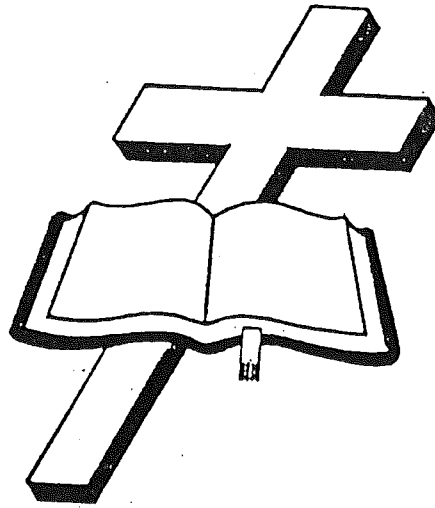


# SUFFERING WITH REWARD

(The Byproduct Of Suffering God's Way)  
I Peter 5:10



## Character Refined Is...

- ◆ Perfected
- ◆ Established
- ◆ Strengthened
- ◆ Settled

*“But the God of all grace...after you have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you” (I Peter 5:10)*

Bill Kirk

# “SUFFERING WITH REWARD”

**Text:** I Peter 5:10

**Subject:** The Benefit (or Reward) To Those Who Resist Evil And Receive God’s Grace

## Introduction

(Thus Far In Our Series)

- ◆ In chapter 1, Suffering with *Joy*. (I Peter 1:1-9)  
(How you will be tried by fire, but come out of the fire better off than you went in)
- ◆ In chapter 2, Suffering with *Patience*. (I Peter 2:19,20)  
(How you can do well and suffer for it, yet take it patiently instead of retaliate – because you want a clear conscience before God)
- ◆ In chapter 3, Suffering with *Forgiveness* (I Peter 3:10-18)  
(How you can love life and see good days by sanctifying the Lord in your heart – or keeping Him 1<sup>st</sup> place)
- ◆ In chapter 4, Suffering with *Power* (I Peter 4:12-19)  
(How the Spirit of God will rest upon you when you take a stand for the Name of Jesus)
- ◆ In chapter 5, Suffering with *Resistance* (I Peter 5:1-10)  
(How God gives us grace to resist arrogance, anxiety and the adversary of our souls)

(Today – From I Peter 5:10)

“Suffering With Reward”

(or)

(What’s the eventual byproduct of suffering – If we respond the proper way?)

(In Verse 10)

**Question:** What does it mean to be “Perfect”?

**Question:** What does it mean to be “Stablished”?

**Question:** What does it mean to be “Strengthened”?

**Question:** What does it mean to be “Settled”?

(God Reveals 3 Absolutes In Verse 10)

## I. The Calling Of Your Life

**Question:** How does Peter conclude his letter?

**Answer:** With a great reminder.

**Question:** What’s the great reminder in verse 10?

**Answer:** That you and I have a calling from God.

“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus”

**Question:** What’s the reminder to us all as we walk this earthly journey?

#1. That we all have a divine summons!

#2. That we all have a supernatural invitation!

#3. That we all have a royal command to remember!

(What Is It?)

- ◆ That God’s grace has saved us in the past and keeps us in the present, because there is an eternal glory in our future!

**Question:** What is the “Eternal Glory” you’ve been call to?

#1. It is the ultimate consummation of what we live for.

#2. It is the ultimate expectation of every believer.

#3. It is the prize that is eternal and will never fade, or be touched by sin, satan or the second death.

**(What Is It?)**

- ◆ It is the privilege and honor of living with Jesus forever in your glorified body in a real place called heaven.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ God wants you to go to heaven –not to hell.
- ◆ God wants you to enjoy Him forever.
- ◆ God wants you to live with joy for eternity.
- ◆ God wants you to be prepared to meet Him.
- ◆ God wants you to live now with great expectation.

**Question:** What is your calling?

**Answer:** Your calling is the eternal purpose for which you were created – to reside with Jesus when this life is over.

**II. The Contradiction Of Your Life**

**Question:** What is the contradiction that everyone must process in their thinking?

**Answer:** (Verse 10), “After that you have suffered a while”.

**Question:** What is the contradiction?

- #1. God gives us grace to sustain us in every season of life.
- #2. God has called us to enjoy Him both now on earth and eternally in heaven.

**(But in between getting saved on earth and graduating to eternal glory in heaven)**

**Question:** What do we have to do?

**Answer:** “After that you have suffered a while”

**Question:** What does it mean to “suffer a while”?

**(Remember Beloved)**

- ◆ Peter’s audience was suffering great pain.
- ◆ Peter’s readers were suffering severe trial.
- ◆ Peter’s recipients were being tried by fire.

