



Jason Smith - Grace and Glory - 1st Peter Series

Part 3 Sermon - Restoration and Strength

God's grace doesn't remove us from suffering—it sustains us through it. When we humble ourselves, resist the enemy, and trust in His promises, we discover strength we didn't know we had. In His perfect timing, the God of all grace will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us.

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:6-10, James 4:7, Matthew 11:28

INTRODUCTION

Our last two Sunday nights together, we've seen how grace marks the beginning of the Christian life and carries us through seasons of suffering.

In Week 1, we were reminded to *set our hope fully on the grace to come*—to live with eternity in view and holiness in our hearts.

Then in Week 2, we leaned into the hard truth that suffering is not a strange interruption, but a refining fire through which we share in Christ's life and are prepared for future glory.

Now, in this final week, Peter points our eyes to the outcome of that refining. When the trial has passed and the tears have dried, what does God do with our weakness? He restores. He strengthens.

He makes us firm and secure—not because we held on tightly, but because His grace held us. This is the promise: ***God's grace doesn't just meet us in the fire—it brings us out renewed.***

So if you're weary, burdened, or feeling like you've got nothing left to give, this message is for you. There is grace for the humbled, strength for the weak, and restoration for those who wait on the Lord.

But here's the thing: the pathway to that restoration doesn't always look like we expect. God's healing and strengthening work doesn't come through self-reliance or striving—it comes through surrender.

In this final section of Peter's letter, he doesn't tell the suffering church to push harder or try to fix everything. Instead, he invites them—and us—into a posture of humility, trust, and expectancy.

Peter knows what it means to fail, to be broken, and to be restored by grace. He's not offering abstract encouragement—he's speaking from experience.

And now, near the close of his letter, he outlines how we receive the strength and restoration that only God can provide. It starts with humility, continues through trust, and leads to lasting hope.

Let's walk through these truths together, because the grace that has called us and sustained us will also restore us—if we're willing to lean into it.

Read: 1 Peter 5:6-10

Humble Yourself Before God (v. 6-7)

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

Before Peter gives the promise of restoration, he gives us a posture: humility. Not weakness, not defeat—but a deep, quiet strength that comes from surrendering to the hand of God.

This “mighty hand” of God is not arbitrary power—it is the same hand that rescued Israel from Egypt (Deuteronomy 26:8), upheld Jesus in Gethsemane, and now holds you.

Humbling yourself under that hand means saying, ***“You are God and I am not. I trust You to lift me up in Your timing, not mine.”***

This idea connects with Week 1, where we were called to *set our hope fully on the grace to be revealed*.

That hope requires humility—an open-handed posture that admits our need for help and looks to the only One who can truly save.

And here in verse 7, Peter connects humility with trust: ***“casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”***

The word “casting” implies not a cautious handoff but a decisive, deliberate release. It echoes Jesus’ own invitation in Matthew 11:28—***“Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”***

This is not stoicism—it’s a relational act of faith. When we humble ourselves before God, we’re not just submitting to His power; we’re leaning into His care.

Reflection/Application:

- Are you trying to hold things that only God can carry?
- What anxieties have you been clutching instead of casting?
- What would it look like to humble yourself this week—not in weakness, but in trusting surrender?

True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking rightly about God. And it's the starting point of restoration.

Resist the Enemy in Faith (v. 8–9)

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

Peter now shifts from the internal weight of anxiety to the external pressure of spiritual warfare.

When we suffer, we are not just physically or emotionally vulnerable—we are spiritually vulnerable. The enemy sees our pain and tries to prey on it.

Like a lion, he roars with lies: *“God has forgotten you.” “You’re too broken to be used.” “This will never end.”*

These accusations sound like our own thoughts, but they are part of a larger spiritual attack. And Peter's call is clear: don't run—resist.

But how? Peter doesn't say, "Resist him with sheer will." He says, ***"Resist him, firm in your faith."***

Faith is our defense. Not faith in ourselves or in quick solutions, but faith in the unchanging promises of God.

