

## **HUMILITY through SUFFERING**

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Let's open our Bibles this morning to 1 Peter, chapter 5. If you need a Bible, please raise your hand and one of our ushers will bring one around to you.

The title of this morning's message is "**Humility in our Suffering.**"

I think this morning's passage has a very important message for each of us here today. But, if we're not careful – we're going to miss what God wants to say to us – for a number of reasons!

In 1 Peter, chapter 5, Peter reminds each of us that we all have our struggles. We all have our issues! And, left alone to deal with these issues, it can be a dangerous thing.

Dealing with struggles in life can be very overwhelming! IF – we try to go them alone... If we let our PRIDE stand in the way of what God wants to do in our lives, we will never get past the here and now.

But, Peter says here today – we must learn to walk through life – with HUMILITY – and we need to learn to do it TOGETHER.

***There are four points we are going to explore today as we go through our passage, and my prayer for you is they would really take root:***

**FIRST:** (In our sufferings) We need to learn to be submissive to one another. We need to learn that it's OKAY to share life's struggles with the person next to

you! We can let our guard down around each other a bit, because we are the church – we are the body of Christ, and we know from 1 Corinthians 12 that whenever one part of the body suffers... the entire body suffers. **Many of us know that just from old age** 😊.

**SECOND** (and this is not in respective order): We must learn to submit to GOD. If we are unable to place our trust in God as our Savior, He will never be able to be Lord over our lives. God calls us to humble ourselves – and submit – to His mighty hand in our lives.

**THIRD**: Peter warns us we need to WAKE UP! When you've submitted yourself to God's plan, you can't just fall asleep and turn on Auto-Pilot. You need to be ALERT! Lest the devil swoop in and knock you off your feet.

And, **FINALLY** – Peter encourages us to learn to TRUST God in ALL that we do. In ALL of the struggles life has to offer, we need to learn to allow God to have His perfect way with us – to TRUST Him through our sufferings – and to allow God to perfect us, to establish us, strengthen us, and settle us – as whole Christians.

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**Let's read the text this morning from 1 Peter, chapter 5, verses 5-11:**

**Peter says this:**

*<sup>5</sup> Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for*

*“God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble.”*

*<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

*<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. <sup>10</sup> But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. <sup>11</sup> To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

## **LET'S PRAY.**

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You know, humility is a tricky thing.

When I think of the word, "humility," I don't think of humbling myself, like Peter speaks of here...

See, I think of being "HUMILIATED," as in – everyone just saw me do that embarrassing thing and now they're all looking at me!

NOBODY likes to be humiliated!

And we all know there are many ways to be humiliated without even trying.

You could:

1. **Have an entire conversation** with someone without realizing there's food in your teeth.
2. **Stand in line** at the store with a long line of people behind you, only to have your credit card act up or decline.
3. **Wave at someone**, only to realize they're not actually waving at you.

4. **Clog a toilet** at a friend's house. And, then you've got to decide whether or not you're going to tell them or just leave it. That gets awkward REAL quick.
5. There's the age-old... **falling down in public**. If you're graceful, you turn it into a dance move – but it's hard to pull that one off.

With so many things out there that could NATURALLY humble us, who wants to attempt to try our own humbling?

But, Peter says to each of us here this morning – we all need to humble OURSELVES! We need to actually **CHOOSE** to bring humility upon ourselves.

Not in the embarrassing kind of way – he's not telling you to bend over and split your pants in public so people can laugh at you...

But, he IS saying we could all use a little humbling if we truly want to allow God to work in our lives.

Look at how many times Peter mentions something about humility just in the first two verses of our text this morning:

**He says:**

- **"SUBMIT yourselves – to your elders."** (v5)
- **"...be SUBMISSIVE to one another..."** (v5)
- **"...be CLOTHED in humility..."** (v5)
- **"God gives grace to the humble."** (v5)
- **"Therefore – HUMBLE yourselves – under God's mighty hand."** (v6)

SEVERAL times – in barely two verses – he uses words relating to humility – but in each of these exhortations, Peter is telling us that THIS type of humility... needs to come from within ourselves. It needs to start with US.

