



BIBLE-BASED
FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH
TAMPA BAY

MIDWK LOCKED-IN

Remaining Focused under Pressure
A Study of 1 and 2 Peter.

Week Nine
Standing Firm

1 Peter 5:1-14

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Standing Firm

The recent hurricane that hit Florida's panhandle caused widespread devastation in the Destin and Pensacola region. Buildings and homes were damaged, vehicles flipped, and trees fell. Unfortunately, some people also lost their lives due to the storm.

It seems that with every storm, there are some buildings and trees that suffer more damage than others. How is it that some trees remain standing while others fall. They endure the same wind and rain for the same length of time, but don't fall. Like tall palms, they may bend, but they don't break.

The same may be said spiritually of believers. There will be the fiery test and suffering, but the exhortation of Peter is to stand firm. This is the summary of his letter to believers who are experiencing severe trials. The way they will get through it will depend largely on how well fortified they are for the storm. In an effort to be sure they come through, Peter addresses the leaders and those they lead in relation to one another but also to Christ.

How one shepherds the flock and how one responds to the shepherd will largely determine if he/she will be able to weather the storm. Peter gives us a strategy for standing firm through any storm. In this lesson, we consider the practical steps that Peter outlines to stand firm, and he reminds the believer of the motivation for doing so.

Study Objectives

1. Demonstrate how humility, godly leadership, and mutual respect strengthen our ability to stand firm in faith (vv. 1–7).
2. Discern spiritual threats and identify practical ways to resist the enemy while remaining steadfast in faith (vv. 8–9).
3. Depend on God's sustaining grace and his promise to restore, establish, strengthen, and support believers through life's challenges (vv. 10–14).

1 Peter 5:1-14 ESV

Shepherd the Flock of God

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.

Final Greetings

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.

Table Talk

When Nothing Seems to go Right

Jordan is a faithful church member who serves regularly but has recently experienced several challenges. Family problems, health challenges, financial pressures, and disappointment with a decision made by church leadership have all contributed to feeling overwhelmed and unappreciated. Jordan has begun withdrawing from the fellowship, questioning leadership decisions, and struggles to maintain a consistent prayer life. Jordan confesses to a friend, “I’m trying to do everything right, but it seems like nothing is going right! Who cares anyway?” As a friend, what might your response be to Jordan in light of Peter’s instruction from chapter five?

Discuss the following questions among your table.

1. What might it look like to shepherd Jordan during this difficult time of struggle? (v.1-4).

2. Describe what being clothed with humility toward one another means and how it can be demonstrated (v.5-7). Explain as it relates to God.

3. How could the adversary devour a believer and what action can a believer take to avoid being devoured? (v.8-9)

4. What encouragement is there for the believer to stand firm? What have you found most challenging in your journey to do so? (v.10-14)

Summary

As we close, let's reflect on what Peter teaches us about leading, following, and and remaining watchful. Complete these statements based on today's lesson.

1. **Shepherd God's flock.** Godly leadership is not about _____ over others, but about being an example to the flock and leading with humility and integrity.
2. **Stay Focused.** Being _____ is about being watchful because the devil prowls like a _____ seeking whom he may devour.
3. **Stand Firm.** The promise is that after you have suffered, the God of all grace will _____, _____, _____ and _____ you.

Standing firm requires us to stand together against a common adversary in the true grace of God.



Bible Memory Verse

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of the darkness into his marvelous light.

Notes:





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NEW HERE?



If tonight was your first MDWK with us, thank you for being here. We don't take lightly that you chose to spend your Wednesday with us. We pray you felt welcomed, encouraged, and strengthened. We'd love to see you again soon, you're always welcome at The Base!