

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). ■