

# First Peter 5:1-14



Monday Night Meeting

Father please grant that I might walk,

In true humility.

Yes, looking only to the cross,

And Christ who died for me.

I put myself upon the throne,  
Deep in my secret heart.  
I cling to glories not my own,  
And so from You depart.

You are opposed to all who walk,  
In pride and wickedness,  
Forgive me as I turn to You,  
And let me see Your face!

Humble me in my spirit Lord,  
And may I be contrite,  
Cause me to tremble at Your word,  
As I walk in the light!

Please give me grace that I might think  
In clear sobriety,  
All that I am I have from You,  
Be glorified in me.

- ❧ Salutation (1:1-2)
- ❧ God's Gracious Activity in the Lives of Suffering Believers (1:3-2:10)
- ❧ The Mission of Suffering Believers in the World (2:11-4:6)
- ❧ The Mission of Suffering Believers in the Church (4:7-5:11)
  - ❧ General Strategy: Knowledge and Love (4:7-8)
  - ❧ Specific Strategy (4:9-5:11)
    - ❧ **Love:** Serve one another using your gifts (4:9-11)
    - ❧ **Knowledge:** Understand God's purpose in suffering (4:12-19)
    - ❧ **Love:** Serve one another fulfilling your role (5:1-5)
    - ❧ **Knowledge:** Understand Satan's purpose in suffering (5:6-9)
  - ❧ The Promise of Salvation (5:10-11)
- ❧ Final Greeting (5:12-14)

# Main Themes: Humility & Grace



- ❧ **Humility** is having accurate self-knowledge.  
Because of sin, self-knowledge is impossible without a true knowledge of God.
- ❧ **Grace** is God's mercy and love expressed towards sinners.
- ❧ **Relationship:** God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.



# John Calvin





“Again, it is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God's face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself. For we always seem to ourselves righteous and upright and wise and holy -- this pride is innate in all of us -- unless by clear proofs we stand convinced of our own unrighteousness, foulness, folly, and impurity. ... We must infer that man is never sufficiently touched and affected by the awareness of his lowly state until he has compared himself with God's majesty. (1.1.2-3)

# Love: Serve one another fulfilling your role (5:1-5)



## **Elders**

-  **Peter's humility:** Peter could have reminded them of his apostleship, but instead, he reminds them of his greatest failure.
-  **COMMAND: “Shepherd the flock of God”** The very same charge that the risen Christ gave to Peter, he now gives to the elders. (See Ezek. 34)

# Ezek. 34



- ☞ Feeding God's people
- ☞ Strengthening the sickly
- ☞ Healing the diseased
- ☞ Binding up the broken
- ☞ Bringing back the scattered
- ☞ Seeking the lost

# Love: Serve one another fulfilling your role (5:1-5)



- ❧ Not unwillingly, not out of obligation, but willingly
- ❧ Not for pay as a motive (greedily) but freely, eagerly
- ❧ Not overpowering (exercising one's authority to one's advantage) but as examples.
- ❧ **Calvin:** "In exhorting pastors to their duty, he points out three vices especially which are often to be found, namely sloth, desire for gain, and lust for power."

# Love: Serve one another fulfilling your role (5:1-5)



## ☞ *Young People*

☞ **COMMAND:** “Be subject to your elders”= respect & obedience.

## ☞ *Everyone*

☞ **COMMAND:** “Be clothed with humility”= Paul describes how this honest assessment will express itself in regarding others to be more important than ourselves (Phil 2:3).

☞ **Schreiner:** “Humility is the oil that allows relationships in the church to run smoothly and lovingly.”

# Knowledge: Understand Satan's purpose in suffering (5:6-9)



- ☞ In Greek, the verb can use one of three voices:
  - ☞ **Active**—/ opened the door. --- Subject performs the action.
  - ☞ **Middle**—I opened the door for *myself*—Subject both performs the action and receives the action or benefits.
  - ☞ **Passive**—The door *was opened* for me—subject receives action. Something is being done to me or for me.

# Knowledge: Understand Satan's purpose in suffering (5:6-9)



## ☞ *Posture towards God*

☞ **COMMAND:** “Humble yourself” = Imperative  
Passive: Perhaps better translated, “Allow yourselves to be humbled...” willingly submit to God. Do not resist God’s activity in your life.

