

“Steadfast in Suffering”

1 Peter 5:5-14

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I. Introduction

* Henry Ward Beecher- *“God washes the eyes by tears until they can behold the invisible land where tears shall come no more.”*

A. Peter has written his first epistle to Christians who were suffering

1. Peter has written to strengthen them and to help them “stand” (v. 10)
2. He gives them and us four important closing admonitions to help us stand steadfast in times of suffering.

II. Be Clothed With Humanity (1 Peter 5:5-6)

A. “Likewise” or “in the same way” (v. 5)

1. In the same way, what?
 - a) Pastors are to be faithful and to feed the flock (vv. 1-4). They are not to lord over the flock (v.3) but are to remember they are under-shepherds (v. 4).

B. To young people

1. “You younger” (v. 5)
2. Submit yourselves to the elder.
 - a) It’s an older person (not the same as v. 1)
3. “All of you be submissive to one another” (v. 5).
4. Peter’s word picture, “be clothed with humility” (v. 5).
 - a) Peter is drawing from his own experience.
 - b) Illustration- Peter in Gethsemane (v. 1)
 - c) “Be humble” is the opposite of arrogance and conceit

C. Peter gives us two reasons to be humble.

1. “For God resists the proud” (v. 5).
 - a) From the Old Testament (Proverbs 3:34)
 - 1) “Resists” is a military concept to set an army for battle.
 - 2) To “set himself against”
 - 3) God declares war on the proud.
2. “God gives grace to the humble” (v. 5).
 - a) God bestows His favor and helps those who are humble.
 - b) God blesses the humble and fights against the proud.

III. Be Casting Your Anxiety (1 Peter 5:7)

A. “Care” is our anxieties and worries

1. “All our cares” (big or small)
 - a) Past memories
 - b) Present pressures
 - c) Future fears
- 1) What fears have taken you captive?

B. What should we do?

1. “Cast them upon God” (v. 7)
 - a) It’s like a fishing net
 - b) Once and for all (1 Peter 4:19)
2. How do we “cast a fear upon God?”
 - a) Prayer (Philippians 4)
3. Why do we cast our cares upon God?
 - a) “Because He cares for you” (v. 7)
 - b) If I worry, I am saying that God does not care.
 - 1) The truth is, God does care about me and for me.
 - 2) We are His children and are the objects of His love and care.
 - 3) Frank Graeff- *“Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth and song; As the burdens press, and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long? Does Jesus care when my way is dark with a nameless dread and fear? As the daylight fades into deep night shades, does He care enough to be near? Oh yes, He cares—I know He cares! His heart is touched with my grief; When the days are weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares.”*
 - 4) (Matthew 6)

IV. Be Cautious of Your Adversary (1 Peter 5:8-9)

A. We have an “adversary” (v. 8)

1. Who is it?
 - a) The Devil or Satan
 - b) It means “slanderer”
2. The Devil is real
3. The Devil is powerful and fierce
 - a) “like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (v. 8).

- i. “Devour” is “gulp down.”
 - 4. What shall we do?
 - a) “Be sober” or “be vigilant”
 - b) Be self-controlled. Don’t be drunk mentally or spiritually.
 - c) Be awake, and don’t fall asleep. Be watchful.
- B. Be resistant (v. 9)
 - 1. “Resist” is a military term that means “to stand against.”
 - 2. Same as “God resists the proud” (v. 5)
 - 3. Take your stand against Satan
 - a) “Steadfast in the faith” (v. 9).
 - i. Stand for the truth in God’s Word
 - ii. Put on God’s armor
 - iii. (Ephesians 6)
- C. Be encouraged
 - 1. “Knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” (v. 9).
 - a) You are not alone. You are part of a brotherhood.
 - b) It emphasizes the oneness and solidarity of believers
 - c) We are fighting the same spiritual battles

V. Be Confident of Your Ultimate Victory (1 Peter 5:10-14)

- A. “A prayer” (v.10)
 - 1. Almost all newer translations put it in the future tense, making it a promise.
 - 2. Peter is saying, “The Devil may attach you, and you may stumble, but God will not let you fall.” You can be confident God will give you strength to “stand.”
 - a) Ultimate victory is yours in Christ
- B. Peter gives four reasons to be confident in God.
 - 1. He’s the God of all grace (v. 10)
 - a) It means that God, in His grace, will help us
 - b) God’s grace is manifold (v. 10)
 - 1) It is sufficient for every need

- 2) Paul's thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 2)
- 2. He's the God who has called us to His eternal glory (v. 10)
 - a) It's Heaven
- 3. He's the God who will transform us (v. 10)
 - a) Suffering is only "for a while"
 - b) Philip Yancey- *"Who would complain if God allowed one hour of suffering in an entire lifetime of comfort? Why complain about a lifetime that includes suffering when that lifetime is a mere hour of eternity?"*
- C. God will "make you perfect" (v. 10)
 - 1. "Better restore you" or "put you together"
 - a) It means "make you whole" or "bring to completion."
- D. God will "establish" or "strengthen you" (v. 10)
 - 1. "settle you"
 - 2. "Make you strong, firm, and steadfast"
 - a) It means "God will give us the strength we need for all of our suffering and trials."
 - 1) It's a doxology

VI. Conclusion

- A. As Christians, we have hope even in our suffering.
 - 1. Our hope is in Christ
 - 2. He's the solid rock on which we stand
 - a) If you are not a Christian, you have no hope