

“Standing Firm”

I Peter 5:1-14

Context: Peter’s encyclical was written to a small population of Christians in ancient Asia Minor who were seen as suspect by the Romans. Suspicion arose because rebirth from the life-changing Word of the Lord resulted in putting on lifestyles that reflect Christ’s nature. Chapter one describes the call to recipients of the letter to live as ‘side dwellers’ separated from the world’s perishing constructs. As God’s elect they were called to participate in a God-empowered transformation by willfully coming “under the hearing” as His chosen unto eternal salvation. In chapter two, Peter describes what God-empowered transformations looked like. Chapter three explains godly living in relation to family, fellow-believers, and within our unbelieving community.

Pivotal verse: Stand firm in the true grace of God (cf. I Peter 5:12).

1. The *tupos*: shepherds not cowboys – I Peter 5:1-4

The mark of biblical leadership in the Church reflects the imprint of a long time follower of God’s direction. That imprint is characterized by a personal will submitted to God’s will and a keen watchfulness over those whom God Has entrusted to them. A perpetual salvific crown of amaranth is set as a reward before those who remain faithful under-shepherds called by God.

2. The attitude: firm not anxious – I Peter 5:5-11

Although those younger are called to come under the lead of those with “street time” in Christ, everyone is to take up a ‘basin and towel’ attitude shown by Jesus’ example of foot washing. Diabolic oppression is nothing new to the Christian community. It is to be faced with resistance founded upon faith that God supplies until He delivers in due time.

3. The posture: steadfast not befuddled – I Peter 5:12-14

Silvanus, aka Silas, served as Peter’s scribe in the writing of this letter as a witness that God’s unmerited loving saving presence is dependable, especially in the dark nights of the soul. Thus Peter calls the Christian to remain steadfast in eager expectation of God’s unfailing deliverance.

For Further Study:

- An unfading crown of glory is promised to those who shepherd eagerly and compassionately. A flower is used as a root behind the word translated as “unfading” in 1 Peter 5:4. As a **Bible study method**, look up the properties of ‘amaranth,’ particularly its color, durability, and revivability with moisture after being dried. How does that symbolize Christ’s crown of glory?

- Peter uses “will of God” 5 times in this letter, with his last use in chapter five. Using your concordance, look up the context of each usage (i.e. 1 Peter 2:15; 5:2). What is the common idea behind the term ‘will’ in these passages? What reward is offered to those who conform their will to God’s will?

- The image of a lion is used to depict Satan’s stalking of people in hope of their horrific destruction. Use an encyclopedia or internet video to clarify [the terror behind the image](#). How loud is their roar? What makes them roar? How does the biblical response in 1 Peter 5:9 compare to a field experience with a lion?

Transformation exercise:

As part of your morning prayer, ask God to open your eyes to His direction in one circumstance today.