

“Victory.” As we begin this last study on faith from Peter’s epistle we call “First Peter,” we need to remember that the victory is not ours—it is the Lord’s. When we succeed and He is glorified, we have the victory through Him. When we succeed and He is not glorified, “I tell you the truth, [actually *amen*]” we “already have our reward in full” (Matthew 6:16). When we fail and He is glorified, we have the victory through Him. When we fail and He is not glorified, it’s simply called “justice.”

The victory that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus is a victory which awaits exaltation from the Lord God. It is the victory amidst a clear enemy outside of ourselves—Satan. It is Satan who seeks the weak and uses our suffering to find another follower. This victory comes from the God of all grace who has called us to His eternal glory. No δουλοι could wish for more.

SCRIPTURE REVIEW: 1 PETER 5:1-11

Context—1 Peter 5:1-5. So, to the leaders [pres-buet-oros) of the church among you, I speak to you as a fellow leader of the church. I am a witness to Christ’s sufferings, and one who will share in the glory yet to be revealed. I challenge you to work like shepherds—you have people who you serve as overseers, not because you must, but because you willing. God wants you to be shepherds of His flock of people—be not greedy for money—be eager to serve and serve to be eager. Don’t lord it over those who have been entrusted to you. Be a good example!

And, when the Head Shepherd appears, you will receive a taste of glory that does not fade away. Young men: in the same way as the elders, you are to be submissive to the older. May humility be your garment because God opposes the proud and gives the power to be righteous (grace) to the humble.

- Q What behaviors and attitudes are manifested in an overseer who is a willing elder, rather than one “who must?”
- Q What are the spiritual and pragmatic implications of Holy Spirit commanding elders to be shepherds of the flock? [Hints: who owns the sheep? How do we distinguish between “lording it over” and providing strong leadership? What are some example of elders providing a good example for the flock? Bad examples?]
- Q How does humility serve the flock, and the elders, well?

1 PETER 5:1-5

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: <sup>2</sup>Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup>not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

<sup>5</sup>Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” [Proverbs 3:34]

1 Peter 5:6-11. So, humble yourselves. Remember you are under God's mighty power; He will lift you up in due time. Cast your anxieties, fears, and apprehensions on Him! Why? Because He loves you, cares for you, and wants you to succeed.<sup>19</sup>

How? Be self-controlled and alert. Satan is like a roaring lion seeking the weak within the flock—the young and the ill. Look out especially for those who are young in the faith and suffering from spiritual illness.



## 1 PETER 5:6-11

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

<sup>8</sup>Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

<sup>10</sup>And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Resist Satan by standing firm *εν* the faith. You're not alone—believers throughout the world are suffering in similar kinds of ways.

Here's the bottom line—the God of all power to be righteous (grace) has called you to participate in God's eternal glory through the Christ. This will happen after you have suffered for a time, and then God will Himself restore you, making you strong, firm and

steadfast. May God be the power for ever and ever. So be it.

- Q What is the advantage of being humble, especially when working under the Lord God's authority?
- Q People often use "the authority of God" to support what they want to do, or others to do, or not do. How do we segregate our sense of authority from the Lord God's authority?
- Q Why is Satan our enemy? For what purpose does he take on the nature of a prowling lion?
- Q What does it mean to be "devoured" [καταπίνω, ka-ta-pein-o, 2666, drink down, swallow, devour, destroy, consume] by Satan?
- Q Why are lions not always prowling in the jungle? [See the previous page.]
- Q Resisting Satan normal human being seems futile. What advice does Peter provide here? Why does that advice work?

<sup>19</sup>We need to remember that the victory is not ours—it is the Lord's. When we succeed and He is glorified, we have the victory *through* Him. When we "succeed" and He is not glorified, "I tell you the truth, we "already have our reward in full" (Matthew 6:16). When we fail and He is glorified, we have the victory through Him. When we fail and He is not glorified, we have justice.

- Q Why is it spiritually pragmatic to know there are others suffering also for the faith?
- Q Why is the Lord God Jehovah “the God of all grace?”
- Q Why has He called us to His eternal glory in the Christ?
- Q How long are we to suffer before enjoying the victory of being restored to the “God of all grace?” Why is a lifetime of suffering called a “little while” by Peter?
- Q What will be made strong, firm, and steadfast?
- Q What are we praying when we say that the power be His for ever and ever?

I’ve had the help of Silas who I consider to be a faithful brother, and with his help, I have written to you briefly. I tried to encourage and testify just what is the true gift of the Lord God. I challenge you to stand firm within and for that gift.

Those in Babylon [Rome?] who are also chosen by the Lord God send their hello’s, and so does my son Mark. Remember to greet one another with love—a holy kiss as it were. Reconciliation with the Lord God for all who are in the Christ.

### 1 PETER 5:12-14

With the help of Silas [Greek *Silvanus*, a variant of Silas], whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

<sup>13</sup>She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

<sup>14</sup>Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

- Q Why is knowing Silas, the faithful brother, mentioned regarding this “brief letter?”
- Q Why would Peter refer to Rome as Babylon? Or is it actually Babylon the city?<sup>20</sup>
- Q Did Peter take over being Mark’s mentor here for awhile?
- Q Just what is Peter calling for when saying, “Greet one another with a kiss of love?”
- Q Just what is Peter extending/declaring to all those who are *ev* the Christ?

<sup>20</sup>The NIV, 1985 Commentary says—

Peter indicates that he was in Babylon when he wrote 1 Peter. Among the interpretations that have been suggested are that he was writing from:

- (1) Egyptian Babylon, which was a military post, (2) Mesopotamian Babylon, (3) Jerusalem and (4) Rome.

Peter may well be using the name “Babylon” symbolically, as it seems to be used in the book of Revelation (see Rev 17:9-10). Tradition connects him in the latter part of his life with Rome, and certain early writers held that 1 Peter was written there. On the other hand, it is known that Babylon existed in the first century as a small town on the Euphrates. Furthermore, it is pointed out that (1) there is no evidence that the term Babylon was used figuratively to refer to Rome until Revelation was written (pre 70AD or perhaps even 96AD), and (2) the context of 5:13 is not at all figurative or cryptic.