

1 Peter Introduction

THEME: Standing Firm in the Grace of God in the Midst of Suffering

- 5:12 reveals Peter's objective in writing
- 5:8-10 reveals the reason for writing with this objective

The Theme of Suffering in 1 Peter

- A form of the English word "suffer" used 15 times in the book
- Definition of suffering- the difficulty that comes with being a Christian in a hostile world.
- References to suffering

1:1 "aliens," "scattered"	4:1 follow Christ in suffering
1:6-7 various trials, testing of faith	4:4 maligned by unbelievers
2:4 rejected by men	4:6 "judged in the flesh"
2:12 slandered	4:12 "fiery ordeal"
2:18 unreasonable masters	4:13 "share the sufferings of Christ"
2:19 unjust treatment	4:14 "reviled"
2:21-23 Jesus' example of suffering	4:15-16 suffer for doing right
3:1 wives with unsaved husbands	4:17 judgment begins with God's people
3:9 "evil for evil" "insult for insult"	4:18 saved through difficulty
3:13-14 suffering for righteousness	4:19 suffering according to God's will
3:16 slandered and reviled	5:8-10 suffering Satanic attack

Peter's Solution for Suffering Believers

- Understand and trust in God's grace toward you
- Stand firm in that grace

Structure of 1 Peter

1. Greeting (1:1-2)
2. Stand firm by understanding your glorious hope and privilege (1:3-12)

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3. Stand firm by living in light of your salvation (1:13-2:10)
4. Stand firm by living righteously in this world (2:11-3:12)
5. Stand firm by following Christ's example of righteous suffering (3:13-4:6)
6. Stand firm by living with the end in view (4:7-5:11)
7. Conclusion (5:12-14)