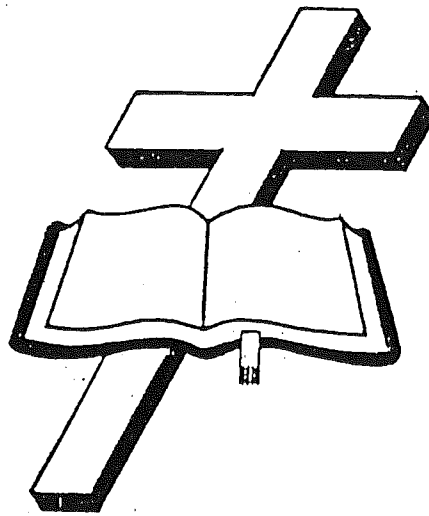


SUFFERING WITH RESISTANCE

(How God's Grace Enables You To Stand Firm)
I Peter 5:1-11



“WHOM RESIST STEADFAST”

- ◆ Arrogance and Pride
- ◆ Anxiety and Worry
- ◆ The Adversary

“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8)

Bill Kirk

“SUFFERING WITH RESISTANCE”

Text: I Peter 5:1-11
Subject: How God Gives Us Grace To Withstand

Introduction

I Peter is written to help believers who suffer through adversity.

- ◆ In chapter 1, “How To Suffer With *Joy*”
- ◆ In chapter 2, “How To Suffer With *Patience*”
- ◆ In chapter 3, “How To Suffer With *Forgiveness*”
- ◆ In chapter 4, “How To Suffer With *Power*”
- ◆ In chapter 5, “An Incredible Conclusion To This Letter”

1. The Lord makes a passionate appeal.
2. There is an appeal to spiritual leaders.
3. There is an appeal to those who follow.
4. There is an appeal to resist satan.
5. There is an appeal to stand firm.

Question: Why does Peter begin chapter 5 with an appeal to the elders (or pastors)?

Answer: Because spiritual leadership is crucial in times of suffering, pain and disappointment.

Question: What is the priority of a pastor?

Answer: (3 things above all else).

#1. Lead

#2. Feed

#3. Protect

In verse 2, “Feed the flock of God among you” (Means:)

- ◆ To teach the word in a systematic way.
- ◆ To shepherd (or protect) the flock from danger.
- ◆ To care for the sheep as God’s under-shepherd.

(“The Flock of God” Means:)

- ◆ You belong to the Lord (not the pastor)
- ◆ And it is a sacred trust (under God) to pastor and protect and care for people who love God.

In verse 2, “Taking the oversight thereof” (Means:)

- ◆ To lead and be responsible for the well-being of the local congregation.
- ◆ To exercise authority under God (but not in a dictatorial way).

In verse 3, “Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being examples to the flock” (Means:)

- ◆ Spiritual leaders don’t lord it over people in a high-handed way.
- ◆ They don’t rule from title or position.
- ◆ But they lead by example and character.

(John Maxwell Says:)

“If you have to tell people that you’re the leader, then you’re not the leader”

Question: What does the Lord want every person in the body of Christ to have (especially when they are vulnerable in times of pain, disappointment and suffering)?

Answer: A pastor that knows their priorities – To lead, feed, and protect the flock of God.

Question: What does the Lord want you to know about suffering to overcome it? (Pg. 1 of 5)

Answer: Two absolutes that make you strong?

I. **Suffering Involves *Resistance*** (Vs. 5-7)

Question: What must we resist, especially when we suffer, or are offended, or experience great pain?

Question: What is it to avoid when you're going through a tough time?

#1. **We resist all arrogance and pride** (Vs. 5-6)

Question: How does the Lord describe this?

- ◆ V. 5, "Submit yourselves unto the elder"
- ◆ V. 5, "Be subject one to another"
- ◆ V. 5, "Be clothed with humility"
- ◆ V. 6, "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God"

Question: What does it all mean?

Answer: It means resist the temptation to let pride make you angry and bitter.

1. The word "Subject" (HOPOTAGETE) means:
"To place oneself under the authority of another"
2. The word "Clothed" (EGKOMBOSASTHE) means:
"To put on a slaves apron tightly, to leave the body free for action"
3. The word "Humility" means:
"To make a proper estimate of one's self"

Question: What is God's advice to those tempted and tried by suffering?

Answer: Don't allow pride to justify any revenge, retaliation, bitterness, unforgiveness or resentment.

Question: Why so important?

Answer: (V. 5) Because "God resists the proud"

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Divine favor and blessing will be upon those who humble themselves. **(But)**
- ◆ Divine opposition will come to the proud.

#2. **We resist Anxiety and Worry** (V. 7)

Question: What do we have to stand up against in times of intense suffering, pain or disappointment?

Answer: We resist the temptation to be anxious, worried and fall to pieces!

Question: What does it mean to "Cast all your care upon the Lord"?

- ◆ The word "cast" is a Greek word that means: "The definite act of handing over the burden of anxiety".
- ◆ This word "cast" (EPIRIPTEIN) is only found one other place in the New Testament. Luke 19:35...
- ◆ ...It was used to describe the disciples casting their clothes upon the animal, so letting it carry their garments.

Question: What's the word of the Lord to us?

Answer: ◆ Instead of being anxious and distracted,
◆ Hand over your burdens (deliberately) to the Lord.

Question: What is worry?

Answer: Worry is accepting responsibility that God never intended for us to carry!

Question: What is futility?

Answer: Worry about things over which we have no control.

#1. We resist all pride and arrogance by humility of spirit.

#2. We resist anxiety by handing over to God the things outside of our control.

