manage anxiety
 - Financial pressures, health concerns, relational strain, uncertain future...paralyzed by worry
- Antidote anxiety is not technique positive thinking or better time management...it humility

In these short two verses we see a: Posture – Promise – Practice

⇒ The Posture: Submit Yourselves – "Therefore" = links this verse to what came before
"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" | Is direct heavenly opposition

- **How do you humble yourself?** Submit to God's Authority | **God knows Better**
 - **"under the mighty hand of God"** - Denoting His absolute power and sovereignty | **Exodus**
 - To be under His hand means we acknowledge not in control—and that is a good thing
- Can you imagine if you were in charge of the world? I'm giving it 4 hours everything is dead
- Pride says: "I have to fix this, carry this, and figure this out on my own."
 - Humility: "I am weak, He is strong. I willingly place myself under His care & authority."

⇒ The Promise: God Will Exalt You - so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

- God's promise is not that He will remove every hardship immediately...right time
- Joseph suffered years - David waited years - Jesus endured cross before receiving glory
God's delays are not God's denials | Delays in God exalting you are for your good!

Exaltation (relief, vindication, lifting of the burden) ...does not come in our time, but God's
Sometimes God changes our circumstances - Sometimes God changes us through our circumstances
Ultimate exaltation of believers is found in Christ's return...God will fully restore His people

Two things you will not find in Heaven – Pain and Pride...can you imagine it?

Faith means trusting God's timing even when we do not understand God's process

⇒ The Practice: Cast Your Anxieties - ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, bc he cares for you

- Continuation of thought - **Casting your anxiety is how you humble yourself**
 - The word used implies a deliberate, forceful throwing motion – **Saddle & bag = 65lbs**
- Notice word **"all."** Nothing is too small for His attention and nothing is too big for His power

The larger the anxiety the harder it is to throw – **Baseball vs Boulder**

God does not say: Manage anxiety better – Hide anxiety – Carry Quietly...Give it to Me!

Because he cares for you

God's power would mean little if He did not love us - God's love would mean little...were not powerful
Soldier backpack for miles...commanding officer gives an order...relief because of obedience

Takeaway - Trust God's Power | God is mighty enough to help – Loving enough to care

Submit to God's Mighty Hand – Wait for God's Perfect Timing – Surrender to God's Care

2. **Hold your ground against the enemy (8-9)**

⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Cartoon...horns & pitchfork | All evil is societal and psychological | Every Bush – Not at all
Peter reminds us: We have a mortal enemy, and spiritual warfare is not optional

- Peter does not write to induce panic; he writes to produce preparedness
- Walking in the African Wilderness – Lion Hunting | **Carelessly stroll? Distracted & Unaware?**
You would pay attention to every sound, every movement, and every indication of danger

Be sober-minded; be watchful | Many of worlds and personal woes are spiritual attacks

- 'Sober Minded' – phy. sobriety | mental clarity, spiritual equilibrium, and self-control
Sober-minded Christian not intoxicated by world's illusions or lulled into spiritual apathy
- 'Be watchful' - Means to stay awake, alert, and on guard | **Guard on a tower – In camp**
Spiritual drowsiness—casual about sin, prayer, Word—leaves us open to spiritual disaster
Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour

In this text we see Satan's Title – Character – and His strategy

⇒ His Title: Adversary - describes an opponent or enemy who stands against you

- Satan is not neutral toward the Christian...He hates you | Opposes God...seeks damage
- Peter reminds us that there is a real spiritual enemy working against us | **1/3 Angels**

⇒ His Character: Slanderer / Accuser | Devil (diavolos) | **FATHER OF LIES**

- He twists the truth, whispers doubts about God's goodness – **Garden of Eden 'Did God'**
- Satan works...deception, temptation, accusation, and opposition to God's purposes
Doubt God's Word – Distrust God's Goodness – Give Temptation – Become Discouraged
Abandon Faithfulness – Turn Away from Dependence on God

⇒ His Strategy: A Roaring Lion - **Lions typically hunt the weak, stray, or isolated**

