

THE DUTIES OF THE BELIEVER (I): HUMILITY AND SUBMISSION

1 PETER 05:05–07

Introduction

This is a great passage on humility. Humility is one of the very first duties of the believer. Some people shrink back when they hear the word humility mentioned. When they think of humility, they picture a shy, weak, unimpressive type of person. But this is not what God means by humility. The humility demanded by God strengthens a person and makes him one of the most striking and impressive persons around.

- I. Submit to the elders (v. 5).
- II. Submit to one another and be clothed with humility (v. 5).
- III. Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God (vv. 6-7).

I. 1 Peter 05:05 *Submit to the Elders*

First, submit to the elders or ministers of the church. The word submissive (hopotagete) means to submit and to place oneself under the authority and leadership of the elder or minister. The minister is the leader of the church. God has chosen and ordained the minister to be the leader among the flock of God. Therefore, his leadership is to be...

- esteemed
- followed
- recognized
- acknowledged
- obeyed
- subjected to
- honoured

But remember: the minister is not to be a lord over God's heritage, but an example to the flock (v. 3). He is to lead and exercise his authority by being an example, not by using authoritarian methods and bypassing people. It is this that gives balance to the minister's authority. But at the same time, the flock of God is to submit to the authority of the minister.

Note: the word young is used to describe the laity or believers of a church. The idea being conveyed is that believers are to be as youth who sit at the feet of the parent to be fed and to learn and grow. The very term conveys the idea of submission. This shows how important this charge is to God — so important that he terms believers the young. However, it should be noted that some commentators say that this refers to the young people of the church. They are to submit themselves to the older believers. But this does not seem to fit the context in light of two facts:

=> The preceding verses discuss the elder or minister of the church.

=> The rest of verse 5 exhorts all believers to be submissive toward one another.

The thrust seems to be that young refers to believers. Simply put, believers are to be submissive toward themselves to the minister as the parent of the church, the parent who shepherds and feeds them the Word of God and who willingly takes the oversight of their welfare (cp. v. 2-3).

1 Cor 16:16 *To submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work, and labours at it.*

1 Th 5:12-13 *Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

1 Tim 5:17 *The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.*

Heb 13:17 *Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

II. **1 Peter 05:05 Submit to One Another**

Second, submit to one another and be clothed with humility. Not only are we to submit to our ministers, but we are to submit ourselves to one another. Note several things.

1. The word all means every one of us, all ages, sexes and classes (A T. Robertson. *Word Pictures In The New Testament*, Vol. 6, p. 132). No person is exempt. All of us are to submit ourselves to all believers no matter who we may be: male or female, poor or rich, young or old.

Thought 1. Submission takes concentration and effort. It takes a deliberate decision to submit to someone else. But this is just what Scripture is demanding. Every believer is unique to God and has a very special gift and contribution to make to the world and to the church. All believers are to submit themselves to one another, to each one's uniqueness and gift. All believers are to acknowledge, respect and honour one another, all because of who each one is and because of the gift God has given each one of us.

2. Note: to be submissive toward one another is not enough, not for God. Scripture says that we must also "clothe [ourselves] with humility." The word "clothe" (egkombosasthe) means to gird oneself with an apron. It is the picture of what Jesus did in the upper room when He girded Himself with an apron and assumed the role of a servant and washed the feet of the disciples. Jesus, the Son of God and Sovereign Majesty of the universe, actually clothed Himself with the apron of humility and served the disciples. And, when he finished, He said:

John 13:13-15 *"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."*

Alan Stibbs states it well: "The exhortation here is not to feel humble, nor to pray for humility, but to act it" (*The First Epistle General of Peter*. "The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries," p. 169). The word "humility" (tapeinophrosunen) means

to offer oneself as lowly and submissive; to walk in a spirit of lowliness; to present oneself as lowly; to act of low degree and low rank. It is the opposite of being high-minded, above and better than others, prideful, arrogant, superior, haughty and self-assertive. The believer may have a high position, power, wealth, fame and much more; but he is to carry himself in a spirit of lowliness and submission. He is to deny himself for the sake of Christ and in order to help others. (See note, *Humility*, 1 Pet. 3:8. See *Humility*, Phil. 2:3.)