#3. We resist The Adversary of Our Souls (Vs. 8, 9)

(V.8) "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour"

◆ The word "Sober" (NEPHATE) means:

1. To be controlled (and)
2. To not live in indulgences.

◆ The word "Vigilant" (GREGORESATE) means:

1. To be watchful and awake
2. To be constantly on the lookout.

Question: Why live sober and vigilant?

Answer: Because the devil is real, sin is powerful, and, our flesh is weak!

Question: What is sin like?

Answer: Its like a roaring lion (or ferocious)

- ◆ Evil spirits that oppose God are at work.
- ◆ Demonic activity seeks to deceive and destroy.
- ◆ Strategies of darkness want to lull us to sleep.

Question: What's God's advice to each of us?

Answer: (V. 9) "Whom resist steadfast in the faith"

◆ The word "Resist" (ANTISTETE) means:

- #1. "To withstand"
- #2. "To stand firm against"
- #3. "To oppose with diligence"

Question: How do we resist and fight against principalities and powers of darkness?

- #1. We stand on the Name of Jesus (which is our authority)
- #2. We stand on the Blood of Jesus (which is our acceptance)
- #3. We stand on the Cross of Jesus (which is our armor)
- #4. We stand on the Word of Jesus (which is our assurance)

Question: Why do we withstand evil in the day of fiery darts?

Answer: Because we stand in the victory of Calvary (and) we enforce what Jesus purchased already.

#1. Suffering Involves Resistance

II. Suffering Involves A Resource (V. 10)

Question: Pastor, what's my resource when the enemy comes in like a flood?

Question: What enables me to resist steadfast in the faith?

Question: What is it that sustains me (like it sustained believers in Peter's day)? (Pg. 3 of 5)

(Verse 10) "But the God of all Grace"

Question: What's the resource available to us all?

Answer: "The God Of All Grace"

Question: What does the word mean when it says that "God is the God of all grace"?

- ◆ Peter closes his letter as he began it.
- ◆ He rejoices in the sufficient grace of God.
- ◆ He wants the reader to know something:

(What Is It?)

- ◆ That the grace of God will sustain those who are suffering fiery trial
- ◆ That God will prove sufficient for every demand made upon you.

Question: Why this word from God (through Peter) to the believers?

- ◆ Because it's a great encouragement!
- ◆ Because it's a dependable reality!

(Jesus Told Paul)

"My *grace* is sufficient for thee, for My *strength* is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9)

Question: What does Jesus mean when He says, "My *Grace* is sufficient for thee?"

Fact: Paul was hoping for a "yes" answer to his thorn removed.

Fact: But Paul was allowed to keep what was buffeting him.

Question: Do you have any thorns pricking you?

Question: Any sharp things cut your heart lately?

Question: Any distress, irritations or pain at present?

Question: Has a thorn in life brought you low or weighted you down?

(If so – God has good news for you) What is it?

"My *Grace* is sufficient for You" What's it mean?

"*Grace*" (means:) #1. Divine Support (and) #2. Provision as needed

"*Sufficient*" (means:) #1. There is never a shortage (and) #2. It can never run out

- ◆ Put the two words together and you get "*Sufficient Grace*"

(Jesus Is Saying)

#1. "I will not only be your Divine support and provision" (But)

#2. "I will prove to be sufficient (or) never in shortage of what you need at the time you need it"

Question: Ever doubt this in the wilderness?

Question: Ever feel you can not bear up under trial?

Question: Ever believe you'll sink under the load and burden? (Then remember these words)

"My *Grace* Is Sufficient For You"

Question: What does it mean when Jesus says, "My *Strength* Is Made Perfect In Weakness"

Ask: Aren't we supposed to be self-sufficient?

Ask: Aren't we supposed to be self-confident?

Ask: Aren't we supposed to be self-made?

(Jesus Is Saying)

“The strength which I give is manifested when My people feel their weakness”

Fact: It's not imparted to those who feel they are strong.

Fact: It's not given to those who feel no need of Divine help.

Fact: It's not poured out to those who believe they can make it without God.

“My Strength Is Made Perfect In Weakness”

(Means:)

- #1. That when I am conscious I am feeble,
- #2. That when I know my flesh is weak,
- #3. That when I acknowledge I am zero without God, **(It's Then And Only Then)**

◆ That Jesus manifests His power to uphold you **(and)**

◆ Imparts His strength to sustain you!

(In Other Words)

- #1. God's power is increased continually as my weakness is admitted.
- #2. The more I see my own weakness, the wider the door of God's grace is opened.

Illustration

- 1. In Southern France stands the Tower of Constance.
- 2. In the 18th century, Huguenot women were imprisoned in the tower for decades.
- 3. Why? Because they refused to surrender their reformed faith.
- 4. In the room of captivity, Marie Durand entered in 1729 when she was 15 years old.
- 5. Three years later, her brother Pierre was hanged at Montpellier.
- 6. In 1745, Marie was offered freedom if she promised to renounce protestant worship.
- 7. She refused all offers and remained imprisoned for 38 years. (Where she began a ministry of encouragement by correspondence.

(How Could She Do This?)

◆ Because God is the God of all Grace!

Conclusion

- #1. Do you need grace to resist any arrogance or pride?
 - ◆ Has anyone injured you and you've been tempted to keep score, not forgive or justify ill will in your heart?
- #2. Do you need grace to resist anxiety or worry?
 - ◆ Are you carrying any burdens and weights that God wants to carry?
- #3. Do you need grace to resist the enemy of your soul in spiritual warfare?
 - ◆ Is there any compromise or sin that is seeking to devour you and your fullest potential?

(Altar Call)

Bill Kirk, Pastor

(Pg. 5 of 5)