

Instructions for Living and Leading in a World of Suffering (1 Peter 4:12-5:14)

Peter finishes his epistle with powerful and practical instructions for life, as well as some targeting training for leaders too. How can we learn as leaders among God's people learn from this epistle as we serve in the midst of suffering? What character does God's Spirit seek to generate in us? Together we will prayerfully respond to Peter's epistle as we conclude the epistle.

Andy Hamilton is originally from Northern Ireland but has lived in Italy for most of his life. Andy obtained a Master of Theology from Queen's University Belfast through Belfast Bible College and a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He lives in the outskirts of Rome where he lectures at the Italian Evangelical Bible Institute (www.ibei.it) as well as being involved in church leadership. He is married to Ruth, and they have three children: Isaiah, Hollie and Joshua.

I. Outline of the section

A. Living in suffering looking to glory, 4:12-19

1. The pattern suffering and glory 4:12-13
2. Suffering for Christ, 2:14-16
3. Suffering like Christ, 4:17-19 (cf. 2:23)

B. Leading in suffering looking to glory, 5:1-4

1. The pattern of suffering and glory, 5:1
2. Shepherd the flock of God, 5:2-3
 - a. Willingly
 - b. Eagerly
 - c. Humbly
3. Long for the chief Shepherd's reward, 5:4

- C. Resisting in suffering looking to glory, 5:4-14
 - 1. Clothe yourself with humility, 5:4-7
 - a. Toward others
 - b. Toward God

 - 2. Stand firm in grace, 5:8-9 & 5:12-14
 - a. Be watchful
 - b. Resist the roaring lion
 - c. You are not alone

 - 3. The pattern of suffering and glory, 5:10-11

II. Preaching and Shepherding in Suffering

- A. Shepherding sheep

- B. Character over competence

- C. The pride of worry

- D. Called to live a Christ-like and cross-shaped ministry

III. Going Deeper: Discussion Questions

- A. How could joy become a more dominant feature of our lives in the midst of the struggles of ministry?
- B. Why does Peter appear more concerned about the character of elders rather than their ability to teach or preach?
- C. How should the example/pattern of Christ shape our lives and ministry?

1 Peter 4:12-5:14 (ESV)

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory^[b] and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

⁵ 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: ² 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; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ 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.”

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹² 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. ¹³ She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. ¹⁴ Greet one another with the kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.