3. Note why we are to be submissive toward to one another and to clothe ourselves with humility: because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (cp. Prov. 3:34).
 - a. God resists the proud. He stands against all...
 - who look down upon others.
 - who discriminate against others.
 - who are boastful.
 - who feel superior to others.
 - who are prejudiced.
 - who are haughty.

God opposes the proud — all who oppress others — no matter who they are. The word “opposes” (*antitassetai*) is a strong word. It is the picture of an army being set and arrayed against the enemy. Marvin Vincent says that “pride calls out God’s armies. No wonder, therefore, that it ‘goes before destruction’ (*Word Studies In The New Testament*, Vol. 1, p. 668). God Himself shall destroy those who exalt themselves above others.

- b. God gives grace to the humble. Grace means the favour and blessings of God. The person who walks humbly before God, recognizing and acknowledging the value of others, shall receive the favour and blessings of God. He shall be highly favoured and blessed — rewarded beyond all imagination. The humble person shall bear the fruit of God’s spirit in this life...
 - love
 - goodness
 - joy
 - faithfulness
 - kindness
 - peace
 - gentleness
 - patience
 - self-control

In addition, the humble person has the full assurance of being cared for and looked after by God, that God will work all things out for his good while he is on earth. And then in the future, when Christ returns, the humble person will be abundantly rewarded with the glorious privilege of living and reigning with Christ forever and ever. (See note, 1 Pet. 1:4 for a list of the rewards.)

Mat 11:29 “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Mat 18:3-4 And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Mat 23:12 “For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

Rom 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Eph 4:1-2 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Phil 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Col 3:12-13 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

1 Pet 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

III. **1 Peter 05:06–07 Humility Before the Mighty Hand of God**

Third, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God. There are three reasons for this.

1. God is to be feared, for He stands opposed to the proud. The very thing we do not want to be is prideful. The only way to escape the judgment of God’s hand is to humble ourselves under His mighty hand. If we stand up to His hand, we shall be stricken down, but if we humble ourselves under His hand, we shall be protected and lifted up, exalted forever and ever. The picture of God’s mighty hand is a different picture for the proud and the humble:

To the humble, God’s mighty hand means...

- strength and power
- sovereignty and control
- salvation and security
- care and protection
- assurance and confidence

To the proud, God’s mighty hand means...

- strength and power
- sovereignty and control
- warning and fear
- anger and wrath
- judgment and condemnation

Note: God’s mighty hand provides two entirely different things for the humble and the proud. Right now the hand of God stands over the world in all of its strength and

power and its sovereignty and control. God's hand stands to save everyone, even the proud if he will only humble himself. But if he refuses to humble himself, then the hand of God stands for something entirely different than salvation. The mighty hand of God stands...

- as a warning and a threat
- in anger and wrath
- in judgment and condemnation

This is the reason we must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God — to escape the terrifying judgment of God.

John 10:29 *“My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”*

Rom 16:25 *Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past.*

1 Pet 5:6 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

Josh 4:24 *He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.*

Psa 89:13 *Your arm is endued with power; your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.*

Psa 98:1 *Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.*

Psa 118:15-17 *Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: “The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things! The Lord’s right hand is lifted high; the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!” I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.*

Isa 59:1 *Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.*

2. We should humble ourselves under God's mighty hand because He is going to exalt the humble. Note that the humble are not yet lifted up. But in due time they will be. The day is coming when they shall be lifted up, exalted in all the glory and majesty of Christ. They shall be exalted to live with Christ and to rule and reign with Him and to serve Him throughout the universe. They shall be with Christ, worshipping and serving Him forever and ever — all to His glory and praise, honour and grace. (See note, 1 Pet. 1:4.)
3. We should humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God because God cares for us; He cares about all our anxiety. Remember: the believers of Peter's day were suffering terrible persecution. They had been forced to flee for their lives, leaving everything behind: homes, jobs and possessions. They had only what they could carry by hand,

and they fled to whatever places they felt were safe. They were, so to speak, an underground people, having to live, work and worship in secret and to find housing and food wherever they could. They never knew when they would be discovered and forced to flee again.

The point is this: imagine the anxiety, the pressure, tension and stress being experienced by the believers. Yet there was great help: God was available to help them. Note that the exhortation is not only clearly stated; it is a command: “cast all your anxiety (merimna) on Him, because He cares for you.” God’s mighty hand will...

