

Deeper Walk with God - 1 and 2 Peter

Serving and Suffering 1 Peter 5:1-14

Review: In the light of the persecution the church was facing Peter urged the believers to a deeper walk with God - **Be Holy**.

He then guided them to the ways to achieve that goal

By fitting into God's Plan Chapter 2

Recognizing who we are in Christ and what He is doing in us

By living our commitments Chapter 3

Fulfilling our commitments in the home, church and world

By entrusting all to Him Chapter 4

Trusting into His hands our salvation, relationships and hardships

Now he gives to us the tools of God - serving and suffering

I. How to Serve 1 Peter 5:1-5

A. Leadership in the Early Church

Not that of today - strict clergy and laity separation

3 titles of service - Elders (presbuteroi) presbyters - idea of experience, Bishops (episkopoi) episcopal - idea of overseers

Pastor/teachers (poimenes) shepherds - idea of feeding

Here - no article, not the Elders but rather (1) elders, (5) young men

B. Peter's role (remember his failures and victories)

Fellow Elder - shepherd - given to him by Christ **John 21:16**

Witness of suffering of Christ & Sharer of the glory

C. Leaders' instructions

1. Lead for the right reason- not compulsion but voluntarily
2. Lead with the right motive - not compensation but eagerness
3. Lead in the right manner - not commanding but by example

D. Leaders' attitude

1. Under authority
2. Clothed in humility
(Putting on apron to work)

II. How to Suffer 1 Peter 5:6-11

A. Humble yourself under God - His hand is almighty

- He will exalt the humble **Luke 14:11**

- Not putting yourself down but lifting God up

"If you are willing to be nothing, God will make something of you"

B. How to humble yourself

1. Trust God's timing -- **at proper time 6, a little while 10**
2. Give Him your anxiety
Worry is a form of pride = I must handle it myself

3. Recognize His love **He cares for us ---Unheard of!!**

4. Be aware of the enemies tactics

Satan- trapper Psalm 91:3, - angel of light 2 Cor. 11:14

Here - Roaring lion-

C. How to overcome

1. Don't Panic!!! God never rushes us

2. Resist the Devil

What about fleeing? We are to flee evil

1 Corinthians 6:18, 10:14, 1 Timothy 6:11 and 2 Timothy 2:22

3. Stand firm in faith - not sight

4. Be inspired and encouraged by the lives of others

D. Allow God to do His work in your lives 10

This verse is not a prayer but rather a statement!!

God is faithful and His timing is perfect

His work in us is not dependent upon our "works"

He will -**Perfect** - mend, complete, perfect

- **Confirm** - make stable, place firmly, set fast

- **Strengthen** - to make strong, vigor

- **Establish** - found upon strong foundation, stable

These are all works of God -not man

III. Conclusion of Book 1 Peter 5:12-14

A. Written by Paul - Scribe Silvanus - Consultant Mark

B. Purpose given

Exhorting - urging you on to deeper walk

Testifying - providing evidence of God grace

C. Fulfillment

Trust in the true grace of God, Stand firm in His grace

D. Final instructions - how to encourage each other

Love - holy kiss, Peace - greeting

Want to know how deep your walk is with God

Two areas - How do you serve?

Does someone have to force you?

What is your motivation?

Do you demand of others?

How do you suffer?

Do you complain to God? (And others?)

Do you panic and worry?

Do try to solve every problem yourself?