This echoes what we explored in Week 2—that suffering connects us to Christ. And now we see it's also a battleground for our trust.

The enemy wants to use suffering to destroy faith; God wants to use it to deepen it. As James 4:7 says, ***"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."***

And we don't resist alone. Peter reminds us that our suffering is not unique—our "brotherhood" throughout the world faces the same battle.

This shared struggle binds us together and reminds us we're part of a bigger story.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1–11), He didn't resist Satan by reasoning or rebuking alone. He stood firm by holding to the truth of God's Word. *"It is written..."* was His shield and sword. And so it is for us.

- What lies is the enemy whispering to you in your pain?
- What truth from Scripture do you need to speak back to those lies?
- Who can you walk alongside this week in shared resistance and encouragement?

To resist the enemy is not to live without struggle—but to stand firm in faith, believing that even now, even here, God is holding you fast.

Trust the God of All Grace to Restore You (v. 10)

“And 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.”

This is the climax of Peter’s message—one of the most beautiful promises in all of Scripture.

After acknowledging the reality of suffering and the presence of spiritual warfare, Peter lifts our eyes to the sure and steady hope we have in the God of all grace.

Let’s not miss the weight of that title: *“The God of all grace.”* He doesn’t offer grace in limited supply.

He’s not rationing it out depending on how well you perform. He is the fountain of grace—abundant, overflowing, and always enough.

And what will this God of all grace do? Peter gives us four promises—each one deeply personal, each one something we long for in the midst of pain:

- **Restore** — God will heal what was broken. He will mend hearts, renew minds, and redeem even the darkest chapters.
- **Confirm** — He will settle your footing where you’ve felt uncertain and unstable. He will make you steadfast.
- **Strengthen** — He will infuse you with resilience—not the kind you muster on your own, but the kind that only comes from grace.
- **Establish** — He will plant your life on unshakable ground. You will not be tossed forever. You will stand secure.

This restoration is not wishful thinking—it's a promise. It's the same hope we saw in Week 2: *"You may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."*

And it flows directly out of the posture from Week 1: when we let trials refine us, when we stay rooted in Christ, and when we hold fast to His Word.

Peter reminds us, **"after you have suffered a little while..."** That phrase doesn't diminish your pain—but it puts it in perspective. Suffering isn't the end of the story. It's the middle. The ending belongs to God—and His ending is always restoration.

Think of the resurrection. Jesus didn't avoid suffering—He walked straight through it.

But on the other side of the cross came glory. So it is with us: the path to wholeness goes through hardship, but it ends with healing. Always.

- What area of your life needs restoration right now?
- Can you believe today that God Himself—not your effort—will restore you in time?
- This week, practice daily surrender by praying: **"Lord, I trust You to restore what's broken. Help me wait with hope."**

You don't have to fix yourself. You don't have to rush healing. You can rest in this promise: *The God of all grace will restore you.*

CONCLUSION

Some of you are in the middle of the fire. Others are on the edge of collapse.

You've humbled yourselves, you've prayed, you've held on as best you can—but you're wondering when strength will come.

Hear this promise again—let it sink deep into your soul: **“The God of all grace... will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”**

This is not wishful thinking. This is the character of God. He does not abandon His children in their weakness—He meets them there. He lifts up the humble.

He carries the anxious. He defends the weary. He restores the broken. This is the grace of God that doesn't just forgive your past—it secures your future.

Over the last few weeks, Peter has shown us that grace is more than a concept—it's the sustaining power of God for every season: **So what does this mean for you this week?**

- **Humble yourself**—choose to trust God's timing instead of trying to control everything.
- **Cast your anxieties on Him**—practice prayerful surrender instead of silent stress.
- **Be watchful**—know that there's a real battle going on, and fight it with faith, not fear.
- **Hold fast to the promise** of 1 Peter 5:10. Write it. Pray it. Memorize it. Let it shape your mindset in every trial.

Until then, walk in this truth:

- You are not alone.
- You are not forgotten.
- You are not without hope.

Grace will carry you—and grace will restore you.

Let's pray together.