

# Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## 1 Peter 5.

(2013)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## 1 Peter 5.

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**INTRODUCTION:** during Peter's generation the readers of this first letter of his were confused and discouraged by the persecution they were encountering because of their faith. Peter exhorted them to stand strong, repeatedly reminding them of Christ's example, the riches of their inheritance in him, and the hope of his returning again to resurrect them to eternal glory. He explained how Christians should respond when they suffer because of their beliefs. Peter is called, the "apostle of hope." His primary message is to trust the Lord, live obediently no matter your circumstances, and keep your hope fixed on God's ultimate promise of deliverance. Suffering is to be expected, but it is temporary and yields great blessings for those who remain steadfast. Peter wrote this letter in the mid-60s A.D.

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### Topics.

- Peter addresses the elders.
- God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
- Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
- Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion
- To God be the dominion forever and ever.
- Stand firm in the true grace of God.

**The Previous Chapter:** in the previous chapter Peter spoke of arming ourselves with the same thinking as Christ had, he said whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin and that those in Christ should live for the will of God and not to gratify the flesh. He talked of the Gospel being preached to those who are dead, of love covering a multitude of sins and of doing everything to glorify Christ. He told believers not to be surprised when trials come to test them, but rather share in Christ's sufferings and warned believers that judgment begins at the household of God.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### Peter addresses the Elders.

1 Peter 5:1-4 ----- <sup>1</sup> So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

The glory that is going to be revealed is the resurrection and the gathering up to eternal life and everlasting joy of all those who belong to Christ. Peter witnessed Christ's suffering on the cross, and the glory of Christ's immortal and eternal body after his resurrection.

God showed His awesome power in that he resurrected a human man from the grave to eternal life, but God's majestic and mighty power will be manifested on that day when Christ returns in such breathtaking wonder that all who witness it will stand in breathtaking awe.

This is because it is not just one man God by his creative power will be raising from the dead, but all the faithful of the Old Testament who have died in faith in the promised seed of the woman in (Genesis 3:15) the promised seed of Abraham and the promised seed of David, God's promised Messiah the Christ to come and all the faithful of the New Testament who have died with the same faith in Christ. All will be raised in one glorious, awe-inspiring and breathtaking act of God's almighty power.

**NOTE:** some people find it difficult to comprehend God raising the dead, but think of it this way: we have super computers today that have in their memories literally trillions of bits of information and at the touch of a key any one of those bits is resurrected to us on a brightly coloured screen, then with another touch of the key it all vanishes into the super memory and is gone, until we resurrect it again. Knowing that God has given his creation a mortal mind and finite memory to be able to build such amazing computers should make it very easy to understand how God keeps us all in His immortal mind and eternal memory waiting for the right time to touch the supernatural keyboard of heaven and raise us once again to life. Added to this very few Christians have any trouble believing God created the universe that we live in so raising the dead in comparison is not such a difficult task for such an awesome, powerful and majestic God (Heb. 11:3).

**Shepherd:** (feed in KJV) refers to a person who acts as a shepherd does to his sheep, it carries the idea of one who is willing to put themselves in danger to protect and keep those under their care from harm and hurt.

**Oversight:** refers to those who guide, influence direct and lead.

**Compulsion:** (constraint in KJV) carries the idea of leading others by control coercion, force, manipulation or pressure.

**Shameful gain:** (filthy lucre in KJV) means being greedy for money, greedy being the key word, it carries the idea of indulging one-self in the opulent luxuries of this world and storing up for oneself more than is needed.

**Elders:** refers to those who have the oversight of the church.

**Shepherding the flock:** Peter tells the elders to serve the flock of God by shepherding and feeding them by exercising loving, patience and graceful oversight in contrast to doing it grudgingly or under obligation and never to put those they influence under any form of pressure, control or oppression. Shepherds of Christ's flock are to willingly and eagerly serve without being dominating, intimidating or controlling and not for money or as an easy career path, but because they have the a deep desire that all would be saved to eternal life which is not only the desire of God's heart for all, but why Christ laid his life down.

