

1 Peter

Week 10: Standing Firm Against the Enemy

Scripture

1 Peter 5:8-14

Review

In his letter, Peter has taught us how to live as exiles through suffering and trials.

Now in these final verses he will pull back the curtain to show us that there is a and enemy and a battle behind it all...

...but also that there is grace that will keep us standing.

Motivation

Many of you are living through suffering right now...

- Carrying anxieties
- Fighting discouragement
- Wondering why faith sometimes feels like a battle

Some of you came in today exhausted from parenting, weighed down by medical news, wrestling with depression, stressed about money, worn out by conflict, or just trying to keep your head above water.

Peter knows exactly where you are, and in these final verses he tells us what's really happening in our pain—and how God meets us in it.

If you need help standing...

...if you feel shaken...

...like you're barely holding on...

...these verses are God's word for you today.

Information

What Christians Should Remember in Suffering...

■ **There is an enemy who wants to destroy you in the middle of suffering**

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

✓ Be sober-minded and watchful

- *Sober-minded* - same word used in 1:13, 4:7 which means to be spiritually clear-headed and calm. It is rooted in hope (now and for eternity).
- *Watchful* – means to stay awake, stay alert
 - Be aware of temptations and old sins waiting to destroy you
 - Suffering can make us numb or careless

✓ Be aware that the devil seeks to devour you in your trials

- You have an enemy and it's not people, culture, or politicians – it's the devil
- The devil is the enemy of souls and his goal is unbelief

The devil is like a lion. Lions don't attack the herd, but they isolate their prey. He waits until you're tired, isolated, discouraged, and distracted. He wants your joy, relationships, and your confidence in God.

✓ Be active about resisting the enemy

1 Peter 5:9 (ESV) Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

How do we resist the devil?

- What it doesn't mean...
 - To attack him
 - To rebuke him
 - To fight him in your own strength
- What it does mean...
 - To hold your ground (Stand where God has placed you)
 - To refuse to “take the bait” (Satan's strength is in deception)
 - To stubbornly resist (don't tolerate temptation, discouragement, or lies)
 - To cling to truth when the devil accuses and lies to you and about you

Don't forget that suffering is a shared experience among all believers.

■ **God rescues us from suffering in His timing**

1 Peter 5:10 (ESV) 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. **11** To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

“No matter how long or intense one’s suffering may be, it will be short compared to the joys of eternity. Though suffering will come first, it will be followed by eternal glory...so that they are able to endure to the end.” – ESV Study Bible

- ✓ He will restore (to mend what is broken; to repair what has been damaged)
- ✓ He will confirm (to make stable)
- ✓ He will strengthen (to give supernatural strength through the Holy Spirit)
- ✓ He will establish (to anchor; to make something immovable)

Who does these things? The God of All Grace

- The title “God of all grace” doesn’t appear anywhere else in the Scriptures
- *Grace* is God’s undeserved help given to His people (strength for suffering, power for endurance, restoration for what is broken, and every spiritual resource needed to remain faithful)

Every grace required in suffering and temptation, God possesses, gives, and sustains it.

■ **We must stand firm in our suffering**

1 Peter 5:12 (ESV) By 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. **13** She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. **14** Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

- ✓ Peter stood alongside them in their suffering
- ✓ The church in Babylon stood alongside them in their suffering
- ✓ Mark stood alongside them in their suffering
- ✓ Now, they were to stand alongside each other in suffering

So as Peter closes this letter, he leaves us with this simple challenge...

Be watchful. Resist the enemy. Trust the God of all grace and stand firm in the grace that has held you from the beginning.

Your suffering is real, the enemy is active, but your Savior is faithful.

And the God who restores, confirms, strengthens, and establishes you will finish what He started.

Exile is not the end of your story, but grace is.