He doesn't say, "GOD will make you humble." Although, God COULD do that. And sometimes God does.

He doesn't say, "Go make a FOOL out of yourself so others will laugh at you and keep you grounded."

NO – Peter says, "YOU – do the humbling in your own life. Each of YOU – humble yourselves."

And – here's the kicker – he starts off telling every one of us here today to **BE SUBMISSIVE TO ONE ANOTHER.**

Why is Peter stressing the idea of humility so much in these two verses?

Well, I believe he starts to uncover the reason why in the verses that follow.

And, we'll cover those this morning, but, FIRST – I want us to take a look at something very important that Peter points out to each of us, right here in this room:

Peter first tells us in verse 5: "...you YOUNGER people, submit yourselves to your elders."

**I bet young people never get tired of hearing that 😊.**

All the younger here today are rolling their eyes – because they've heard that a time or two, huh!?

Often times – even in the church – the younger roll their eyes at the older – while the older shake their heads at the younger!

Many young people look at an older person and immediately dismiss them. There are times when the older generation comes down on the younger generation with a disappointing attitude towards them. No young person wants to be told how to live their lives! The younger are tired of hearing, “Kids these days are so immature.” “When I was a youth, we did things MUCH different.” “I had a job at the age of 12, there were only 3 channels on TV, and by golly... we respected our elders! Things are much different now-a-days.”

I’ve got to say, it does make it a lot harder for a younger person to respect an elder when these are the words they hear.

But, for the younger people here today, I also need to tell you something! God has placed older people in your life – and you can learn a thing or two from them. God has placed some older people in your life – to come along side of you, and to share your burdens with you, and pray with you, and to help lift you up in your times of struggles.

Especially those who are older CHRISTIANS! Those here in the church!

Don’t be so quick to dismiss the help of an elder. And, remember – one day, you will become an elder in someone else’s life. How will YOU handle that position of leadership?

It’s been said, “Today’s mighty oak is just yesterday’s nut that held its ground.”



It’s true! Today, the younger complain about what the older don’t know how to do on anything with electricity, while the older complain that the younger don’t understand what a good ole fashion book feels like!

The reasons for any generational gap are endless! There are misunderstandings and differences in lifestyles, backgrounds, cultures, education – let’s face it; the younger and the older just have different mindsets!

**HEY – the generation-gap can be summed up by one major issue – the younger wear their pants too low, while the older wear them too high!** 😊

***I'm just kidding.***

But, what Peter is saying here, is – “Hey, you who are younger... God has placed elders in your life. God has placed those who are OLDER than you... who (most likely) have a little more wisdom than you... but God has placed some people in your life – specifically right here in the church – who you need to learn to submit yourself to.” And for a specific purpose!

Now, Peter isn't trying to convict the younger and say you have been disrespectful to your elders. Peter is specifically speaking of the “elder” as those who have an AUTHORITY in the church, who maybe ARE a little older, maybe wiser, and more mature Christians – who maybe the younger, with NOT as much wisdom – and life-experience – can look UP to for help in their time of need.

But - it doesn't take long for Peter to realize the wisdom in the words that are flowing out onto the page – not just for the younger, but for the older, too! Really – for everyone!

Look at what he says next, in the second half of verse 5:

*“Yes, ALL of you... be submissive to one ANOTHER.”*

It's so interesting and I LOVE Peter's choice of words, here.

He's speaking to the younger people, addressing a huge issue that many younger people deal with – a sense of pride that comes along with just being young... and wanting to learn how to do things on their own...

But he quickly shifts his thinking to include everyone! It's as if he was saying, "Now that I think about it... 'Yes, ALL of you be submissive to one another!'"

Not just the younger to the older, but even the older to the younger!

WHOOAAAAH!!!

Back up just a moment.

"I'm not going to submit myself to a younger, know-it-all, who won't listen to anything I say..."

Well, this doesn't mean you have to submit your WILL to a younger person – or take DIRECTION from the younger... It simply means that if we are to be the church body, we can't look at either other with contempt, for whatever reason.