Ministers of the Gospel who shepherd in this way and by being  
examples themselves will receive a crown of  
glory from Christ himself.

### **The Global and Worldwide Church of God.**

There is in the secular global world today a mindset that the church is a Sunday meeting in a religious building but the church should never be limited to the established religious institutions, denominations or church buildings though they may form a part of the body of Christ they are not the only part.

There are many individual Christians in all countries of the world who meet in coffee bars, social outings and mostly their own homes (as the early church did) to give thanks to Christ and share their discoveries of God's word and their spiritual experiences with Him. Many of these people are helping others and simply manifesting the reality of their faith to the people that come into their lives.

God is not limited to any one pattern or organisation; He is far too creative for that. Jesus church is global and is manifested in a vast variety of ways across the face of the earth. In many third world countries church is held outside under a tree (for shade) with its members sitting on the dusty ground often with dogs, chooks and other animals roaming around.

It is also important to be aware that the word church does not embrace everyone simply because they confess to be Christians (Matt 7:21-23). When the Bible uses the term church it primarily refers to those who belong to Christ and those who do the will of his Father.

The will of God in this context is summed up in Jesus words: -

- Love your neighbour as yourself (Matt 22:37-39) (Mark 12:29-31).

In the New Testament this is called the, Royal Law (James 2:8) and means do-good to others. Those (especially those who belong to Christ) who deliberately harm people physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally or spiritually and those who use others for their own selfish gain and greed are referred to by Christ himself as workers of iniquity.

The Bible teaches that some will be cast out of God's Kingdom which means not everyone who confesses to know Christ is part of his church there are those in his present Kingdom who he calls wicked servants. They use God's grace, Jesus good name and his Gospel for their own selfish gain and line their own greedy pockets with the wealth and riches of this world by making merchandise of those who do belong to Christ.

Nevertheless Jesus knows those who are his and those who are not and will not only reject anyone who uses his message of grace, mercy, compassion and love for their own selfish gain, but when he returns will deny them entry into his eternal Kingdom. (Matt 8:12) (Matt 22:13) (Matt 25:30).

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."  
(John 10:14) (John 10:26-27).

Building God's house is not about financing opulent mega million dollar buildings, but rather it is about people gathering together to share their faith in any place they are able, nevertheless a building maybe required for practical purposes (i.e., the size of the congregation etc.), but if it is built by cleverly twisting and distorting Scriptures to manipulate the congregation to give from guilt or built upon vast amounts of borrowed money so that the oversight and the congregation are put under extreme financial oppression then the building is not in the will of God.

The book of Proverbs states: -

- The borrower is the slave of the lender (Prov. 22:7).

Building God's House (Temple) is about becoming more Christ like, and living in the will of God. New Testament Christianity is fluid and not restricted to a particular building or even a special day. The Christianity Christ taught is so exciting and real, it cannot be contained. It has no limitations and overflows into every moment of a Christian's life, thus the New Testament house of God is global, moving and manifested in the lives of all those who are faithful and who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ

### **The Global Family of God.**

Since the Bible was written in an entirely different culture to ours and the body of Christ is a global family filled with people from different nations, countries, cultures, backgrounds, knowledge, levels of education, hurts and troubled pasts there is always going to be certain amount of Scripture we will all understand differently. Paul in the book of Romans tells us to avoid those who cause divisions contrary to the doctrine that he taught the brothers and sisters in Rome. In the context of the entire letter that he wrote to the Roman brothers and sisters the doctrines he had in mind when he said, "Avoid those who cause divisions" are the following three: -

1. Doctrines that are contrary to the teaching that salvation is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ contrasted to works of the law, self-effort and keeping religious customs and traditions etc.

2. Doctrines that are contrary to the truth that Jews and Gentiles who accept Christ become one nation in Christ, contrasted to them being two separate nations.
3. Doctrines which are contrary to godly behaviour and lead people away from the Lord Jesus Christ.

