

An Exposition of the 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle of Peter

# “THE WORKMANSHIP OF GOD”

## *1 Peter 5:10-11*

**Theme:** Our Heavenly Father has committed Himself to using whatever situations we face to fashion us into trophies of His grace.



### **I. The Permission for Our Suffering – 5:10a**

#### A. The Framework of Our Personal Suffering

1. A key to properly enduring the suffering we face is the awareness that it remains our responsibility to assess suffering according to spiritual standards – cp. **Romans 8:18**
2. Our suffering is described as *“After you have suffered for a little while ...”*
3. When this occurs, we begin to understand that there are godly reasons for our going through the adversity we face:
  - a) We are told to expect it – cp. **4:12**
  - b) We are told that it proves our faith – cp. **1:17**
  - c) We are told that it results in blessing – cp. **3:14**
  - d) We are told that it will produce worship – cp. **4:16**.

#### B. The Filtration of God’s Permissive Will

1. In all of this, we realize that God filters that through which we go in order to permit **only** what has the potential of building our faith – which is needful in us all.
2. We are protected by the hand of God – cp. **1:5**.

### **II. The Purpose for Our Suffering<sup>1</sup> – 5:10b**

#### A. The Experience of Grace

1. God’s desire is that we recognize that in all our suffering that He “giveth ore grace” – cp. **2 Corinthians 12:9**
2. This supply is unlimited – *“the God of all grace”* – the source of all comfort and help for every occasion.
3. This is the only place where this phrase is used in the New Testament – conveying that the capacity to pour favor upon us is filled with variety –

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<sup>1</sup> The wording and grammar here suggest that it is to draw us to focus on God and His work.

that no circumstance that could face would fail to have a match in His grace.

## B. The Experience of Glory

1. God is also described as the One *“who called you to His eternal glory in Christ ...”*
2. This refers to that “call” to which each Christian has properly responded in faith to Jesus Christ.
3. This call is a call to conformity to Christ – to the praise of the glory of His grace, *“His eternal glory in Christ”* – cp. **Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14**
4. Were we to fall prey to Satan, his calling, instead of being to God’s glory, would bring reproach on God.
5. God’s purpose is that we be sustained by His grace and thus bring glory to Him – which He shares with us – cp. **1:7**.
6. The *“eternal glory”* that God bestows on us in Christ Jesus is in stark contrast to the *“little while”* that we are called upon to suffer.

## III. The Promise in Our Suffering – **5:10c-11**

### A. Your Defects Will Be Supplied

1. We are told here that *“the God of all grace ... will Himself”* will exert the needed sustaining grace through His own active intervention and personal involvement.
2. He will *“perfect”* you [καταρτίζω] – to qualify fully, or to complete.
3. It is a future indicative (a promise) and is more fully explained in the next three means by which His grace is afforded – cp. **Ephesians 5:27**.

### B. Your Direction Will Be Stabilized

1. Often, believers “halt” between two things.
2. God has promised to *“confirm”* [στηρίζω] or to “firm up” our sense of purpose so that it will not teeter or totter– cp. **Ephesians 4:14**.
3. *Thus God supplies us – through His grace – the needed support so that we will not topple and fall.*

### C. Your Desire Will Be Strengthened

1. Not only will we be defended from Satan, but we will prevail – and inflict damage.
2. God demonstrates the marvel of His grace and *“strengthens”* us [σθενώω] – used only here and conveys the idea of reviving one from a sickly state into one of health and strength.
3. *Thus God supplies us – through His grace – the needed strength so that we will not collapse.*

## D. Your Dependence Will Be Settled

1. Satan attempts through adversity to drive us from the foundation of Christ – cp. 4:4
2. God promises to use adversity to clarify our dependence on Him; He will *“establish you”* – [θεμελιόω] – to provide the basis for the inner life – we will be “grounded”
3. Whereas *“confirming”* has the idea of stabilizing through providing support such as buttressing, this term *“establish”* conveys the support through the foundation underneath it all.
4. *Thus God supplies us – through His grace – the needed foundation so that we will not be swept away.*
5. This is all promised through the fact that God remains Sovereign and prompts Peter to express a heartfelt and adoring worship – *“To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*