Don't be overtaken by the attitude of an ungrateful person who wants nothing to do with you because you're older. Take time to get to know them and figure out how best to minister to them!

Peter soon realized that, no more than getting the previous words out of his mouth, there is a certain sense of humility that needs to be present among ALL of God's people.

If we are going to call ourselves the church body, we can't be "the younger over here," and "the older over there..."

If we are going to BE the church body – we must all learn to be submissive to one ANOTHER in service to one another.



And, what does that look like?

Peter goes on to say, again, in verse 5:

*“...and be CLOTHED in humility.”*

This word, “clothed,” is the same word as what was used to describe the apron of slaves, which was what set slaves apart from the freemen.

The idea here, behind this phrase, “clothe yourself in humility” means “EVERYONE (yes, everyone) – puts on their ‘humble-clothes’ – in order to serve everyone else around them. To “clothe yourself” in humility looks like that of what a servant would do. They serve. They wait on each other. They help each other. They do things for each other. They go above and beyond for each other. They share life together with one another.

That word, clothed, actually means a “knot or a band by which two things are fastened together.”

If we are going to follow Peter’s exhortation here, of being “clothed in humility” – and submitting everyone to one another, we are going to have to look outside of our own, little world – and we’re going to need to start looking around at who we can attach ourselves to in life.

When we approach each other with this type of humility, we’re choosing to fasten ourselves together with one another.

Hey, you older: find a younger person to attach yourself to – and help lift them up in their time of need.

“Likewise, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.” Listen to them. Share life with them. Glean wisdom from them.

Let’s learn be a church who is submissive to one another, clothed in humility, serving one another.

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Peter also stresses the point that not only should we be submissive to each other... but we need to **SUBMIT TO GOD**.

When we refuse to share life with each other, look at what Peter says next: *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

Peter says, “God RESISTS ... He RESISTS those with pride. BUT – He gives GRACE to those who are humble...”

It's said that “Grace is getting what you DON'T deserve.” But, many of us tend to decide what it is that we do and don't deserve. Unfortunately, that's not the way it works. We all deserve death and Hell, but because of God's grace... because of His unmerited favor... He made sure we had a different option.

Satan was cast out of Heaven because of his pride – and he would love nothing more than for you to say, “I have no need of God. I can do things just fine on my own.” Pride will prevent us from moving forward with God. That's why Peter stresses the importance here that, “God RESISTS that way of thinking, but God gives grace to those who humble themselves under God's mighty hand.”

Peter continues this thought by saying in verse 6: *“THEREFORE...”* In light of what? Keeping in mind that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble, *“Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time...”*

I love this picture of God's mighty hand. Notice, too, Peter says, humble yourselves "under" the mighty hand of God. Not on top. Not beside. Not hand-in-hand, as an equal. But, "under."

But, it doesn't end there, does it?

The rest of this verse goes on to say, "...*casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*"

Do you know that God cares for you? I know you've HEARD it before. "Jesus loves me, this I KNOW." But, do you really KNOW of His care He has for you?

Luke 12:7 says, "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." Does God care for you? I believe He does – in great detail, it seems! To the point that He would number every hair on your head.

*If you don't have any hair on your head, I would be a little worried 😊. I'm just kidding. He just wanted you to have fewer things to care about than others 😊.*

We can't forget that God created man in His own image – male and female, we're told, He created them (Genesis 1:27). He cares in great detail for each of us. God told Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you" – I called you out – I set you APART. I formed you --- with special purpose. And God made YOU with that same design.

David said it, too, in Psalm 139 (v13-16) – "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made (or separated, distinguished – set apart); Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book

they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”

“Skillfully wrought” implies working all these things together, weaving and embroidering pieces together, creating a very skillful masterpiece.

Picture a wrought-iron fence – the details, the intricacies, the skill of weaving all the different pieces in and out of each other to create something so beautiful.

And that’s what God did for YOU!

God also set YOU apart from the womb – with special purpose! He doesn’t want to see you consumed by the world’s worries.