- save and deliver you
- look after and care for you
- strengthen and secure you
- provide and protect you
- give you assurance and confidence

Heb 13:6 *So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”*

Psa 40:17 *Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay.*

Psa 55:23 *But you, O God, will bring down the wicked into the pit of corruption; bloodthirsty and deceitful men will not live out half their days. But as for me, I trust in you.*

Isa 41:10 *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Mat 6:25, 33 *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

Luke 12:7 *“Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”*

Luke 21:34 *“Be careful or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.”*

Rom 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Rom 8:35-39 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor*

anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Phil 4:6 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

1 Pet 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ■*

THE DUTIES OF THE BELIEVER (II): VIGILANCE AND RESISTANCE AGAINST THE DEVIL 1 PETER 05:08–09

Introduction

This is one of the most important duties of the believer. The believer must be vigilant in this duty or his life and testimony for Christ will be devoured and destroyed. What is the duty? Vigilance and resistance against the devil. The believer must constantly watch for and resist the devil.

- I. The way: be self-controlled and alert (v. 8).
- II. The reason: the devil is your adversary, a roaring lion seeking to devour all whom he can (v. 8).
- III. The duty (v. 9).

I. 1 Peter 05:08 *Be Self-controlled and Alert*

How can we stand against the attacks and temptations of the devil? There is only one way: we must be self-controlled and alert.

1. First, be self-controlled (nephate). The word means...
 - not to become intoxicated with drugs or alcohol of any kind.
 - to be self-controlled in mind and behaviour; to be controlled in all things; not given over to indulgence, license or extravagance. It is the opposite of indulgence in anything such as eating, drinking and recreation, it means to live a sober, solid, controlled and strong life.

The believer has to be sober as he watches for the attacks of the devil. If he is not sober, he will not be alert enough to conquer the attacks and the temptations of the devil.

The believer will be overcome and led into sin and destruction. And no believer can be alert enough to stand up against the devil if he indulges and gratifies his flesh in...

- sex
- alcohol and drugs
- pornography
- clothing
- relaxation
- power
- food
- recognition
- possessions
- position

The believer is to live a sober and controlled life. He is to stay alert to the devil and his temptations at all times. He must be alert enough to see the temptations and attacks coming and have a mind and spirit strong enough to stand against the temptations and attacks.

1 Th 5:6-8 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get

drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

1 Tim 3:11 *In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.*

Titus 2:11-13 *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

1 Pet 1:13 *Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

1 Pet 4:7 *The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.*

2. How do we stand against the devil? Second, be “alert” (gregoresate). The word means to be watchful and awake. It has the idea of being constantly aroused and on the lookout; to always be aroused, awake and watching for the devil and his attacks. Again, if a person’s mind and body are dull, flabby and weak from drink, drugs, overeating, slothfulness and indulgence in sleep, recreation, pleasure or in anything else — that person cannot be watching and waiting; he cannot be constantly aroused to look for the devil’s temptations and attacks.

The believer must be sober and serious about the devil; he must be alert in looking for the devil’s temptations and attacks. It is the only conceivable way the believer can conquer and overcome in this life; it is the only way he can keep his life and testimony from being destroyed by the devil.

Mat 26:41 *“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”*

Luke 12:37 *“It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.”*

1 Cor 10:12 *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!*

1 Cor 16:13 *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage: be strong.*

Col 4:2 *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*

1 Th 5:5-6 *You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.*

1 Pet 5:8 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

Rev 16:15 “Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

II. *1 Peter 05:08 Reason for Being Alert*

Why should we stand against the attacks and temptations of the devil? There is one strong reason: he is our adversary, a roaring lion who seeks all whom he can devour. Note three points.

