

Week of November 25-December 1

VICTORY

Scripture Reading: Read 1 Peter 5

One truth that we learn from 1 Peter is that suffering is part and parcel of the Christian life. In fact, over a dozen times in this book, Peter makes reference to suffering. Now, we may wish it to not be the case. We may be surprised that it is so. Almost as if anticipating our shock, Peter tells us to not be surprised at the painful trial we're suffering, as though something strange were happening to us (1 Peter 4:12). In other words, expect trials and suffering in the course of Christian living.

A second truth we learn from 1 Peter is that suffering is not the result of fate. It has its purpose in the hand of God. It's a tool to test and purify our faith like pure gold (1 Peter 1:6-7). Secondly, it's an opportunity to enhance our testimony for Christ as we respond to unjust suffering with hope and grace (1 Peter 3:14-16). Thirdly, it's a means to strengthen our commitment to Christ and intensify our passion for the will of God (1 Peter 4:1-2). Finally, it provides us with the privilege to share in Christ's sufferings and to walk in his footsteps (1 Peter 4:12-16; 2:21-23).

A third truth we learn is that suffering is temporary. It will not last forever. God will bring us through to the other side for our good and for his glory (1 Peter 5:10-11).

**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.**

To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

What powerful words of encouragement for you today, child of God. The God of all grace...not just some but all grace...grace that is sufficient. Who called you...he wanted you in his kingdom. To his eternal glory in Christ...forever and ever glory and it's all because of Christ. After you have suffered a little while...the glory is eternal but the suffering is for just a little while. Will...not maybe...but will...it's a promise. Restore you...loss and suffering is not your destiny...restoration is. And make you strong, firm and steadfast...weakness and brokenness is not your future...strength and soundness is. To him be the power for ever and ever...the strength is God's not yours because it always has been and always will be about him. Amen!

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Memorize the bolded Scripture above and meditate on its meaning for your own life. Give thanks to God in prayer for what he is doing in your life through your struggles and for the victory he has promised you on the other side.

Take-a-way: *Suffering is temporary. Its benefits are eternal.*