These are the three major topics Paul has focused on in his letter to the brothers and sisters in Rome and the doctrines he has in his mind when he says be careful of those who cause divisions and create obstacles. Naturally within the global House of God there are many varied understandings of many Scripture, but not all teachings are important to know to be saved to eternal life nor does one have to have perfect understanding of every teaching from Genesis to Revelation to know Christ and be in union with him, but of course we must all understand the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

No-one has to be a walking Bible encyclopaedia to be in the family of Christ and saved to eternal life, but should any teacher proclaim a message of works and self-effort to be saved or teach that Jews and Gentiles are two separate groups/nations in Christ, or teach doctrines that lead people away from godly behaviour and from Christ Paul says they should be avoided (Rom 16:17-19).

**NOTE:** though the visible global church in many regions has not presented a good reflection of Christ to the secular world, it should always be remembered that there are literally hundreds of thousands of humble Christian brothers and sisters in Christ spending their time helping the poor and the less fortunate, but sadly this type of news does not attract the attention of global TV news media since there is no profit to be made in good news.

The body is the reflection of Christ on earth and therefore should be walking in the same Spirit of love, kindness, compassion and grace etc. that Christ walked in while on earth.

**For further information see the title: -**

- Church (The Definitions of a Church) in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU)

**Clothe yourselves with Humility toward One Another.**

1 Peter 5:5-6 ----- <sup>5</sup>Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."  
<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

**Humility:** means modesty, humbleness and lowliness of mind.

The two choices God gives mankind: -

1. Live humbly now and be exalted at the judgement.
2. Live in pride now and be humbled at the judgement.

**NOTICE:** Peter tells the younger brothers and sisters to submit themselves to the elders, but then tells us all (i.e., the elders and the younger) to clothe ourselves with humility toward each other. In the body of Christ no-one is superior to another member simply because they have the oversight or great knowledge and therefore teach. The instant we feel we are the greater and others are the lessor, we can be certain pride the enemy of God is lurking within and not the Spirit of Christ.

**God opposes the Proud, but gives Grace to the Humble.**

The Spirit of Christ is humbleness, He was God's Son and was gifted with all the power needed to be a most royal King, yet he humbled himself not only to his enemies, but to the lowliest of us surrendering his life to his heavenly Father and sacrificing it in service and in death for our eternal glory. He was in constant fellowship with to God, had more knowledge and wisdom than we ever will and

was gifted with all the power of God, yet he never once walk as a man who was superior to those he ministered to, but rather served even the lowest of sinners who came to him in humbleness and in compassion.

**Pride:** means self-importance, egotistical (boasting in one-self) i.e., a braggart. In science there are molecules called leptons, they are even smaller than atoms, it has been said that, "Some people's pride is so high they only see people as leptons." But not all pride is necessarily bad it can be put into two different categories healthy pride and destructive pride.

**Destructive Pride:** is manifested in a haughty attitude shown by somebody who believes, often unjustifiably, that he or she is better than others. A person who has this kind of pride will often not mix with those they consider their social inferiors. This pride is arrogant it exalts oneself above others and even God. It treats those it looks down to and believes are inferior to them with disdain and at its peak with cruelty and destruction. It causes quarrels, strife, arguments, fights and even wars.

The name of a prideful, arrogant and haughty person is summed up in the words a 'scoffer' and 'mockers' (Proverbs 21:14). Wisdom regarding this kind of arrogant and self-exalting pride is, knowing that it can only lead to strife and destruction thus the person with wisdom chooses to be humble rather than arrogant and prideful.

**Healthy Pride:** is that happy satisfied feeling somebody experiences when having or achieving something special that other people admire, i.e., a person taking great pride in their work. It is having the correct level of respect for the importance and value of one's own personal character, life, efforts, or achievements as opposed to having no confidence and no sense of worth. Healthy pride gives personal satisfaction such as an achievement or possession that somebody feels especially pleased and satisfied with, (i.e., their grandchildren were their pride and joy). It is having a personal satisfaction and pleasure from a particular source, especially something accomplished or a quality possessed.