1. The devil is our “enemy” (antidikos). The Greek word means a legal opponent such as an opponent in a lawsuit. It also means a common day-to-day opponent like a neighbour who opposes and stands as an enemy against us. The picture is that of the devil opposing us in every conceivable way.
=> It is the picture of Satan standing in a law court, standing as an adversary in the court of God and accusing us before God.
=> It is the picture of Satan standing here on earth, standing against us and doing all he can to trip us up and to defeat and destroy us.
2. The word “devil” (diabolos) itself means slanderer or false accuser. The devil is a malicious enemy who accuses us before God and makes false charges against us. Scripture teaches that Satan is constantly bringing up our sins and transgressions before God, that he is constantly reminding God of our disobedience. But note: the accusations against us are false. The charges are not true. How can they not be true when we are sinners, for no true believer denies his sin? By Christ. We believe Christ and we have cast ourselves upon Christ, upon the glorious fact that He died for our sins. We have trusted Christ for forgiveness of sin, and when He forgives us, our sins are removed from us. We are no longer guilty of sin. Therefore, the accusations and charges of Satan against us are false. Why then would he accuse and charge us before God? Why would he remind God time and again of our sins? To hurt God, to cut the heart of God. He is the devil, the one who stands opposed to God and to all that God stands for. Eons ago, sometime before the world was ever created, he was apparently the highest angel in all of creation. God had created him as the highest spiritual being in the universe. At that time his name was Lucifer. But he did what so many men do — rebelled against God — and he led other angelic beings to rebel with him. Therefore, God judged him and cast him from his exalted position in heaven. From what we can glean from Scripture this is what happened to Satan, how he became the devil, the terrible opponent to God. (See Deeper Satan, Rev. 12:9. Cp. Isa. 14:12-17; Ezk. 28:11-19. Also see note, 2 Cor. 4:4.)

The point is this: the devil does all he can to cut and hurt the heart of God. Therefore, he constantly reminds God of our sins. This, of course, means that he does all he can to tempt and lead us into sin, for the more we sin the more he can hurt God.

Thought 1. Think what this means: how deeply God’s heart must be cut and hurt when we sin. We are believers, persons for whom God gave His Son to die. When God paid such a price — actually cast His wrath against His own Son because of sin — think about how much He must hurt when we sin, especially when we profess to love Him. The devil is a slanderer; he will constantly slander us before God. He will use our sin to hurt God as much as possible. This is the reason we must stand against the devil: we must protect the heart of God. We must not bring hurt and pain to our Father’s heart.

Rev 12:9-10 *The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.”*

Job 1:6-12 *One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.” Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.” The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.*

Zee 3:1 *Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.*

2. He is like a roaring lion seeking to devour all whom he can. The roaring lion is a picture of anger, strength, fierceness and cruelty. Satan is being pictured as angry (against God and all believers), strong, fierce and cruel. Note: Scripture says he roams about roaring in anger and cruelty and in the roaring ferociousness of his strength, seeking someone to attack and devour. How can Satan devour a person? Jesus tells us in one of the most shocking statements ever made about man. He said that a person who does not trust and follow God as his Father is actually following the devil as his father. In other words, Jesus says that all unbelievers have the devil as their father.

John 8:44 *“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

Note that Jesus is telling us how the devil devours man. He consumes man by leading him to do four things.

- a. The devil leads us to lust, crave. He tempts us to give in to the lust of the flesh, and the lust of our eyes, and the pride of life (boasting in what we have and do).

1 John 2:15-16 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.

- b. The devil leads us to murder. The devil is behind the murder of human life and behind the loss of man experiencing real life here on earth. The devil destroys life and all abundant living when he can: all love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Mat 13:19 “When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.”

1 Pet 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Job 1:9-11 “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

Jesus was saying that one thing is certain: God is not the father of murder — the devil is. They who commit murder are children of the devil. But note the real meaning of murder revealed by Jesus (see note, Mt. 5:22). Murder is...

- anger
- bitterness
- an uncontrolled spirit
- enmity
- desiring a person’s ruin
- striking out at a person
- slandering, maligning, speaking ill about a person, and destroying a person’s image (who is created in God’s image)
- envying and killing a person’s happiness

- c. The devil leads men to reject the truth.

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

1 John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

- d. The devil leads men to lie and deceive.

2 Cor 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Cor 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

III. 1 Peter 05:09 Duty of the Believer

What is our duty in standing against the attacks and temptations of Satan? Our duty is twofold.

1. We must resist the devil; we must resist him standing firm in the faith. The word “resist” (antistete) means to withstand the devil; to stand firm against him; to strive and struggle against him. Note that we must stand firm in our resistance. We must not...