☞ **HOW?** “by casting”= Lay something on the back of another. (1 Peter 2:23; 4:19)

# Knowledge: Understand Satan's purpose in suffering (5:6-9)



## ☞ *Posture towards God*

☞ Peter has used multiple words to get at the same thing:

☞ “paradidomi” (2:23) Hand over

☞ “paratithemi” (4:19) Entrust for safekeeping

☞ “epirripto” (5:7) transfer, cast upon

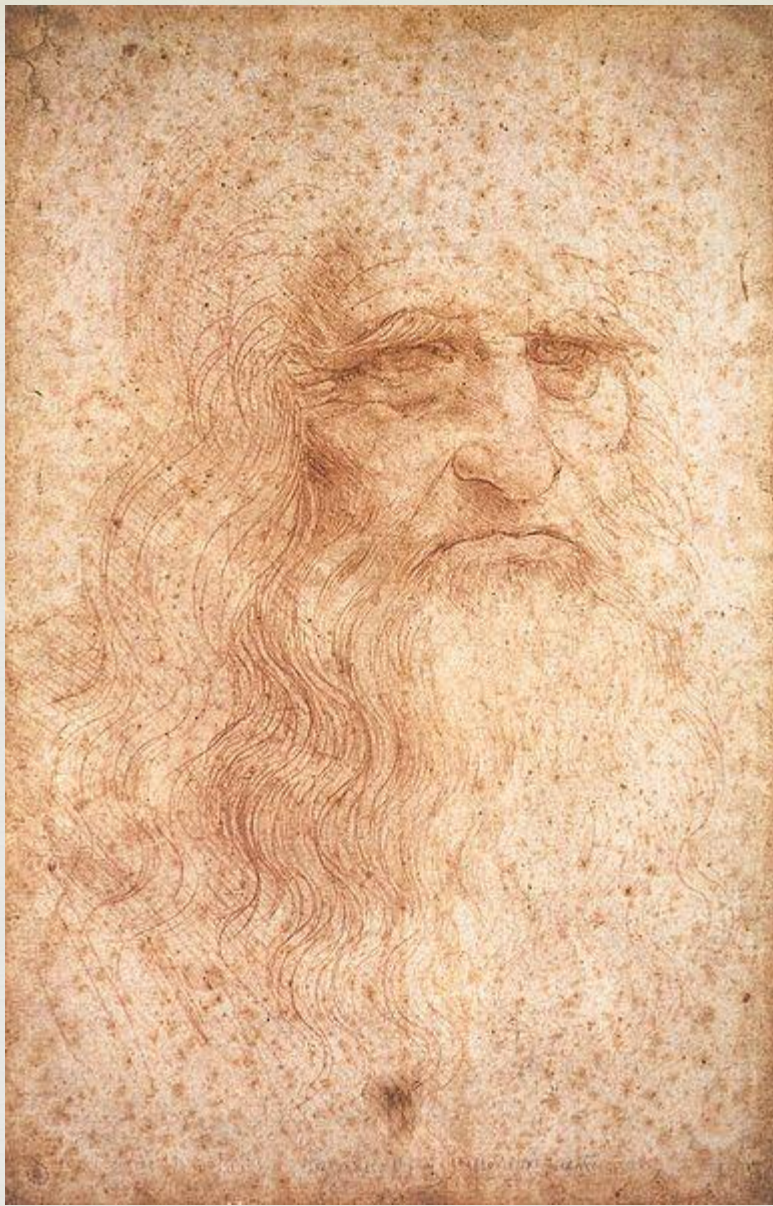


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- ☞ **COMMAND:** “Humble yourself” = Imperative  
Passive: Perhaps better translated, “Allow yourselves to be humbled...” willingly submit to God. Do not resist God’s activity in your life.
- ☞ **HOW?** “by casting”= Lay something on the back of another. (1 Peter 2:23; 4:19)
- ☞ **WHY?** “because he cares for you” God’s mighty hand is a caring hand. God takes pains over that which He cares for most.



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# Knowledge: Understand Satan's purpose in suffering (5:6-9)



## ☞ *Posture towards Satan*

- ☞ Peter does not dwell much on Satan and his activity. Yes, we are to be aware of the devil's involvement and his intentions and resist him, but we must understand our suffering to be coming directly from the mighty hand of a loving Father.
- ☞ **Be sober, be on the alert (watchful)**= Note 1:13; 4:7
  - ☞ Be sober in order to hope in the second coming
  - ☞ Be sober in order to pray
  - ☞ Be sober in order to resist the devil
- ☞ **Your adversary, the devil**= Your accuser, the slanderer. Behind the accusations and slander from neighbors, co-workers, family members is the devil himself.