- Prowls = stealthily, looking vulnerability—apathy prayer, unconfessed sin, or bitterness
- Roar = Cause Fear - Intimidation, persecution, and crises designed to make us panic
- Devour = Not make life difficult...**Destroy the believer's faithfulness and testimony**

Resist him, firm in your faith, - Not called to fight devil – Run from the Devil – Called to resist

- Fight Him? He's stronger than you | Run? He's faster than you | Resist? Holy Spirit
- "resist" = Military term meaning to hold strategic position against an advancing enemy
- **"Firm in Faith"** = Our defense is never self-righteousness or human willpower

- It is absolute trust in the finished work, promises, and power of Jesus Christ

When we wield truth of Scripture & cling to Christ...devil cannot breach our defenses

As James puts it, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" | You're not alone!

knowing that same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout world

Not the only Christian fighting the battle - Not the only believer experiencing temptation.

You are not the only Christian suffering - The entire family of God experiences opposition

This means your suffering does not mean God has abandoned you

Struggle does not mean your faith is failing - Temptation does not mean you are alone

Your suffering is part of the battle Christians experience in a fallen world

Battle Platoon – Going through war together – Job 1 Hedge – Great Commander...Lost

Takeaway: Resist Satan's Pull | Think Clearly – Hold Faithfully – Stand Together

3. Hope in God's plan (10-11)

¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. **God uses temporary suffering to prepare His people for eternal glory**

- Peter has spent this entire letter preparing suffering Christians to remain faithful
- Peter does not end his letter by telling us to simply try harder...points to God's Grace
All grace means he can give you all the strength you need, and that no one else can

And after you have suffered a little while – Struggle to understand | God's People Will Suffer

a. **Suffering is Real** – As a Christian you will experience genuine hardships

- Christianity not promise life w/o trials - Jesus: "In the world you will have tribulation."
Following Christ does not exempt us from suffering; it gives our suffering a purpose

b. **Suffering is Temporary** - Suffering doesn't feel short...trial can feel like it lasts forever
Compared with eternity, even the longest earthly suffering is temporary | 2 Cor. 4:17

"This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."

- **Trust God's Power to Sustain You** - the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. | **Christ Himself**

⇒ *Restore*: The word here is what they used for resetting a broken bone

Restores Alignment – Promotes Healing – Reduces Pain – Helps to Restore Function

- Will not just restore your hurts...set your life to function way He originally made you to

⇒ *Confirm*: Refining process, God uses suffering to prove and perfect your faith

⇒ *Strengthen*: you don't get stronger unless you are stretched

- Suffering builds your spiritual muscle, to strengthen you to be able to resist

⇒ *Establish*: Christ will use suffering, which may knock down some bricks on your spiritual house, to strengthen your foundation, which is in Christ alone.

¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. | Ends with a fact...God is Sovereign

His grace is sufficient – His Dominion is Eternal | Bringing a boat into dry dock

Takeaway: Believe God's Purpose | Restore – Confirm – Strengthen – Establish

4. Honor God's family (12-14)

¹²By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.¹³She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. ¹⁴Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Peter now concludes his letter | Could be summarized in two words: Grace and Peace

a. **Stand firm in God's Grace** – Saves | Hope | Teaches | Sustains | Strength | Restores

- Don't abandon grace when trials come - Your circumstances do not change truth grace
- Grace is sufficient for every season - God's grace enables you to stand through the trial

b. **Stay Connected to God's People** - *She who is at Babylon...Mark* | Not a person...church Rome

- Peter closes his letter by reminding suffering believers that they are not alone
We belong to a Chosen People – We need one another – Don't isolate in suffering

c. **Show Genuine Love** - *Greet one another with the kiss of love.* | *Make Out – Dani*

- Peter is calling express genuine affection, acceptance, fellowship toward one another
- The "kiss of love" was a cultural expression of friendship and fellowship
 - Principle = Christians are to demonstrate genuine love for one another

Takeaway - Live at Peace - Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Peace comes from being in Christ – Peace belongs to every believer – Peace enables perseverance

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