- let our guard down
- slip one step
- look one time
- touch at all
- taste a single bite
- listen to one word
- think a single thought
- give way to any desire
- loosen the restraint

It might look good, taste good and feel good, but we must resist the desire and lust and be steadfast in our resistance. We must not give in at all. Giving in one step leads to a second step, and before we know it, we have caved in and are engaged in the sin. Satan has devoured us.

Our duty is to resist the devil and to stand firm in our resistance. Note what it is that Satan is after: the believer’s faith. He wants the believer to deny his faith, to turn away from Christ. The devil’s crowd may say...

- “Oh come on! It won’t hurt you.”
- “Do your own thing.”
- “You’re a fool if you don’t get all you can.”
- “Live, drink and be merry.”

A person’s desires and lusts may want more and more of the possessions and pleasures of this world. The temptation will always be there to turn away from Christ and His righteousness, to turn away from one’s faith and to return to the world and its ways. Our duty is to resist the devil by standing firm in the faith, trusting God for the necessary strength to conquer the temptation.

2. The believer is to keep in mind the fact that other believers are suffering the same kind of sufferings and they are conquering them. When a believer refuses to go along

with the world and its ways, he is misunderstood, withdrawn from, ridiculed, mocked, abused and persecuted by unbelievers. In addition he is attacked and tempted by the devil. The believers of Peter's day were suffering terrible attacks from Satan, attacks that had broken out in severe persecution. How do believers stand against so much? By keeping in mind that other believers are also being attacked, and many are faithfully resisting the devil. They are standing firm in their faith. Therefore, their example encourages us. We are not alone in the world. There are others suffering the very same kind of sufferings of the devil as we are, and they are resisting ever so faithfully. They are standing firm for Christ. Therefore, we must let their example stir us to firmly resist the devil. We must use their example to arouse us to stand firm for Christ.

Rom 6:13 *Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.*

1 Cor 10:13 *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

Eph 4:26-27 *"In your anger do not sin:" Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*

Eph 6:13 *Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

1 Pet 5:8-9 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

2 Pet 3:7 *By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

Prov 1:10 *My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.*

Prov 4:14 *Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. ■*

THE SUFFERING OF THE BELIEVER AND GOD

1 PETER 05:10–14

Introduction

This passage concludes Peter's letter to the believers. But before he makes his concluding remarks, he has one more important subject to discuss: the suffering of the believer and God. The believer suffers greatly in this world. The believer not only bears the natural sufferings of this world that all men suffer, but he is attacked because of his faith in Christ. He is attacked by both the devil and unbelievers because he lives a righteous and godly life and proclaims the hope of salvation for all men. Most people want nothing to do with pure godliness and holiness: they want to live in the comfort and enjoyment of their desires and in the pleasures and possessions of this world. Therefore, they reject and oppose anyone who stresses pure godliness and holiness.

But the genuine believer has a great promise: God will take care of him through all the sufferings of this life. God will keep and preserve the believer and eventually take him on home to heaven. This is the great study of this passage.

- I. God's great resource (v. 10).
- II. God's great provision (v. 10).
- III. God's great power (v. 11).
- IV. The final greeting (vv. 12-13).
- V. The conclusion: the kiss of love and peace (v. 14).

I. 1 Peter 05:10 God's Grace and Call to Eternal Glory

There is God's great resource. Two great resources are mentioned: His grace and His call to eternal glory. Everything that God does for the believer is because of His grace. Note that He is even called the *God of all grace*. Grace means favour, the favour of God. God favours us; therefore, He blesses us. Every blessing we ever receive comes from the favour of God, even life itself. All good things come from God and from His grace.

But note another fact as well: God has called us to eternal glory. He wants us in heaven with Him, free from all the sin, dirt, filth, evil, corruption, disease and death of this world. God wants us perfected and glorified, made just like His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God wants us living with Him forever and ever, worshipping and serving Him. He has called the believer to eternal glory. Therefore, God will do anything — do what is necessary — to save and keep the believer for glory. God has called the believer to glory; therefore, He is committed to keep and preserve the believer for glory.

This is the glorious truth: God's grace and God's call to eternal glory will keep us through all the sufferings of this life. No matter how much Satan attacks us, no matter how severe the suffering, God will keep us. He will keep us...

- because He is gracious to us; He has favoured us.
- because He has called us to His eternal glory.

