

This week we are wrapping up our study of 1 Peter. In his final words, we hear Peter pleading with his listeners to stand firm in the truth. The Apostle knew that eventually, every single Christian would struggle with doubts and fears. He writes to encourage all of us to STAND FIRM no matter what happens!

### Sermon Outline:

#### READ - 1 Peter 5:6-14 (Stand Firm)

"This is the **true grace of God**. Stand firm in it."

#### Imagery in chapter 5

1. Shepherd (Jesus) – verse 4
2. Lion (Satan) – verse 8
3. Sheep (Us) – verse 2

Jesus' role → bring us to God (3:18)

Satan's role → devour God's people (5:8)

Our role → stay with the Shepherd (5:6)

#### Satan's strategy:

- Get us away from the shepherd.

#### Satan's tactics:

- Fear – cause us to run from God into isolation.
- Doubt – cause us to lose heart.
- Suffering – give up before we see the reward.
- Biting sheep – Christians driving other Christians away from God.

"resist him, **firm** in the faith"

Satan cannot win as long as we stand firm and stay with the Shepherd.

Verse 9 – Satan is the cause of some Christian suffering.

Why would God allow us to suffer at Satan's hand?

We don't know ... but we do know:

- God allowed Peter to suffer
- God allowed Jesus to suffer

Even when Satan seems to win ... GOD ALWAYS HAS THE LAST WORD.

So we STAND FIRM ... knowing that our God is faithful, trustworthy, and He cares for us.

We can STAND FIRM because we know that God always has the last word.

### Suggested Discussion Questions:

- The fight or flight instinct comes so naturally to all of us. Are you a fight or a flight kind of person?
- Discuss together the imagery used in chapter 5. Does Peter's instruction to STAND FIRM make sense in light of the fact that we are sheep?
- Why do you think Peter refers to Satan as a roaring lion?
- What fears have the potential to cause you to run from the safety of the shepherd?
- How should we respond to our doubts about God care and protection? (Hint: read verse 6-7)
- Is there an appropriate response to biting sheep (hurtful, aggressive, selfish Christians)?
- Many people reject God because they cannot understand why God would allow people to suffer when he could stop it. While we may not always know why, how is it helpful to know that God always has the last word?
- Share an encouraging story from your own life of God's faithfulness to you to encourage others in your group to STAND FIRM.
- Pray together for boldness to stand.

### Additional Reading / Devotions:

- Matthew 7:24-27
- James 4:5-10