

Women's Bible Study
 1Peter 5:10-14
 January 24th, 2024 Sharyn Balogh

The two verses before this last section in chapter 5, gave us a warning of the importance of being vigilant in our faith, remaining on the alert for attack from the devil, and the encouragement that we are not alone in this fight – other believers are standing firm in their faith through difficulties. Now, we move on to the reminder of God's promises for those who believe in Him and persevere.

1Peter 5:10-11 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Remember the time in which this was written. Persecution of Christians was commonplace under Nero's reign. The expectation was that those who stood for Christ would suffer. This last chapter of 1Peter summarizes the Apostle's encouragement to the Christians who were scattered across Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). There was hope in the midst of suffering when focused on the future joy promised to those who believed. Peter well understood this; he was eventually martyred for his faith.

1Peter 4:12-14 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Jesus, after repeatedly asking the Apostle if he loved Him and giving instructions to Peter to 'tend His sheep', foretold Peter of the kind of death he would endure.

*John 21:18-19 "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He *said to him, "Follow Me!"*

Imagine being told you will be crucified for your belief. It is safe to say none of us will understand this type of suffering. What we can take away is that everything we do is to be an affirmation of our standing in Christ. All our life is to be for His glory. The difficulties we may experience give us opportunities to choose where our focus – either it will be on the present problem or on God's future kingdom.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

1Peter 4:11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Think upon the way God is described in 1Peter 5:10, **the God of all grace**. It is God's divine work in the heart which allows His reflection in our life so that we may endure all hardship in a manner which glorifies Himself. Without His grace we are unable to stand firm. One commentary explains these words as, "*The Fountain of infinite compassion, mercy, and goodness*", Adam Clarke. **'All'** means all – in every manner, in any circumstance, God's grace will carry His children through all problems whatsoever if they rely upon Him.

There is more... the God of all grace has **called you to His eternal glory in Christ**.

When we read these truths, how can we be disheartened? Rather, we should be greatly encouraged. So often, if we are not careful, we can find ourselves focusing on the minor problems we encounter rather than the major promise of God's love for us.

Are there any difficulties or problems bigger than God?

Do you genuinely believe in God's plan for your life and His power and protection in all circumstances?

How does your faith affect the way you respond to difficulty?

1Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2Corinthians 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2Thessalonians 2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

1Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

God will perfect you. He will use the trials in your life to complete the work of His grace, to fit you perfectly for Heaven. The word perfect, *katartizo*, is a building term as in framing a building, having each joint match up perfectly. The Apostle used this same analogy in *1Peter 2:5*, "*you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*".

If you have ever looked closely at an antique dresser, you will notice the joints used, called ‘dovetail’ joints, are perfectly fitted together to make the connection as strong as possible. God’s craftsmanship of our lives in Him is exact, it is perfect; He is fitting us for Heaven.

Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect [complete] it until the day of Christ Jesus.

*Hebrews 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, **equip you** [complete thoroughly, make perfect] in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

God will confirm you. He will resolutely turn you towards the direction which will set you on the right path. God will cause you to be steadfast; He will strengthen you as you find hope and peace in His truths. Think about this for a moment. *You do not need to figure everything out yourself!*

**You do not need to be smart enough,
or savvy enough, or strong enough, or even work hard enough.
You need to have faith enough,
to trust in God’s work in your life as you obey His Word.**

Confirm you, or ‘stablish’ (KJV) you, has its roots in the word *sterizo*, to “*Make you firm in every part; adapt you strongly to each other, so that you may be mutual supports, the whole building being one in the Lord*”. *Adam Clarke’s Commentary.*

*Romans 16:25 Now to Him **who is able to establish you** according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,*

*1Thessalonians 3:12-13 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; **so that He may establish** your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.*

God will strengthen you. *sthenoo* or *histemi* – same meaning. In spiritual knowledge and power; He will cause you to stand, He will hold you up. In Him you are able to resist temptations and move through difficulties in a way which honors His name. Again, it is God who will make you strong. He is fitting all things together perfectly for His glory. Think of the craftsmanship in carpentry mentioned earlier. When every joint is carefully put together, the resulting piece will last with no danger of breaking apart.

*Jude 1:24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and **to make you stand** in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior,*

through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

God will establish you, meaning He will settle you, or ground you. God is the foundation on which we stand. In His truth and grace we stand firm. He is immovable, He is certain, He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and nothing formed against His power will prevail.

Isaiah 54:17 "No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD.