Rom 8:16-17 *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

Eph 2:4-8 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.*

Phil 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

Phil 4:19 *And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

Col 3:4 *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

Titus 2:11-13 *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

Titus 3:7 *So that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

II. 1 Peter 05:10 The Great Provision

There is God's great provision. How does God keep and preserve the believer? The temptations and trials of life are severe and fierce. How does God make sure the believer makes it to heaven and its eternal glory? God does four wonderful things for the believer. Note: in the Greek the emphasis is upon God Himself doing these things. God Himself becomes actively involved in taking care of the believer, in keeping and preserving and taking the believer to heaven and its glory.

1. God Himself uses the believer's suffering to restore the believer. The word "restore" (*katartisei*) means to make fit or join together; to restore. The Greek authority Marvin Vincent says:

"The radical notion of the verb is ...*adjustment* — the putting of all the parts into right relation and connection. We find it used..."

- “of mending the nets (Mt. 4:21)
- “of restoring an erring brother (Gal. 6:1)
- “of framing the body and the worlds (Heb. 10:5; 11:3)
- “of the union of members in the church (1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:11)

“Out of this comes the general sense of *perfecting* (Mt. 21:16; Lk. 6:40; 1 Th. 3:10).”
(*Word Studies In The New Testament*, Vol. 1, p. 671.)

God takes all of the displaced joints and broken limbs of life and uses them to adjust our character. He uses all the trials and temptations, difficulties and persecutions — all the sufferings of life — and makes us more and more like Christ. If we are truly called of God and if we truly love God, then God will take all that ever happens to us and work it out for good. He will restore us, fit all the parts of life together and lead us to glory. This is the glorious grace and call of God to eternal glory.

Mat 5:48 *“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

Eph 4:12-13 *To prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

James 1:3-4 *Because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

1 John 2:5 *But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him:*

2. God Himself uses the believer’s sufferings to make the believer strong. The word “strong” (*sterixei*) means to make steadfast, firm and solid. It means to be firmly set, as firmly as if one was set in reinforced concrete. It means to be immovable. God is able to attach us to Himself to such a degree that we will be immovable, no matter how severe the attack of temptation or suffering. But remember our duty: we must resist the devil and resist him firmly (v. 8). The promise is clear: if we resist the devil and draw near God, He will draw near us (Jas. 4:7-8).

James 4:7-8 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

1 Th 3:13 *May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.*

1 Th 2:16-17 *In their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last. But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.*

James 5:8 *You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.*

3. God Himself will make us “firm” (sthenosei). This is the only time this word is used in the New Testament. Most translators say that it means strength. It would, therefore, mean to be filled with all strength, with all the strength necessary to overcome all the trials and temptations and sufferings of life. Again, remember that it is only God Himself who can give us such enormous strength. And He will, if we will only draw near Him.

Eph 3:16 *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.*

Phil 4:13 *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

Col 1:11 *Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully.*

2 Tim 4:17 *But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.*

4. God Himself will make us *steadfast*. The word “steadfast” (themeliosei) means to secure as in a foundation; to ground with security. God is able to make us secure through all the sufferings of life, no matter what they are. He is able to settle and secure our nerves, thoughts and fears — all the uneasy and unnerving emotions that disturb us. God can make us steadfast if we will only do one thing: resist the devil and draw near to Him.

Eph 3:17 *So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love.*

Mat 7:24-25 *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”*

Phil 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

III. **1 Peter 05:11 God's Power**

There is God's power. This is a doxology, an exclamation of praise. In thinking about all that God does for us, Peter just breaks forth with praise. God assures our salvation — despite all our sins, failures, shortcomings, weaknesses and frailties — God calls us to eternal glory and secures us forever and ever. He restores us and makes us strong, firm and steadfast through all the temptations and trials and sufferings of life. He is God who possesses all power — power which no person or thing can defeat. He is God, the glorious and Sovereign Majesty of the universe; therefore, He is able to secure us. “To Him be the power for ever and ever.”

IV. 1 Peter 05:12–13 Believer's Hall of Fame

This is the final greeting of the letter of First Peter. Peter has completed his exhortation and is about to close his letter. It is now time to send greetings from those with him.

