



Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

*“... a primer
for winning the war
that really matters”*

Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope

Our Lord Will Return

Soon (4:7 – 5:11)

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“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.” Eph. 6:12



1 Peter: Experiencing the Victory in a Hostile World

“...a primer for winning the war that really matters”



**“Back to
Basics”--
Building
Blocks for
Spiritual
Maturity**

Christ

1 Pet. 2:6-7

Worship

Fortitude

Vigilance

Trust

Self-Control

Submission

Humility

1 Peter 5:5-11

Fundamentals for Spiritual Maturity

1 Peter 5:5-11

(Submission)

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

(Humility)

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

(Trust)

7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

----- (Self-Control)

8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

(Vigilance)

9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

(Fortitude)

10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

(Worship)

11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Fundamental Outcomes from Navigating Suffering Biblically

Our Objective: What does God want us to learn?

Humble dependence on God's Sovereign will is that which carries us through the sufferings of this life to the finish line of faith.

“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

1. “be Subject to your elders; (5:5a) SUBMISSION

After Peter exhorts the leaders in verses 1-4, he now turns in verse 5 from the shepherds to the sheep.

“Likewise” throughout Peter’s epistle represents a transition to a new group. (See 1 Pet. 2: 13, 18; 3:1, 7)

“Submit” (hupotasso), means to line up under. Military term meaning line up under their leadership (5:2)

“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

Why do you believe Peter singles out “younger men?” (1 Tim. 3:6)
Who do they represent?

- It's a call for respect
- It's a call for honor
- It's a call to give deference to those in spiritual leadership.
The people of God must learn to submit themselves to these leaders. (1 Cor. 16:15; Eph. 5:21; 1 Thess. 5:12; Tit. 3:2; Heb. 13:7)

Would you agree/disagree? American Christians tend not to understand the concept of submitting to spiritual authority.

...give deference to spiritual leadership

- 15 Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints), 16 that you also be in **subjection** to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors. (1 Cor. 16:15-16)
- 21 and **be subject** to one another in the fear of Christ. (Eph. 5:21)
- 12 But we request of you, brethren, that you **appreciate those** who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, (1 Thess. 5:12)
- 2 **to malign no one**, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. (Tit. 3:2)
- 7 **Remember those who led you**, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. (Heb. 13:7)

“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

2. “clothe yourselves with HUMILITY (5:5b)

Inseparably linked to and underlying a submissive attitude is a mind given to Humility (Ps. 25:9; Matt. 5:3-5; Eph. 4:1-2; Jam. 4:10).

Because, always the truly humble, and only the humble ---
- submit.

“Clothe” literally means to tie something on oneself such as a apron worn by servants. Here it describes figuratively covering oneself with an attitude of humility as one submits to authorities over him.



“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

Humility -- Lowliness of mind (2 Cor. 3:5; 1 Cor. 4:1-5; 2 Cor. 4:7; Phil. 2:5-7)

Do you think Peter wrote this verse recalling Jesus' washing of his feet? (John 13:3-17)



Peter goes from humility as it relates to one another (horizontal) to humility before God (vertical).

To reinforce his exhortation for humility, Peter quoted from **Proverbs 3:34**. How does this motivate us?

1 Peter 4:5b-11 (To the Suffering)

5b “**God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**”

6 **Humble yourselves**, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, **so that He may lift you up in time:**

8 Be sober, be alert; your adversary, the Devil prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. 9 **Resist him**, firm in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being accomplished by your brethren in the world.

James 4:6-10 (To the Apathetic)

6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “**God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**”

10 **Humble yourselves** in the presence of the Lord, and **He will exalt you.**

7 Submit therefore to God. **Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.

“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

As it relates to humility within Peter's context – It's a humility that is characterized by 4 things ==>

1. It is a Humility that bows to God's Sovereignty (6)
“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the Mighty hand of God . . .”
 - a. Phrase "mighty hand of God" or "God's mighty hand" is an O.T. reference to 2 things: 1) God's Dominion; 2) God's Discipline (Isa 48:13; Ezek. 20:33-34; Ex. 3:19-20; 13:3-16; Job 30:20-21; 1 Pet. 4:17)

“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

2. It is a Humility that always looks to God and Eternity (6) “so that He may exalt you at the proper time...” (1 Pet. 1:7,13; 4:7; Prov. 29:23; Matt. 23:12; Jam. 4:10)



“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

3. “casting all your care upon Him, because He
cares for you” (5:7) -- *TRUST*

As believers endure humbly and submissively, they find their strength in the midst of suffering and trials, by means of a confident *Trust* in God’s *Perfect Purpose*.

Is anxiety a form of pride?

Read *Ps. 55*: Do you think Peter had this Psalm in mind?



“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

Peter exhorts believers to “cast” on the Lord “all” their “cares”. “Cares” can include what other descriptors?



3. It is a Humility that always Forsakes worldly anxiety.

4. It is a Humility that Rests in God's care. (Ps. 56:3; Matt.6:25-34; Phil. 4:6)

“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

4. Be aware of “*Your Adversary*” (5:8-9) --

SATAN IS YOUR OPPONENT

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

Peter’s first epistle has been dominated by the topic of suffering. In these final verses, for the first time he mentions Satan. Before trying to understand Peter’s words here, let us briefly review from Scripture, Satan’s relationship to suffering.

“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering



- Satan's view of suffering is dictated by his view of Success - “Glory”. His addiction to success led to his own downfall because of his pride and grasping for the preeminence and glory which belong only to God. (Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:11-15; 1 Tim. 3:6)
- Satan tempts men on the basis of their success. (1 Chron. 21:1; 1 Tim. 3:6)
- But for those who suffer, Satan tries to convince them God cannot be with them and cannot care for them. (Job 1:9-11) Satan sees suffering as the opportunity to turn us from God.

“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

- Peter indicates that the themes of suffering and glory both converged in the person of Messiah. But the Old Testament prophets could not understand how this could be since suffering and glory seemed incompatible (1 Pet. 1:10-12).
- Satan’s view of suffering and glory is evident in the temptation of our Lord. (Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-4)
 - **First Temptation: (Matt. 4:1-4)** Satan’s objective -- Jesus should use His Power to end His suffering and reveal His Glory by commanding that stones become bread.

Same test to Israel: Deut. 8:1-3; John 6:25-34; 52-69

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- **Second Temptation: (Matt. 4:5-8)** Satan’s objective – Let Him put Himself in a situation where *Suffering is inevitable*, and then God must *save* Him.

Same test to Israel: **Matt. 3:1-12**



- **Third Temptation: (Matt. 4:8-11)** Satan’s objective – Offer Him the *Glory* of earthly kingdoms for the glory Satan would gain by obtaining the *worship* of Messiah.

Same test to Israel: **Ex. 32:6; John 11:47-50**

“Back to the Basics” of Navigating Through Suffering

- o Such temptations did not end at Christ. Satan seeks an “*Opportune time*” to attack, not only through unbelievers, but even the saints (Luke 4:13; Matt. 16:21-23)
- o Now we can understand Peter’s reason for establishing the link between suffering and Satan. (Luke 22:31-32)

Peter knows only too well...He failed...He was not “sober” and “alert”!