

22S04 1st Peter 5:6-11 Serve God Willingly

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our series on 1st Peter with 1st Peter 5:6-11.

The author of this letter is the Apostle Peter. Most scholars believe this letter was written sometime in AD60-64. The main theme of 1st Peter is “Where does our Hope come from?” for those suffering persecution. This letter was written to Christians living in the Roman Empire and facing persecution because they follow Jesus.

I’m reading from the International Children’s Bible (ICB) again today, I like the plain English in this translation. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Before we start today, Peter is talking about suffering. Suffering as a Christian. In our modern culture we are often told we should not suffer. Bu the Bible tells us different ; we will suffer in the world and we will suffer because we stand with Christ. Peter is encouraging us to stand firm in our conviction because God is with us. Our suffering is only for a short time, then in the end God will make the wrongs right. Take heart though, our Christian brothers & sisters be us faced similar troubles. And there are people all over the world facing troubles like ours and even worse. Beware, the devil is working in this world against us but we can trust God who is way more powerful than anything or anyone else.

Let’s read 1st Peter 5:6-11 (ICB) *⁶So be humble under God’s powerful hand. Then he will lift you up when the right time comes. ⁷Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you. ⁸Control yourselves and be careful! The devil is your enemy. And he goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat. ⁹Refuse to give in to the devil. Stand strong in your faith. You know that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are having the same sufferings you have. ¹⁰Yes, you will suffer for a short time. But after that, God will make everything right. He will make you strong. He will support you and keep you from falling. He is the God who gives all grace. He called you to share in his glory in Christ. That glory will continue forever. ¹¹All power is his forever and ever. Amen.*

Let’s pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your word from 1st Peter, help us to feel the encouragement you intended us to feel. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Okay, let’s look closer at what Peter is telling us. First 1st Peter 5:6 (ICB)) *⁶So be humble under God’s powerful hand. Then he will lift you up when the right time comes.*

Peter is reminding us that we must surrender control of our lives to Jesus, be humble under God's powerful hand. Let God lead, we follow. And it comes with a promise God will lift us up when the right time, God's perfect time comes.

Peter goes on to say in, 1st Peter 5:7 (ICB) . ***7Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you.*** Remember Jesus told us to not worry about anything in Matthew 6 and Paul tell us to be anxious about nothing in Philippians 4. Being anxious and worrying is a human thing, we all do it. We worry about things like a test in school, a project at work, conflict with someone. And for sure these are things we need to spend time and energy on if we are to expect a positive outcome. But God is telling us not to worry about the outcome, do your best, put the effort, then leave the outcome and consequences up to God. God's promising He's in charge and no matter what happens to us He's in control and there is a reason and purpose. God loves you; you can trust Him.

Let's read the next couple verse again, 1st Peter 5:8 (ICB) ***8Control yourselves and be careful! The devil is your enemy. And he goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat.***

Peter says control yourself. Why? Well the devil is looking for something to use against us. He's like a lion looking for someone to eat. So, Peter means guard your hearts & minds, control you tongue and body. People are looking for a reason to hurt us as Christians, so everything we do and say matters. Everyday matters. Good news is God is with us to help us make good decision which will make are lives better. It's a better way to live but we need to be intentional. Don't take your relationship with Jesus casual. It's not just on Sundays, it needs to be our priority every day, every hour, every moment.

Let's read verse again, 1st Peter 5:9 (ICB) ***9 Refuse to give in to the devil. Stand strong in your faith. You know that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are having the same sufferings you have.***

I think this is important. We have lots of company in our troubles. All other Christians face suffering, all over the world. So, say no to the devil and stand strong in your faith. This means live it. Be fully committed to Jesus and live that way every day, in every situation. You aren't the only one facing troubles to be encouraged, God is control, you can trust Him.

Let's read verse again, 1st Peter 5:10-11 (ICB) ***10 Yes, you will suffer for a short time. But after that, God will make everything right. He will make you strong. He will support you and keep you from falling. He is the God who gives all grace. He called you to share in his glory in Christ. That glory will continue forever. 11 All power is his forever and ever. Amen.***

I really like how Peter is ending this letter. Your suffering won't last long, God will make it right, He will make you strong, He will support you and keep you from failing. I hope

you heard that, stand strong in your faith. We have been called by God in Christ and His glory is forever and ever. Amen. Remember what Amen means. You can trust this statement, its reliable. Best English translation is “so be it”. As so be it here as it is in heaven. Amen

Let's Review,

- 1) **Why does Peter tell us to control ourselves?** Well, how we speak and act matters. Don't give the devil an opening in our lives. Honor God with our words and actions. Don't take things that don't belong to you even if everyone does it. Don't talk badly about other people even if everyone else is doing it. Even if they do it to you and about you.
- 2) **Don't worry, How?** First Trust God with everything. If you trust God, surrender to Him and He promises to guide our steps and decisions. Leave the outcomes, what other say and do, up to God. Do our part like we are working for God. I heard a great example, Before to do something or say something, imagine your mother or grandmother is standing next to you. How much more God, who knows what we are thinking. Let this principle guide us so we can trust God and stop worrying about our circumstances or outcomes. God love us. We can Trust Jesus.
- 3) **Does it encourage you that your suffering won't last very long?** It encourages me. Everybody faces trials and troubles. Everyone suffers, Christian and non-Christian. But as a follower of Jesus, we know this suffering won't last forever and we are promised something much much better. And we know others are suffering too, we aren't alone. Plus, God is always with us even in the times we suffer. God loves us. Trust Jesus.

Let me leave you with this today. Peter is reminding us God's in control. Worrying won't help your situation. Being anxious never improved your mood. If we trust Jesus, then we must trust Him with our every situation. Do our part, then leave the outcome to God.

Let's Pray.

Heavenly Father thank you. We know being anxious will not help us at all. So we pray you help us to surrender completely to you, so we can stop worrying and start trusting you. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen

I hope you are enjoying our study of 1st Peter. I hope you will join me for the rest of this series

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at kip@punla.org. I appreciate your feedback. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.