**Pride and satan:** the primary spirit that encapsulates the meaning of satan is pride. The name satan embraces the idea of the ultimate ego, the biggest ego, (the top of the tree) that is why an antichrist can kill millions of innocent people without losing sleep, he sees himself above all humanity and views himself as always right. The peak of pride is to believe you are equal to God or even as a god this sounds almost crazy, but some people are so egotistical they think the whole world revolves around them. (Remember the Caesars of Rome believed they were gods).

Clearly no-one has to be a scholar to see why  
humbleness is what pleases God.

**Cast all your Anxieties on Him, because He Cares for You.**

1 Peter 5:7 ----- <sup>7</sup>Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

If our anxieties and distress arise from thoughtful fears of losing our salvation we should cast all these doubtful and condemning thoughts upon the Lord and depend fully upon the grace of God granted to us through our faith in Christ and be assured that when we commit our spiritual and eternal welfare into the hands of Christ our eternal future is safely secure. This is because God has provided all we need for eternal salvation in Christ and at the proper time he will exalt all those who have remained devoted and faithful in their faith toward His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The wonder and glory of the Bible:** These words, "Casting all your anxieties on him" (v7) are stunningly glorious because they transcend the mind of the ardent Bible student to Psalm fifty-five in which David said: -

- Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved (Psalm 55:22)

In this Psalm David is in great distress, overwhelming anguish of heart and trembling fear because: -

- A dear and trusted friend had betrayed him.

- God's Holy City Jerusalem was full of violence, strife, iniquity, oppression and fraud.
- His enemies were seeking to destroy him.

The very fact Peter says, "Cast our anxieties on God" shows that just because we belong to Christ's Kingdom does not mean life will be charmed or free of troubles and hardships. Both David and Peter to overcome the stress of this temporal world had an eternal vision, they knew that regardless of what man or this world could do to them God would keep them safe and secure in His hand for eternal life. Casting all our care upon God refers to a single act once for all it means, throwing our whole life with all its care on God (i.e., the whole of our care and not every anxiety as it arises in the mind). If we cast our whole life as David did with all its cares upon God no anxiety will arise if this transference has been effectually made.

Jesus said: -

- Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (Matt 6:25).

To cast our cares upon God is to surrender our entire life and mind to the providence of life and trust even in times like Jobs that God is still in control He has not forsaken or forgotten us simply because we do not understand our circumstances or the troubles that come upon us. This is what Peter means in the previous verse when he said, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God" (v6) it means accept the things we don't understand and know they are in God's control and being confident that "At the proper time God will exalt us" (v6). Freedom from worry and anxiety flows along with humble submission to God and confident reliance on His goodness despite the circumstance of life.

Even though David was in great distress, overwhelming anguish of heart and trembling fear he found comfort and peace of mind in knowing that even though God hears his complaining and moaning God will redeem his life in safety. Because of this eternal vision David cast his burdens on the LORD fully confident that God will sustain him and never permit him to be moved from God's hand or robbed of his eternal glory and with this faith he surrendered his worries, burdens and anxiety to the LORD and trusted in God.

Casting all your care upon God means we are to surrender our whole life to God our families, friends, health, property and wealth etc. If we have arduous and responsible duties to perform all should be surrendered to God as Abraham surrendered his will to God and laid Isaac his only son on the altar and in this surrendering we will find peace and calm resting in the mind.

Since we are not all David's and Abrahams their will most likely be times when we suffer heavy trials and feel that we have no strength, and are in danger of being crushed by what is laid upon us in these dark moments we should go to the Lord and cast all upon him and look to him for grace and strength, and feel assured that he will enable us to sustain all that is laid upon us.

### **Your Adversary the Devil Prowls around like a Roaring Lion**

1 Peter 5:8-9 ----- <sup>8</sup>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil (diabolos) prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Here Peter describes the devil as a roaring lion prowling and seeking someone to devour. In the book of Genesis the LORD said to Cain: -

- If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it (Gen. 4:7).