# Knowledge: Understand Satan's purpose in suffering (5:6-9)



- ☞ **COMMAND:** “Resist” (antistēte)= Stand against the devil. The authority to resist the devil depends on our submission to God.
- ☞ **HOW?** by staying firm in faith (trusting in God).
- ☞ **WHY?** Because we know God causes all his people to experience suffering as a fulfillment of his objective and purpose (being accomplished- epiteleo).

# “Called” in 1 Peter



PAST

Called out  
of darkness

PRESENT

Called to do  
right and suffer

FUTURE

Called to  
eternal glory



# The Promise of Salvation (5:10-11)



- ☞ **Promise:** He who began a good work will complete it. He who called you will perfect you.
  - ☞ God himself will make you whole (katartizo)
  - ☞ God himself will make you inwardly firm and secure (stērizo)
  - ☞ God himself will strengthen you (sthenōo)
  - ☞ God himself will firmly establish you (themeliōo)
- ☞ **Means:** How will God fulfill his promise? Not in spite of suffering but through suffering!

# Final Greeting (5:12-14)



- ❧ **This is the true grace of God=**
  - ❧ 1) that we have been called.
  - ❧ 2) that we will be perfected, confirmed, strengthened and established through suffering.
  - ❧ 3) that we will inherit eternal glory in Christ.
- ❧ **Stand firm in it (stēte)= Stand in grace. How?**  
Humility

# Conclusion: The relationship between sin, suffering, God, and Satan



- ❧ Sin and suffering are not identical. Sin causes suffering and suffering can cause sin but suffering is not sin.
- ❧ God stands above sin & suffering: 1) God is sovereign, in control of it. 2) He is not the author of it.
- ❧ Satan stands behind sin & suffering: 1) He is not sovereign. 2) Sin and resulting suffering can be traced back to him.

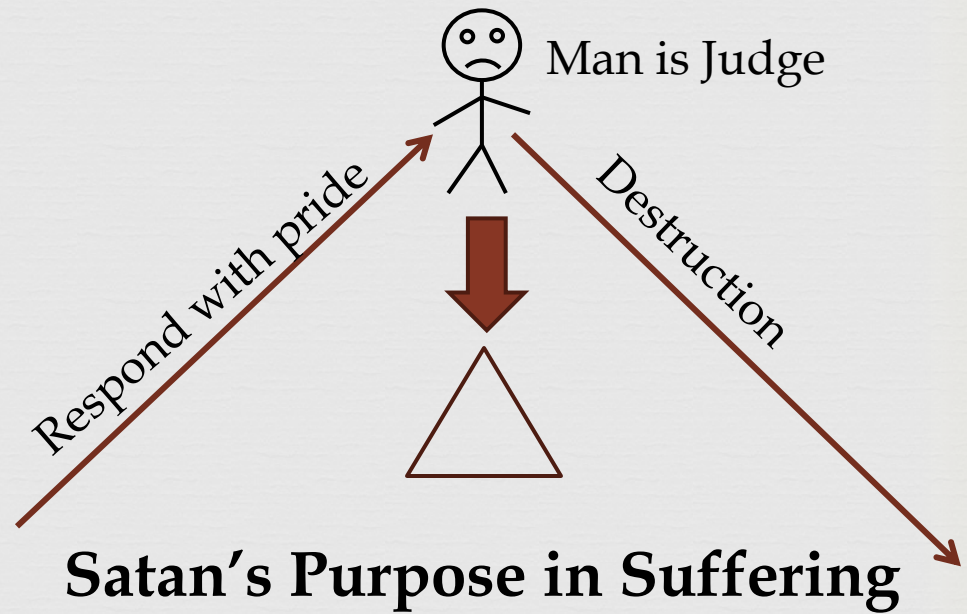
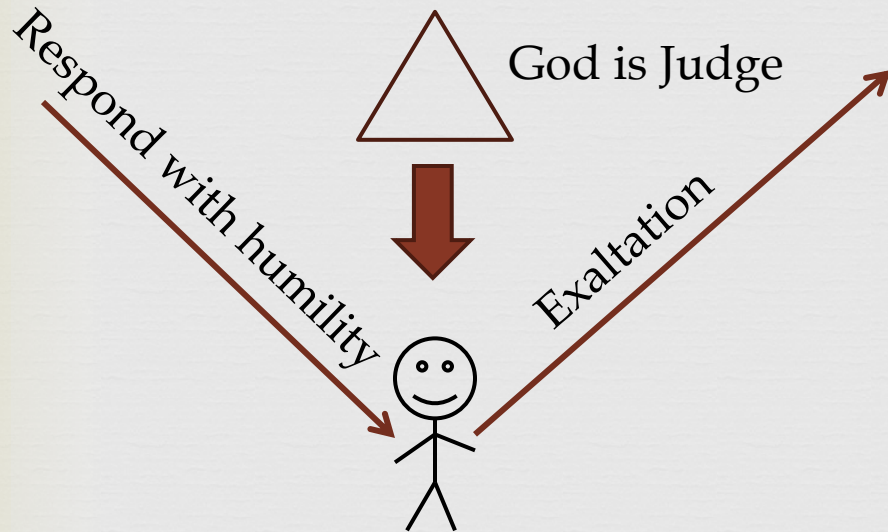