*Matthew 7:24-25 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and **yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.**"*

*Ephesians 3:16-17 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and **grounded in love,***

*Colossians 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith **firmly established and steadfast,** and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.*

Do you have assurance that God's grace will hold you through all difficulties?

How does this assurance affect your response?

"... let us remember that we are creatures and servants, and He our Maker and Lord: consequently that to us belong submission, and obedience, and fidelity; to Him "glory, and dominion, for ever and ever, Amen." Dean Stanhope.

As we persevere in holiness, we can know that God's mighty hand will guide us and strengthen us. When we understand and ascribe that all grace is from God, that it is He who began the work of sanctification in us, it is He who continues this work, and He who will one day complete His work, then we will attribute all to His glory.

When you desire something intensely, there is nothing you will not be willing to do in order to attain it. Some may understand this by thinking back upon what you may have gone through to have a child. Or think of the endurance and pain willingly suffered by elite athletes to accomplish a goal. Perhaps the sacrifices made to achieve your education fits here – sleepless nights studying, pushing forth to pass a class or to be accepted into a program. **Think! God is preparing you for Heaven!** Be willing to trust Him and follow Him in obedience as He conforms you to the likeness of His Son.

To Him be dominion forever and ever. All praise and worship to God for who He is, for all He has done, and all He is doing. He has sovereign authority over all the earth and to

Him all glory is due. God is sufficient in all strength to accomplish His will. He is worthy of all praise.

Read Paul's words to Timothy – *1 Timothy 6:12-16 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time – He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

The Apostle ends this epistle with acknowledgement of a faithful brother in Christ, an exhortation to stand firm in the grace of God through all difficulties and persecutions, greetings from the church, and a reminder to show love to one another in the peace of Christ.

1Pe 5:12-14 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

Silvanus – a Christian, trustworthy, much like a brother, perhaps the same traveling companion mentioned in *1 Thessalonians*, “Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, to the church ...”. Silvanus functioned as a bearer of Peter's epistle, delivering it to the churches. This is Peter's commendation of Silvanus – they can trust his message to be sincere and true.

Stand firm in it! – in the grace of God as they had been, bearing witness to the truth of the Gospel.

She who is in Babylon – “At the foot of this epistle he sends them salutations from the Christians at Babylon, who were chosen out of the world, to partake in the faith and

fellowship of the gospel. Some, by Babylon, figuratively understand Rome, but others understand it of Babylon in Assyria, where many Jews did tarry, and continue after the expiration of the seventy years' captivity, whom St. Peter, being a minister of the circumcision, went to visit, having probably planted a church there. Wheresoever they were, God had called them to the knowledge of his gospel, and they send salutations to all their brethren and fellow-members in Christ, wheresoever dispersed, or howsoever distressed."

William Burkitt New Testament

My son, Mark – perhaps Peter's spiritual brother, John-Mark. Note: when Peter's chains fell off in prison and he was led out by an angel, he went to Mary's house who was John-Mark's mother, *Acts 12:6-17*.

Greet one another with a kiss of love – a reminder to have mutual affection for one another, unfeigned charity.

Peace be to you all who are in Christ – desiring every blessing for them as they persevere in their faith. **Think!** This was written to those who are in Christ; there is no peace for those who are not in Christ. Peace, quietness, and rest are only found at the foot of the cross.

Isaiah 57:21 "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Romans 1:7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I love the following, contained in the summary of one commentary, "God's words invite, solicit, and command assent; on them a man may confidently rely. The words of man may be true, but they are not infallible, this is the character of God's word alone." *Adam Clarke's Commentary*

Imagine your life void of peace. In this chapter of 1Peter we have read the Apostle's exhortation to the leaders of the church to care for the flock willingly, being examples to them. They are encouraged to continue, knowing their rewards are in Heaven. Those in the church are reminded to submit to their leaders and to have hearts of humility towards one another because it is God they serve as He cares for them. They are warned of the schemes

of the devil and charged to stand firm resisting his temptations. Even through persecution they are called to rely upon God's grace and strength. Peter's prayer for them is brotherly affection and peace as they live for Christ.

Apply It!

Pray for our elders and submit to their leadership.

Is your heart humble as you care for those around you?

How can you be careful to recognize and resist worldly temptations?

The peace of Christ is available to His children in all circumstances.

Is your heart peaceful regardless of the difficulty you may be experiencing?

Do you find yourself complaining, looking at everything that is wrong, rather than having a heart of thankfulness as you purpose to recognize your blessings?

Do you lift up your brothers and sisters in Christ's love and affection, encouraging them to abound in God's grace?