

1 **How to hang in there**

PART 3 OF *SECRETS TO WINNING THE BATTLE*
1 PETER 5:7-14

2 **1 Peter 5:7-14**

Casting all your cares on him, because he cares for you. Be sober; be on the alert. Your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, because you know the same kinds of sufferings are being accomplished by your community of believers in the world.

3 **1 Peter 5:7-14 (2)**

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered for a short time, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

4 **1 Peter 5:7-14 (3)**

Through Silvanus, the faithful brother (as I consider him), I have written to you briefly to encourage you and to attest that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. She who is in Babylon, chosen the same as you, greets you, and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with a loving kiss. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (1 Peter 5:7–14, LEB)

5 **Get a good defense by knowing the source of strength**

- ▶ Resist (antistēte) means “withstand.” It is a term of defense rather than attack.
- ▶ Christians may stand firm against Satan only if they depend wholly on Christ, standing firm in the faith (cf. v. 12; Col. 2:5).

6 **Remember that you are not alone in the struggle**

- ▶ Peter encouraged his readers by reminding them that they were not alone in their suffering.
 - ▶ The knowledge that other Christians, your brothers throughout the world, were suffering, would strengthen their resolve to continue to stand firm.
- ▶ Find others who have achieved victory in the area in which you are struggling.

7 **Put God’s grace on display**

- ▶ In 1 Peter 5:10, Peter encourages his readers to endure suffering in such a way that the grace of God would be manifest in their lives.
- ▶ *Just as each one has received a gift, use it for serving one another, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. (1 Peter 4:10, LEB)*
 - ▶ You are a steward of God’s grace
 - ▶ Use it well by resisting Satan and following Christ.

8 **Receive Christ to receive grace**

- ▶ *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered for a short time, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (1 Peter 5:10, LEB)*
- ▶ Grace is only available to those who receive Christ
 - ▶ Righteous talk is not enough
 - ▶ Religious acts is not enough
 - ▶ You cannot fake out God!

9 **Focus on eternal rewards vs. temporary struggles**

- ▶ Christians’ suffering will last only a little while, while their glory in Christ, to which they were called,

will be eternal

►...if indeed we suffer together with him so that we may also be glorified together with him. For I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:17–18, LEB)

10 **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

Therefore we do not lose heart, but even if our outer person is being destroyed, yet our inner person is being renewed day after day.

For our momentary light affliction is producing in us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure and proportion, because we are not looking at what is seen, but what is not seen.

For what is seen is temporary, but what is not seen is eternal.

(2 Corinthians 4:16–18, LEB)

11 **Keep the goal in mind**

►The goal of our struggles is God's glory

►In fact, the whole goal of our life is to please God and to glorify Him

►*The twenty-four elders fall down before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever, and put down their crowns before the throne, saying, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created."* (Revelation 4:10–11, LEB)

12 **1 Peter 1:7-8**

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: (1 Peter 1:7–8, KJV 1900)

13 **1 Peter 1:11**

Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. (1 Peter 1:11, KJV 1900)

14 **1 Peter 1:21**

Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. (1 Peter 1:21, KJV 1900)

15 **1 Peter 1:24**

►*For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:* (1 Peter 1:24, KJV 1900)

►This verse contrasts the eternal glory of God with the temporary glory of man.

16 **1 Peter 2:20**

►*For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.* (1 Peter 2:20, KJV 1900)

►Being faithful during times of struggles and suffering gives glory to God. So struggles are an opportunity to worship God with your life!

17 **1 Peter 4:13-14**

►*But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he*

is glorified. (1 Peter 4:13–14, KJV 1900)

▶Suffering for our faith allows God's glory to shine directly on our lives.

18 **1 Peter 5:1,4**

▶*The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:* (1 Peter 5:1, KJV 1900)

▶*And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.* (1 Peter 5:4, KJV 1900)

19 **1 Peter 5:10-11**

▶*But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.* (1 Peter 5:10–11, KJV 1900)

▶God wants us to be the real deal! So He restores us, makes us strong, firm (sthenōsei, used only here in the NT), and steadfast (themeliosei, "established").

20 **Bless, not curse**

▶*Just as each one has received a gift, use it for serving one another, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.* (1 Peter 4:10, LEB)

▶How to bless others?

▶Visualize who they can be in Christ and affirm that.

▶We often become what others affirm that we are.

21 **Bless, not curse (2)**

22 **Bless, not curse (3)**

▶Begin by blessing God

▶*I will bless Yahweh at all times; his praise shall be in my mouth continually.* (Psalm 34:1, LEB)

▶Bless His name, His character, and His deeds

▶*Bless Yahweh, O my soul, and all within me, bless his holy name.* (Psalm 103:1, LEB)

▶*Blessed is Yahweh, because he has worked marvelously his loyal love to me in a besieged city.* (Psalm 31:21, LEB)

▶*Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to the abundance of his greatness.* (Psalm 150:2, LEB)

23 **Bless, not curse (4)**

▶Begin with a short blessing – "The Lord bless you and keep you"

▶Expand the blessing – "The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you."

▶Add more to it – "The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."

24 **Example blessing statements**

▶May you be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and understanding.

▶May you walk worthy of the Lord and please Him in all that you do

▶May you stand fast in the Lord

▶May God supply all your needs according to His riches in glory

▶You are chosen of God and ordained to bring forth much fruit.

25 **Christ has ALL power for ALL time!**

▶So to "hang in there," hang on to Christ!

▶5:11 -- To Him be the power (*kratos*, "might") forever and ever. Amen.

▶ *If anyone speaks, let it be as the oracles of God; if anyone serves, let it be as by the strength that God provides, so that in all things God will be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.* (1 Peter 4:11, LEB)

▶ Because Christ has all power for all time, He certainly has the power to strengthen His own as they undergo persecution.

26 **Get help and give help**

▶ 5:12 -- As Paul often did at the close of his epistles, Peter may have penned these last verses himself.

▶ Silas served as Peter's amanuensis (*with the help of Silas ... I have written to you*).

▶ Silas probably personally delivered the letter to the churches of Asia Minor along the predetermined route specified in 1:1. This was probably the same Silas who accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 15:40)

▶ Thank God for those who help in the ministry!

27 **Encourage other believers**

▶ *Through Silvanus, the faithful brother (as I consider him), I have written to you briefly to encourage you and to attest that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.* (1 Peter 5:12, LEB)

▶ Peter tells us the reason for this epistle:

▶ To encourage you (*parakalōn, "exhorting, appealing"*) to endure suffering, persecution, and struggles

▶ To bear witness (*epimartyrōn, "bearing witness"*) to the grace of God

▶ To get you to STAND FIRM so God's grace would be evident to unbelievers.

28 **Greet other Christians with love**

▶ *She who is in Babylon, chosen the same as you, greets you, and so does my son Mark.* (1 Peter 5:13, LEB)

▶ She who is in Babylon is a veiled reference to the church in Rome

▶ John Mark is with Peter – showing that He is now profitable for ministry

▶ They were to use the customer greeting of their day which was a kiss on the cheek. *Greet one another with a loving kiss. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.* (1 Peter 5:14, LEB) Today we are to use an appropriate expression of affection that is gender appropriate.

▶

29 **Conclusion**

▶ You are in a battle

▶ Are you taking hold of the grace of God?

▶ Do you know that you aren't in the battle alone?

▶ Do you use your mouth for blessing or cursing?

▶ Will you ask God now for the grace to stand firm and do the one thing that matters most – to GIVE GOD THE GLORY from your life?