In the Parable of the Sower, this is what Jesus said about the cares of the world: “Now the ones [**seeds**] that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.” (Luke 8:14)

Did you hear that? The cares of this world... will choke you – and rob you of all that God has to offer by His riches in Christ Jesus. Don’t keep those cares for yourself. We need to learn to give those cares of ours to God. Not only that, He calls us to CAST those burdens on Him! That word, “cast,” literally means to “THROW OFF!” God tells us, “Don’t hobble around crippled by your cares and burdens – THROW those burdens off on Me!”

But, we must – humble **OURSELVES** – in order to bring our cares to Jesus – and then cast them upon Him.

Jesus told us, in Matthew 11:29-30, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart (here, we see a picture of Jesus’s humility), and [He says] you WILL find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy – and My burden is light.”

See, Jesus calls us to EXCHANGE our load... our worries... our anxieties... our cares... for His. And guess what? His care? His “burden”... is light.

In fact, it's so light, it's FREEING! One form of the word, “burden,” in Matthew 11 literally means “faults of the conscience which oppress the soul.”

When we THROW our burdens on God, when we cast our cares on Him, we become FREE! We give up the cares that choke us – and receive a conscience that is free of fault and oppression within. So, does God care for you? I would say He does.

God showed us how much His care is for us, “... in that while we were still sinners, Christ DIED for us.” (Romans 5:8). He's not waiting for you to become SINLESS and to get your life right with Him to show you His love – He's showed you His love already – in order to COVER your sins and to make your life right. And He calls us to CAST our cares on Him, because, yes... believe it or not – He cares – for US.

But, when we choose Google over God – it is our pride (and maybe lack of faith) that prevents us from being able to cast our cares upon the One Who made us – and understands us – better than anyone or anything else.

What is it you worry about?

Are you able to hand those cares over to God? Do you trust Him enough to know He will take those cares from you and exchange them for the feeling of freedom?

Submitting to God in our suffering is an important step:

It's been said, “We must be able to bow before God before we can ever stand against the devil.”

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Peter says:

**SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER,  
SUBMIT TO GOD,**

and now he continues in verse 8, saying: **WAKE UP!**

He says, “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*”

“Whoa, Peter – way to just change the subject all of a sudden, brother! What’s that all about?” 😊

But, I think Peter was dead on:

You can’t just throw all your worries away and then turn around and stand in a wide, open field with Satan as your predator as if you’re “untouchable”!

Peter says, “Would you please - WAKE UP?! Be sober! Be alert! Be clear-minded! Be – **humble** – lest you think too highly of yourself and let your guard down... and open yourself up for attack.”

Peter says, “... *your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*”

And, we are to “*RESIST him [the devil], steadfast in the faith...*”

That very word, “resist,” means to “STAND AGAINST.” We are to stand against Satan, our “adversary,” the “roaring lion.” And we are to be STEADFAST in our faith.

We know from Revelation 12:10 that Satan is our accuser, and he accuses us day and night before God. He is relentless in his attempts to accuse us and discredit us and our witness. He is constantly reminding us of our sin and our unworthiness before God. He tries to make us doubt our salvation and our own worth.

It’s interesting that Satan is called our “adversary,” or “opposer.” But, now we are told to “oppose” him!

And – take special note of the wording, here – we are not told to **RUN**; we are told to RESIST. We are not told to FLEE from Satan; instead, we are to STAND FIRM – and stand AGAINST him.

Satan is seeking whom he MAY devour – not those he WILL devour!

I read recently that a lion’s kill rate is only 1 out of every 6 attempts. Can you believe that? Out of every 6 attempts to devour its prey, a lion only succeeds 1 time? I just assumed if a lion wants to devour you – he’ll swallow you up 1 out of every 1 time!

Hey - the odds are in our favor! But, Peter says we must be sober, vigilant – and STEADFAST in our faith – and our attempts to outwit our adversary. We are to stand FIRM and IMMOVABLE in our faith. We need to be clear – and send the message that we are not on the menu!

We can’t forget Paul’s instructions to the Ephesians in Ephesians chapter 6 - “Be STRONG in the Lord — and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to” what? “STAND AGAINST the wiles of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:10-11).