The LORD pictures sin as a creature who desires to feed on humans hiding behind a door waiting for its victim to enter into the room so it can take hold of them. Thus the Old Testament picture of sin is the same as the New Testament picture of the

devil therefore resisting the devil and resisting sin are the same thing. When the devil and sin are personified they can both be seen as the same entity because they both have the same desire, the same character and the same motivation which is to lead a person away from Christ and into ungodly behavior.

James in his letter wrote: -

- Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil (diabolos) and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

James in his letter is explaining to his listeners that there are passions in the human heart that are at war with each other and then explains that these passions arise from a person wanting something but not being able to have it. James says it is these craving passions that desire to have the things of this world that causes a person to commit murder, fight and quarrel because they do not have the ability or the means to obtain what they desire and crave legitimately, honestly or legally. The devil in this verse refers to the desire in the human heart that craves to have something that it cannot obtain.

This Old Testament picture of sin is the same as the New Testament picture of the devil they are the same entity the devil is simply a personification of sin one is pictured as a roaring lion while the other is pictured couching behind a door, but both are waiting for their opportunity to pounce. Resisting the devil and resisting sin is the same thing. We overcome sin and the devil by doing what is right and good, and being watchful and submitting to God and standing firm in our faith rather than doing what is wrong and doing those things that brings a bad testimony to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

### **Your, Brotherhood Experience the Same Sufferings.**

Peter's words: -

- Resist him firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world” (v9)

Show that the devil in this context is outwardly manifested in some form of persecution by those against the Christian faith. Thus the reason Peter says “The same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world” (v9). Most likely at the time of Peter it was the Romans and the Jewish Priesthood at Jerusalem who were strongly opposed to the Christian faith and aggressively did what was in their power to do to destroy it. But the word devil can apply to any individual, group of people or government etc. that is opposed to God and His will. Whoever opposes God, the Lord Jesus Christ and those who belong to his Kingdom are simply outwardly manifesting the deep and gross horror of sin dwelling in the human heart thus the devil and sin are the same entity manifested outwardly in many various forms of corruption and wrongdoing.

**For further information see the title:-**

- Devil in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

### **To God Be the Dominion Forever and Ever.**

1 Peter 5:10-11 ----- <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The words, “After you have suffered a little while” refer to our mortal life on earth, after this ‘little while’ (our lifespan) God will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us. God will accomplish this promise when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. This is why to find peace and calm of mind our whole life and all our concerns and burdens need to be fully surrendered to God because while we live this “little while” on earth in our mortal bodies we will never be fully free of troubles and sorrows



**NOTE:** this does not mean that we don't plan goals and work to provide a comfortable life for our families or pursue our dreams, but that our highest passion, thought and dream is God, it means that no-matter what we are doing Christ is always seated on the throne of our hearts and that we always remain surrendered to God's will.

**Stand Firm in the True Grace of God.**

1 Peter 5:12-14 ----- <sup>12</sup>By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. <sup>13</sup>She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. <sup>14</sup>Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

The words, "This is the true grace of God" (v12) refers to the previous verse in which Peter tells us that at the end of our lives God will resurrect all those who have endured in the faith in Christ to eternal life and everlasting glory, despite all the sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that dwell within our fallen corrupted body. This is the true grace of God that Peter encourages us to stand firm in.

**She:** refers to the church in Babylon,

**Chosen:** does not mean that they were predestined to be saved, but that they are true believers in Christ. They are called chosen because whoever chooses from their free will to believe in Christ is chosen by God. Every brother and sister who belongs to the family of Christ can say they are chosen by God because God predestined that salvation would be in Christ and that whoever by faith and from their own free will trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation God would accept; so in this sense every brother and sister in Christ is chosen by God.

**A kiss of love:** the words, "Greet one another with the kiss of love" (v14) refer to a kiss we would give to a family member or our natural brothers and sisters. It is a kiss of kinship and joy and commonly used to express brotherly affection amongst Peter's generation and in various countries of the world today.

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End