# Conclusion: The relationship between sin, suffering, God, and Satan



- ❧ Both God and Satan have an agenda when it comes to suffering:
  - ❧ Satan seeks to destroy us
  - ❧ God seeks to exalt us
- ❧ It is our posture toward God that determines our posture toward Satan.
  - ❧ To resist God (pride) is to forfeit grace and succumb to Satan.
  - ❧ To submit to God (humility) is receive and stand in grace and resist the devil.

# God's Purpose in Suffering



# Conclusion: Peter's Life Experience

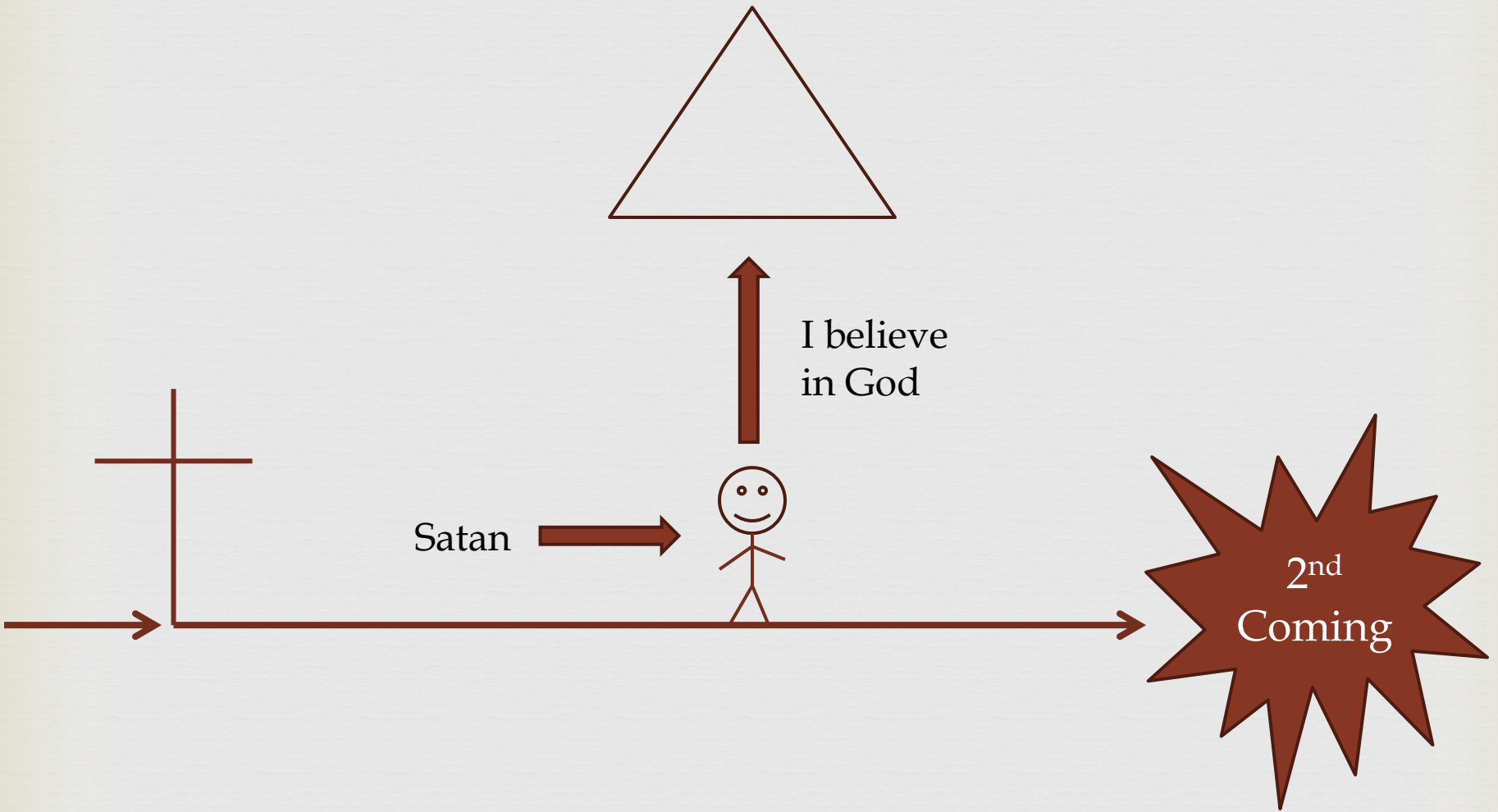


- ❧ Peter failed to keep watch: **Mark 14:37**
- ❧ Peter resisted God, not the devil in the face of persecution: **Luke 22:49**
- ❧ Peter succumbed to the lion's roar: He denied Christ three times out of fear. **Mark 14:66-72**