What is our best weapon of spiritual warfare against Satan? The very Word of God! This is why you need to get to know your Bible. You need to know God's promises and God's game plan. You need to know how to defend yourself against your accuser.

Because the devil is a liar! And God's Word is pure truth. John 8:44 tells us Satan "... does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a LIAR - and the father of it."

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But, then Peter provides the comfort food at the end of all this:

**SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER – in your sufferings**  
**SUBMIT TO GOD – cast your cares upon Him**  
**WAKE UP! – be alert!**

And now he says, "**LEARN TO TRUST GOD (IN YOUR SUFFERINGS).**"

He says in verse 9, resist the devil, steadfast in your faith, "*knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*"

How comforting it is to know your brothers and sisters around you experience the same sufferings as you.

***Isn't that great? We're all suffering!*** 😊

***We're all a bunch of messed up people!*** 😊



But, seriously - how comforting is it to know you are not alone in your suffering!

Now, sometimes - your suffering is caused by you, yourself! Don't confuse the consequences of your sin for the "sufferings" you endure as a Christian!

But rather than sit around and believe, "I am the only one in the world who is dealing with this problem." "God has given up on me, and no one around me understands!" But Peter says, "You're not alone, my friend. You - are - not — *alone*."

I'm reminded of Matthew, chapter 8, when Jesus was sleeping in the boat during the storm. The disciples were freaking out and were in deep fear – and all the while, where was Jesus?

Asleep in the boat. We often forget Jesus is even in the boat! And, obviously He isn't worried - He's as relaxed as anyone could possibly be! He was **SLEEPING!**

Why? Because He is in control. He knows the outcome. He knows our sufferings - because He cares enough for us - that He would put Himself in the BOAT with us during the storm. He's not waving at us from shore... He's directing us and the events in our life - with His mighty hand.

Don't get ahead of the boat. You need to learn to trust God.

Because you never know which way the storm will direct your boat. Jesus wasn't at the wheel in this storm! He wasn't CAUSING the storm; He was IN the boat **with** His disciples - **DURING** the storm. And afterwards? He **CALMED** the storm.

Psalm 107:29 says, "He calms the storm, so that its waves are still."

You may ask: "Where is God in my suffering?"

Well, have you checked the back of the boat? Have you taken the time to look for Him – IN your suffering? There's only One Who calms the storm - and makes the waves be still. Because it's God Who is in control. And He is IN the boat WITH you. Seek Him, and you will find Him. Humble yourself under God's mighty hand - and He will lift you up. He will give you hope. He will take your burden from you - one that's heavy and crushing - and exchange it for His own. One that's freeing and light. One that is fit just for you.

It's interesting that Jesus would say to take His "yoke" upon us and learn from Him. His yoke is easy - and light. In other words - you can carry it! But no one carries a yoke alone! Have you ever seen a yoke!? A yoke is an apparatus used to link two animals together for a specific purpose — the purpose of... get this: SHARING THE LOAD. SHARING the BURDEN of whatever it is they are carrying. Moving together.

But, who wants a yoke, right?

***"Hey, what'd you get for Christmas?"***

***"A yoke!"***

Don't approach the yoke of Jesus like that.

Jesus says, "That's not YOUR yoke... that's MY yoke. I'm giving this to you in order for Me to SHARE your burden. And with it, you will find rest for your soul. Because MY yoke is easy. Not like the yoke you've been carrying around. Your yoke is fit for one. MY yoke is fit for two: you — and Me." You're going to look foolish carrying it by yourself."

And don't we look foolish carrying our cares and our burdens around with us everywhere we go – ALL BY OURSELVES?

To put it simply: You can't. You need help.

A yoke is a beautiful picture of how we can each come along side of each other - and help share the load. Help share the burden. Peter said, "You're not alone. Your same sufferings are experienced by your brothers and sisters here in the world. And if that's not enough, Jesus will exchange it completely for one that is much easier."

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And, finally – Peter throws in a special prayer concerning our suffering:

In verse 10: "*But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*"

God doesn't promise **ETERNAL** suffering for those who are in Christ Jesus – but says, "after you have suffered a while."

