

SUFFERING AS A CHRISTIAN

1ST PETER 5

The book of 1st Peter is a textbook on “Suffering because you are living as a Christian.”

The closing summary on suffering for Christ:

5:10 And 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.

5:12b I have written to you briefly, exhorting/encouraging you and testifying that this/*suffering* is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

Three irrefutable truths to rely on as you are living through your current episode of suffering.

1. **God is in control!** 2. **God loves you!** 3. **God will get you through it!** 1st Peter 1:3-9

1. Encouragement to the Suffering Elders vs 1-4

1 I exhort the elders among you, as your **fellow elder** ...

2 Shepherd the flock; exercise oversight voluntarily; according to God’s will; with eagerness

3 not lording it over those allotted to your charge, but as examples to the flock

Crown of Glory - for Elders who protect and disciple the saints in their care v4

(Other Crowns described in Scripture:

Crown of Rejoicing – for Saints who evangelize 1st Thess 2:19,20

Crown of Righteousness – for Saints who fulfill their ministry & love His appearing
2nd Tim 4:7,8

Crown of Life – for Saints who endure James 1:12 Rev 2:10)

2. Encouragement to the Suffering Younger Men v 5a

Be subject to the elders; they are more mature than you and they desire God’s best for you.

3. Encouragement & Advice to All Sufferers vs 5b-11

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

8 Be of a sober spirit, be on the alert ... 9 resist the devil, firm in your faith; know others suffer.

10 And after **you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace will Himself:**

Perfect – Successful Suffering matures us spiritually; we learn God’s faithfulness

Confirm – Successful Suffering makes us more convinced; more confident, less worried

Strengthen – Successful Suffering strengthens/exercises our will/courage

Establish/Settle – Successful Suffering firms up our foundation