- ❧ Peter was restored by Christ and commanded to:
  - ❧ strengthen your brothers **Luke 22:32**
  - ❧ shepherd my sheep **John 21:16**

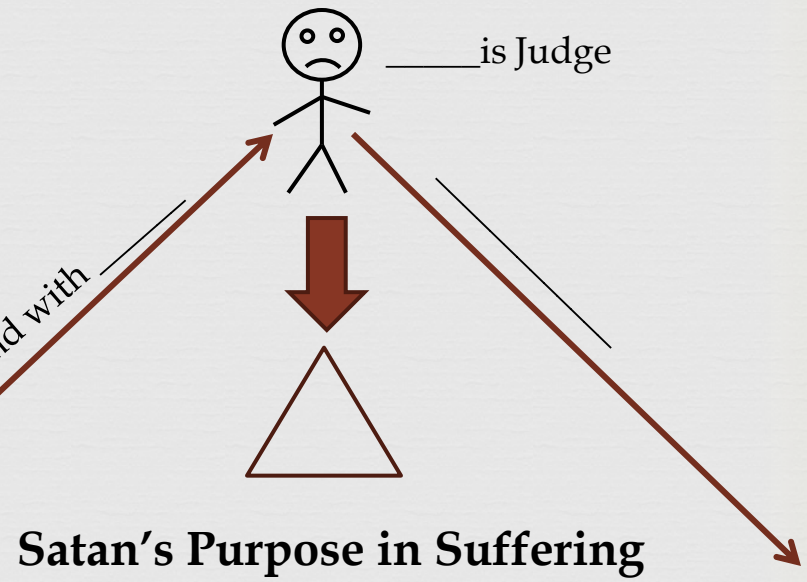
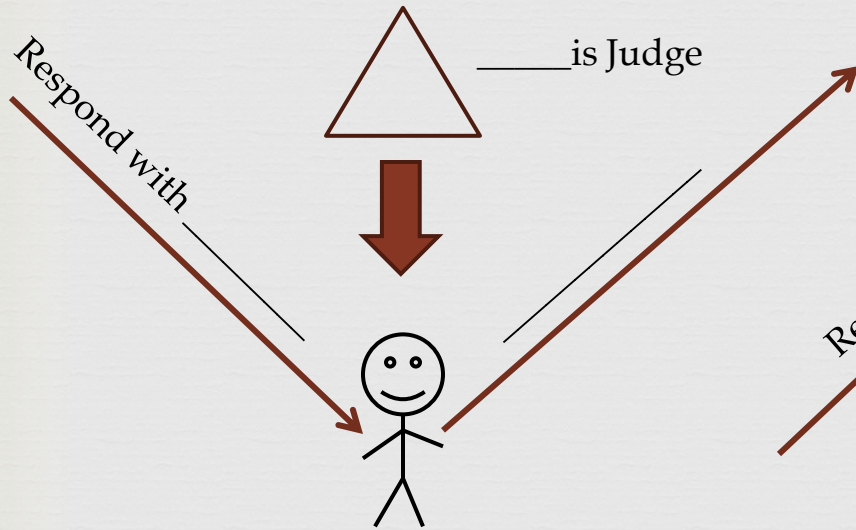
# Question for August 19



- ✧ In his book *Humility: True Greatness*, C.J. Mahaney exhorts us saying, “Indeed we should strive to develop a theology of suffering ahead of time, so we’re prepared for suffering and sustained through our experience of it. Because the crucial unanswered question is not *whether* we will suffer but *how we’ll respond* when we suffer” (138). In light of this, what contribution does 1 Peter make to our theology of suffering?



# God's Purpose in Suffering



# Satan's Purpose in Suffering