1. There was Silas. This was most likely the same Silas who served so much with Paul. He became one of the great missionaries of the early church (cp. Acts 15:40). He was an outstanding believer, a disciple and a close companion of Paul. He was apparently a Roman citizen (Acts 16:37). Silas...
 - was a leader in the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:27).
 - was sent to Antioch to share the great decree of salvation (Acts 15:27, 32-33).
 - was a prophet (Acts 15:32).
 - was a disciple of Paul, joining Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 15:40).
 - was imprisoned with Paul (Acts 16:19-40).
 - remained in Berea with Timothy to minister to the believers (Acts 17:14).
 - was with Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:5; 2 Cor. 1:19).
 - ministered with Peter, apparently after Paul's death (1 Pet. 5:12).
 - is mentioned in the following New Testament books: 1 Th. 1:1; 2 Th. 1:1; 2 Cor. 1:19; 1 Pet. 5:12.
2. There was Peter himself (see Introduction, Author). Note: Peter says that he had written for the purpose of declaring the truth of the grace of God.
 - a. He declared the grace of God that has given us the incorruptible inheritance, an inheritance that can never perish.

1 Pet 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.
 - b. He declared the grace of God that has saved our souls, the salvation that had been prophesied by the prophets of the Old Testament.

1 Pet 1:9-10 For you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care.
 - c. He declared the grace of God that has redeemed us.

1 Pet 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

- d. He declared the grace of God that stirs us to be born again.

1 Pet 1:23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

- e. He declared the grace of God that makes us the very special people of God.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

- f. He declared the grace of God that led Christ to bear our sins in His own body on the tree.

1 Pet 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

- g. He declared the grace of God that led Christ to suffer for sins, to die as the righteous for the unrighteous.

1 Pet 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

- h. He declared the grace of God that has exalted Christ over all the powers and enemies of men.

1 Pet 3:22 Who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand — with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

- i. He declared the grace of God that gives us the great privilege of suffering and living for Christ.

1 Pet 4:1-2 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

- j. He declared the grace of God that shall lift us in due time.

1 Pet 5:4, 6 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

- k. He declared the grace of God that shall keep and preserve us for eternal glory.

1 Pet 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

3. There was the church at Babylon, that is, Rome. Remember: the believers were being severely persecuted throughout Rome during these days. Therefore when secrecy was necessary, believers referred to Rome as Babylon. Peter was apparently in Rome while he was writing this letter. Therefore, he uses the symbolic name Babylon.

4. There was Mark. Note that Peter calls Mark his son. His first name was John. John Mark had a godly mother (Acts 12:12). Her home seemed to be the centre of the Christian church (Acts 12:12). In fact, her home may have been the upper room which Jesus used for the Last Supper (Lk. 22:10f) and for Pentecost (Acts 1:13). John Mark was related to Barnabas (Col. 4:10) and was a disciple of Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25). As a young man and disciple something happened that caused his faith to weaken, and he forsook Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:13; 15:38). However, he later recommitted his life to missionary service and became so staunch in his commitment that he was willing to let Paul and Barnabas argue over his seriousness and divide their team efforts over him (Acts 15:36-40). Scripture is silent about what happened after this. Mark is seen only as a man who had redeemed himself in the eyes of Paul (Col. 4:10; Phil. 1:24; 2 Tim. 4:11). And Peter said Mark was serving with him (1 Pet. 5:13). When writing to the churches of Asia Minor, Peter sent his special greetings from Mark. This points toward the churches knowing Mark personally. Mark apparently joined Peter on his missionary journeys. This is significant, for it means that much of what is in Mark's gospel probably comes from what Peter had told him. The Gospel of Mark, which Mark wrote, was probably the preaching material of Peter. (See note, Acts 13:13.) John Mark also may have been the man carrying the pitcher of water as a sign for the disciples to approach him in order to secure a room for the Passover (Lk.22: 10f). He was probably the young man who fled the scene of Jesus' arrest (Mk. 14:51-52).

V. 1 Peter 05:14 Conclusion

The conclusion stresses two significant points.

1. Peter encourages the believers to greet one another with a kiss of love. This was an act of unity and brotherhood. Believers must stand together as one in facing the trials and sufferings of the world. Therefore, by doing this one simple act, believers would be reminded that they did not stand alone, and they would be encouraged by the expression of oneness and brotherly love.
2. Peter gives them the benediction of peace (see note, 1 Pet. 1:2). ■