

A Walk In Grace to Glory

I Peter 5: 5-11

Introduction:

- Peter knew that the fiery trial was about to take place. (I Pet. 1:12)
- He wanted the entire church family to be prepared to endure suffering.
- Suffering. . . that is the norm of the Christian life. The main subject in I Peter is suffering -- suffering because of our faith, suffering as a means of purifying, and suffering in the will of God as a testimony of God's grace.
- In this life it is a walk from grace to glory. All we have is ours by grace and we are in a walk unto glory.

I. IN THIS WALK. . . BE HUMBLE: (5:5-7)

Peter had already urged the saints to be submissive to governmental authorities in 1:13-17; slaves to submit to their master in 2:18-25; and the wives to submit to their husbands in chapter 3:1-6. Now Paul commanded all the believers to submit to God and to each other.

Younger believers should submit to the older believers not to bring a generation war into the church instead they were to be subject to their elders. And to show forth respect for the elders. All should submit to one another and all to God. We are to be clothed with humility. (Cf. Jh . 13; Phil. 2:5-11)

We can never be in right relationship with one another without first being submissive to God. (Cf. James 4:6)

God resists the proud; God hates the sin of pride. (Prov. 6:16-17) It was pride that stirred the heart of Lucifer unto Satan. (Isa. 14:12-15) It was pride -- to be like God that stirred Eve to take the forbidden fruit. It is the pride of life (I Jh . 2:15-17) that we so often succumb to and it is an evidence of worldliness.

Submission is a act of faith: We must be trusting God to direct our lives and to work out His purposes in His time. There may be danger in submitting to others, at times but **not** if we trust God, and if we are truly submitted to one another. The mighty hand of God will direct us. The key is “**in due time**” God never exalt anyone until that person is ready for it first.

The “**way of the crown , is the way of the cross**” first the **cross then the crown**. First suffering, then the glory. Moses was under God's hand for 40 years before God sent him to deliver the Jews from Egypt. Joseph was under God's hand for at least 13 years before God lifted him to the throne.

In this relationship God has promised to care for us. We have the privilege of letting HIM take care of our burdens. We are to cast all our care upon HIM. Cast your anxiety... **the state of feeling pulled apart**. When circumstances are difficult it is easy for us to be anxious and worried. But if we are we will miss the blessing of rest in Him and we become poor witnesses of His power and love. Do it once for all... decide to live a life of trust, of total dependency, of casting all your cares -- past, present, future. (Phil. 4:6-8; Psa. 55:22) Not cast them piece meal but once for all, if we keep the little cares they soon become big problems. Learn to live a life of truth, of dependence, of rest in Him.

II. IN THIS WALK . . . BE WATCHFUL: (I Pet. 5:8-9)

One of the reasons we have cares is we have an enemy. He is satan, meaning adversary; he is the devil meaning the accuser, the slanderer. He attacks for he works to bring us into fiery trials.

Respect Satan -- for he is dangerous; He is a dangerous foe; He is a serpent who can bite us when we least expect it; he is a destroyer; He has great power; intelligence, and a host of demons who assist him in his attacks against God's people. (Eph. 6:10-14) He is a formidable enemy and we must never joke about him, ignore him, or underestimate his ability. We must be sober... have our minds under control for to be sober means to be serious minded. But not seeing a demon behind every bush; blaming satan for their headaches, flat tires, high rent, etc. While he can inflict physical sickness, pain (Lk. 13:16 and the book of Job) we have no biblical authority for casting our *demons of headaches or backaches. etc.*

Recognize Him -- as the great pretender: (II Cor.11:13-15; Jh . 8:44) He is a subtle foe, thus be vigilant, always on guard. His strategy is to counterfeit whatever God does. In the parable of the tares he is working to bring the counterfeit into the church. (Matthew 13) He will work to deceive us. We must know the Word of God and be lead by the Spirit of God.

Resist Him -- as the enemy of our souls: (James 4:7-9) Refuse to be moved. (Eph. 6:10-18) Our weapons are the Word of God and prayer. Our protection is the complete armour of God; whom resist steadfast in the faith. Never try to fight Satan in your own way... resist Him as Christ did, with the Word of God. (Matt. 4:1-11; James 4:7) Never get the idea that you are the only one going through these battles. We must pray one for the other, encourage one another in the Lord. Remember that our victories will help others.

III. IN THIS WALK . . . BE HOPEFUL: (I Peter 5:10)

We have God's grace; our salvation is because of His grace; (Eph. 2:8-9) Grace and peace is multiplied unto us. (II Pet. 1:2) We have tasted that the Lord is gracious. (I Pet. 2:3) We know the manifold grace of God. (I Pet. 4:10) He gives us grace when we are in need. (II Cor. 12:9; Heb. 4:16) He is the God of all grace. He gives more grace. (James 4:6) We are to stand in this grace. (I Pet. 5:12; Rom. 5:2)

We know we are going to glory; *"Called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus"* This is the wonderful inheritance into which we have been born. (I Pet. 1:4) Whatever begins with God's grace will always lead to God's glory. (Psa. 84:11) If we depend upon God's grace when we suffer -- then this suffering will result in glory. (I Pet. 4:13-16; I Pet. 5:10)

Our present suffering is only for a while. (I Pet. 1:6) We know that our trials are building our lives, our character: (I Pet. 5:10)

He will ***perfect you*** ---- meaning ***to equip; to adjust; to fit together:*** The word is translated *mending nets* in Matthew 4:21. God uses several tools to equip His people for life and service and suffering is one of them.

He is will ***establish you*** -- meaning to ***"fix firmly, to set fast"*** Our hearts need to be established (I Thess. 3:13; James 5:8) and this is accomplished by God's truth. (II Pet. 1:12) We need to be established so we will not move away when persecution or other difficulties come.

He will ***strengthen you*** - meaning just that - ***to strengthen, to give strength to meet the demands of life.*** We are set on the Rock -- Christ Jesus. We might be stable in Him -- who is the Rock.

He will ***settle you*** -- meaning ***to lay a foundation.*** It is used this way in Hebrews 1:10 about a foundation. In Matthew 7:24-27 about the house that was build upon a rock, that withstood the storm.

A believer is equipped by God to “*continue in the faith grounded and settled.*”
(Col. 1:23; 2:6-7)