**(So God Has A Word To The Heart)**

- #1. Suffering is a part of the Christian life. **(But Also)**
- #2. Suffering is only for “a while”.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Suffering at the time of suffering seems terminal.
- ◆ Suffering at the time of suffering seems forever.
- ◆ Suffering at the time experienced seems like it will never end.

**(But Guess What?)**

- ◆ All suffering is seasonal, ◆ All suffering is temporary, ◆ All suffering will pass.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ One of the greatest truths of life (when you are in pain is:) “This too shall pass”

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Wherever you are is not where you are staying.

**(It’s For “A While” Which Means:)**

- ◆ Wherever you are is only seasonal on your way to eternal glory.

### III. The Character Of Your Life

- #1. We've all been called by God to accept His invitation to live in eternal glory.
- #2. We've all been honestly told by God, that this life involves some suffering, pain and tears along the way.

#### (The Question Is:)

- ◆ What happens to you if you get saved, and then go through any suffering the right way?
- ◆ What's the result of remaining faithful to God in those difficult seasons?
- ◆ What's the reward of suffering (when you humble yourself and get grace from God)?

#### (The Reward Is Incredible Character)

**Question:** What does God do inside of you when you suffer in the present (yet keep your sights on your future glory)?

#### Verse 10

#### #1. God "Perfects" You:

- ◆ The word "Perfect" (KATARTISEI) means:
  - #1. To frame together
  - #2. To mend together
  - #3. To restore once again
- ◆ The word is a medical term that means, "To take broken limbs and restore them back into place"
- ◆ When Peter says "May the God of all grace perfect you" (He is saying:)
- ◆ That God will take your broken limbs in life and use them to glorify God in you.
- ◆ That God will use your hard places and hard times, to perfect His character in your inner man.
- ◆ That God will fit all the parts together, restore and mend your broken heart and when others see it, they will glorify God in you!!!

#### #2. God "Stablishes" You:

- ◆ The word "Stablish" (STERIXEI) Means:
  - #1. To make firm and solid
  - #2. To reinforce in steadfastness as God attaches you to Himself more and more.

#### (In Other Words)

- ◆ Some will allow their pain to detach them away from the Lord,
- ◆ While others will humble themselves and be attached more and more (closer to the Lord).

**Question:** Why is this so important?

**Answer:** Because when we become "Established",

- #1. We become immovable and unshakable in our faith.
- #2. We become dependable in our service.
- #3. We become consistent in our walk.
- #4. We become trustworthy in our relationships.
- #5. We become committed regardless of our feelings, the weather or the behavior of another.

#### #3. God "Strengthens" You:

- ◆ The word "Strengthen" (STHENOSEI) Means:
  - #1. To be filled with strength from God that is necessary to overcome temptation.
  - #2. To be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be able to withstand every attack.

#### (Paul Told The Ephesian Believers)

"Be strengthened with might by God's Spirit in your inner man" (Ephesians 3:16)

**(Paul Told The Believers At Colossae)**

**“Strengthened** with all might according to God’s glorious power” (Colossians 1:11)

**(Paul Told Timothy)**

“The Lord stood with me and **strengthened me** that all Gentiles might hear”  
(II Timothy 4:17)

**(The Lord Says To Us All)**

“Finally my brethren, **be strong** in the Lord, and in the power of His might” (Eph. 6:10)

**Question:** How many of you want to be strong in the Lord, in the power of His might?

#4. **God “Settles” You:**

◆ The word “Settle” (THEMELIOSEI) Means:

#1. To ground with security (and) #2. To secure as in a house foundation

**(It Means)**

◆ That your struggles in life can work for you (instead of against you)

**(It Means:)**

Like the Lord changed Peter from a “Reed” to a “Rock” (So the Lord)  
Can change in us what needs to be changed!!!

**Question:** Are you settled and secure?

**Question:** Are you building your life around that which can never be taken away?

**Question:** Are you putting down roots that can withstand the wind, rain and floods?

**Conclusion**

What’s the reward of the Christian who keeps their eyes on the Lord (while they experience pain on earth?)

#1. **“Perfected”** (God mends and restores your broken limbs for His ultimate glory)

#2. **“Established”** (God makes you firm by drawing you closer to Himself)

#3. **“Strengthened”** (God fills you with His Spirit and empowers you to stand and serve)

#4. **“Settled”** (God gives you security as you allow Him to change what needs to be changed)

**Question:** Do you need to be mended?

**Question:** Do you need to be closer?

**Question:** Do you need to be empowered?

**Question:** Do you need to be changed in any area of your life?

(Altar Call)

AMEN

Bill Kirk, Pastor