Sometimes? We undergo some suffering in this life. But there's good news! Peter says, after you have suffered for "a WHILE." Not forever! For "a while." The good news is there is an end in sight.

And what does God want to do through our suffering?

Peter says God wants to **perfect** us. To **strengthen** us. To **establish** us. And to **settle** us.

This word, "perfect," speaks of "mending" and "repairing."

It's the same word used in Matthew 4:21, when Jesus saw the disciples "mending" their nets. They were repairing what was broken. And, here, we see what God wants to do after our suffering. God wants to perfect us. He wants to mend us. He wants to repair what needs repaired. And then he wants to strengthen us. Romans 5:3-4 says, "we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

What do our trials do for us? They produce a ***steadfast spirit***. And a ***Godly character***. And the ***eternal hope of Jesus Christ***.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 tells us God is the “God of all comfort, who comforts us in ALL our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” God comforts us in our trials, which allows us to then comfort others in theirs. God allows us to go through the same sufferings of others, so we can then come along side our brothers and sisters – hey, older or younger – and help them through their struggles. If you take a quick look around the room, it won’t take long before we all start to see each other’s half-occupied yokes. Don’t let your brothers and sisters carry those burdens out of here all by themselves. Go lift up the other end of their heavy yoke. And, as Galatians 6:2 says, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Is suffering fun?

No... no one enjoys suffering, or trials, or tribulations of any kind. ***If you do, then you have a problem!*** 😊

Jesus said it best: “In the world you WILL have tribulation; BUT... be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33). Did you hear that?? Jesus promised trouble! He promised persecution! He promised suffering and problems! But, then he said, “be of good cheer.” “Cheer up!” “Take My yoke.” “Learn of ME.” “Humble yourself before Me. I will help you. I will lift you up. I will perfect you. I will strengthen you. I will establish you.” “Afterwards, there’s going to be some settling! But be of good cheer.”

Because the Lord our God Himself... has overcome the world and ALL its trouble. We will not fear. We will learn to trust in God’s perfect plan, and rest - in His mighty hand.

Peter concludes these thoughts with these words, “*To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*”

To God be the glory – in ALL our suffering – in ALL of His power – in ALL of His might... AMEN.

Amen, meaning, “It is – and shall be so. Let it be so...” and we can add, “in MY life, Lord.”

Let’s be a church who can say, “In ALL our sufferings, we suffer together. But we submit to God’s mighty hand, knowing He is the lifter of our head.”

And let’s allow GOD to perfect us – so that HE receives the glory.

**AMEN?**

**Prayer**

If you need special prayer this morning, we have a couple of prayer counselors over here near our Prayer Room. Come down if you would like special prayer.

God bless you guys, this week – and remember – you do not suffer alone, so don’t try to attempt it alone. ***Let’s go out with a song.***



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### **Submission/Submit:**

James 4:7

“to arrange under, to subordinate, subject, put in subjection, subject one’s self, obey, submit to one’s control, yield to one’s admonition or advice, be subject”

Same word used for the younger to submit to the older as everyone being submissive to each other, mutually. The idea is “working together.”

“be clothed with” means a “knot or band by which two things are fastened together, to fasten or gird one’s self”. Same word as the white scarf or apron of slaves, which was fastened to the girdle of the vest, and distinguished slaves from freemen; “everyone puts on an apron in order to serve everyone else. To “clothe yourself” in humility looks like that of a servant.

## **Resisting:**

James 4:7

“God RESISTS the proud...” - resist, oppose one’s self (to range in battle against; to oppose one’s self, resist).

Proverbs 3:34 – “Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.”

## **Clothed:**

“be clothed with” means a “knot or band by which two things are fastened together, to fasten or gird one’s self”. Same word as the white scarf or apron of slaves, which was fastened to the girdle of the vest, and distinguished slaves from freemen; “everyone puts on an apron in order to serve everyone else. To “clothe yourself” in humility looks like that of a servant.

## **Pride/Proud:**

Psalm 101:5 – “... the one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, him I will not endure.”

Luke 1:51 – “He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly.”

Proverbs 13:10 – “By pride comes nothing but strife...” (add the verse about “what good does war bring?”)

Proverbs 16:18 – “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

Daniel 5:20 – “But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride...” (our heart becomes hardened with pride).

1 Timothy 3:6 – “...not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.” (speaking of qualifications of overseers. Pride is a big deal!)



1 John 2:16 – “For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world.” (it is said that all sins can be summed up by these three categories)

“Proud” – “showing one’s self above others, overtopping, conspicuous above others, pre-eminent; with an overweening estimate of one’s means or merits, despising others or even treating them with contempt, haughty.”

### **Grace:**

“gives grace” – “that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech; good will, loving-kindness, favor; of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues; what is due to grace; the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace; the token or proof of grace, benefit; a gift of grace; benefit, bounty; thanks (for benefits, services, favors), recompense, reward.”

### **Humble/Humility:**

Humility: the having a humble opinion of one’s self; a deep sense of one’s (moral) littleness; modesty, humility, lowliness of mind.

“humble” – “not rising far from the ground; metaph: as a condition, lowly, of low degree; brought low with grief, depressed; lowly in spirit, humble; in a bad sense, deporting one’s self abjectly, deferring servilely to others.”

“humble” (v6) – “to make low, bring low; to level, reduce to a plain; metaph. to bring into a humble condition, reduce to meaner circumstances; to assign a lower rank or place to, to abase, to be ranked below others who are honored or rewarded, to humble or abase myself by humble living; to lower, depress, of one’s soul bring down one’s pride, to have a modest opinion of one’s self, to behave in an unassuming manner, devoid of all haughtiness; to

humiliate (sometimes shameful and injuring to one's dignity and self-respect, especially publicly)."

### **Mighty hand of God:**

"mighty, of the mighty power of God."

"by the help or agency of any one; in upholding and preserving; in punishing; in determining and controlling the destinies of men."

hand = "power"

### **"in due time"**

"due measure; a measure of time, a larger or smaller portion of time, hence: a fixed and definite time, the time when things are brought to crisis, the decisive epoch (notable events/period of time in one's life) waited for; opportune or seasonable time; the right time; a limited period of time; to what time brings, the state of the times, the things and events of time."

(just as our suffering only lasts for a season of time, God will exalt us in due time – in HIS time)

### **Casting:**

"cast your cares" – Matthew 11:29 – "take my yoke and learn of Me..."

"to throw upon, place upon"

Psalms 55:22 – "Cast (same word) your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."

### **Care:**

"care, anxiety"

Luke 8:14 – "Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity."

Jesus warns that our "cares" can choke and rob us of all that God has to offer. If only we would learn to cast those cares upon Him Who cares for us.

**Sober:**

“to be sober, to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect”

“Be watchful!” “Wake up!”

**Vigilant:**

“to watch; metaph. give strict attention to, be cautious, active; to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one.”

“to keep awake, i.e. watch – be vigilant, wake, watchful”

“As to sleep is often equivalent to ‘to die’, ... means to live, be alive on earth.” “be cautious, active”

**Adversary:**

“opponent; an opponent in a suit of law; an adversary, enemy.”

**Devil:**

“slanderer, false accuser, opposer of the cause of God”

**Seeking:**

“craving, demanding something”

**Devour:**

“to drink down, swallow down; to devour; to swallow up, destroy”

**Resist:**

“to set one’s self against, to withstand, resist, oppose; to set against”

It is interesting that Satan is called our “adversary,” or “opposer.” Now, we are told to “oppose” him! We are to STAND AGAINST Satan and his accusations and attempts to swallow us up. Notice – we are not told to RUN;

we are told to RESIST. We are not told to FLEE from Satan; instead, we are to STAND FIRM – and stand AGAINST him.

### **Steadfast:**

“strong, firm, immovable, solid, hard, rigid; in a bad sense, cruel, stiff, stubborn, hard; in a good sense, firm, steadfast.”

“solid, stable, strong, sure.”

There are two different forms of this word, “steadfast.” In one sense, it’s a positive, “stand firm” kind of meaning. Used negatively, the idea is to “cruelly stand STIFF,” and be “stubborn.” But, I think both tenses can be used here: We are to stand FIRM and IMMOVABLE in our faith. And, sometimes, we must completely RESIST Satan by standing there as STUBBORN as can be! Because we need to be clear – and send the message that we are not on the menu!

Did you know: a lion can reach a top speed of 50 miles per hour, but their catch-rate is usually only one in six! This means that only one out of every six preys get captured by the lion’s attempts. A larger animal is usually killed by strangulation – a slow, painful death. Smaller animals are killed with a simple swat of the paw. The lion’s variation of teeth allows the front canines to sink in with a long, sharp grasp to wound their prey at first. Then, the premolars tear away chunks of the flesh. The molars are essential for allowing the lion to swallow huge chunks of flesh, mostly unchewed. In other words – lions don’t care about good manners! They only care about their food! They don’t take the time to sit down and cut their meat before attempting to digest it! And, here, Satan is compared to a lion who walks and stalks about – seeking whom he may DEVOUR! Satan is constantly seeking his next victim – and, make no mistake, you are on his list! This is why it is important for us, as Christians, to be able to RESIST Satan – and stand AGAINST Satan. But, when we’re not careful, when we’re not sober and vigilant, we allow Satan his one out of six kill. The odds are in our favor! But, we must be sober, vigilant – and STEADFAST in our faith – and our attempts to outwit our adversary. When it comes to Satan, the Stalking Lion, I think it’s okay to be stubborn. Better to be stubborn, than to become supper (a snack?).

### **Sufferings:**

“that which one suffers or has suffered; externally, a suffering, misfortune, calamity, evil, affliction; of the sufferings of Christ; also the afflictions which Christians must undergo in behalf of the same cause which Christ patiently endured; of an inward state, an affliction, passion; an enduring, undergoing, suffering.”

Christ took on the same sufferings we experience in life – and he endured them each ... patiently – with us in mind.

I had a wart burned off a couple of weeks ago. Phew! I'll tell you what... I don't ever want to do that again. In the grand scheme of things, the pain of liquid nitrogen is nothing compared to other things... but still! At first, it was cold, but then it started burning! All I wanted to do was pull away – I wanted to RUN! But, I knew if I did, the pain and suffering I was experiencing in that moment would not be able to accomplish its purpose later on. See... sometimes, we just have to endure the pain right now – in order to be pain-free later. That's really the best example I could think of in the moment... sorry about that 😊. But – I hope you know what I am saying. There are just seasons in our life – where we must endure some pain. We must endure some suffering. It's just a fact of life. But God promises that each of these times are just seasons! While we endure sufferings for a while, we know that they will produce in us character that cannot be earned any other way.

## **Perfect, Establish, Strengthen, Settle:**

### **Perfect:**

“to render, i.e. to fit, sound, complete; to mend (what has been broken or rent), to repair, to complete; to fit out, equip, put in order, arrange, adjust, to fit or frame for one's self, prepare; ethically: to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be.” “to prepare”

Matthew 4:21 - disciples “mend” their nets.

### **Establish:**

“fix, steadfastly set; to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix; to strengthen, make firm; to render constant, confirm, one's mind; to turn resolutely in a certain direction, to confirm”

**Strengthen:**

“to make strong, strengthen, of one’s soul”

**Settle:**

“to lay the foundation, to found; to make stable, establish”

“to lay a basis for, i.e. erect, consolidate, found, ground, settle.”

When a house settles, it’s never a good thing... right? UNLESS! See, unless... the foundation below it is completely solid. See, every house settles, believe it or not. Usually, any structure will settle within the first few years. It’s normal. The trick is often with the groundwork that has been laid underneath that determines the amount of settling – and the severity of the settling. We think of a house settling and it scares us! It does me, anyway! No one wants to deal with foundational issues that cause a house to settle and visible cracks to form!

Here’s what we can’t forget: Settling is a good thing... IF – you lay the right foundation.

**Amen: “Let it be so in my life.”**

**Boast/Boasting:**