

***“Fortifying Your Faith!”***  
***~ The Message Of First Peter ~***

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning, We Are Going To Begin A New Series Of Messages On The Letters / Epistles Of 1 & 2 Peter!
  - It Is Important For Us To Read / Study / Preach God’s Word As He Gave It!
    - God Has Given Us His Own Agenda For Our Spiritual Growth Through His Word!
  - So, We Will Be Going Through These Letters Verse By Verse / Paragraph By Paragraph!
    - To Begin, We Will Consider The Overall Message Of 1 Peter!
  - And Discover Together How The Lord Wants To Fortify & Strengthen Your Faith As A Christian!
2. 1 Peter Is Also A Tremendous Book About Jesus Christ!
  - Showing The Close, Personal Relationship That The Apostle Peter Had With The Lord Jesus!
  - And, Like Peter, We See That Our Faith Begins With / Continues Through / And Ends With Jesus Christ!
    - Remember, It Was Peter Who Answered Jesus When He Asked: “But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God!” (Matthew 16:16; Mark 8:29)
  - For Peter, Becoming A Christian Was Like A “New Birth!”
    - 1 Peter 1:23 - “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever!”
  - Just Like A Newborn Baby, Everything Is Complete And Ready To Grow!
    - The Mind Of A Baby Is There, But Has Much To Learn!
    - The Mouth Of A Baby Is There, But Cannot Yet Speak!
    - The Muscles Of A Baby Are There, But Are Very Weak!
    - The Faith Strength Of A Baby Christian Is There, But Needs To Be Exercised & Strengthened!
    - So The Lord Jesus Continues To “Fortify Your Faith” Even / Especially Through Trials!
      - So: 1:7 - “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ!”
3. How Will The Lord Fortify / Strengthen Your Faith? (Major Themes)
  - By First:
    1. ***God Calls You To Salvation!***
      - As Jesus Said To Nicodemus In John 3 - “Ye Must Be Born Again!”
        - You Cannot Grow Physically Until You Are Alive!
        - You Cannot Grow Spiritually Until You Are Alive!
        - “Ye Must Be Born Again!”
        - And The Only Way To Become Spiritually Alive / Born Again / Saved Is Through The Gospel Of The Lord Jesus Christ!
          - And 1 Peter Clearly Calls Us To Salvation!
          - This Is Where It All Starts!
      - Through The Blood Of Jesus Christ!
        - 1:2 - “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied!”
        - In God’s Eternal Plan, It Was Only The Blood Of His Son, Jesus, That Would Satisfy The Penalty Of Sin!
          - You Must Recognize The Purpose Of His Blood!
            - You Need It!
          - You Must Recognize The Power Of His Blood!
          - You Must Recognize The Purity Of His Blood!
        - 1:19 - “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot!”
          - You Must Believe That Jesus Shed His Precious Blood For You!
        - Through The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ!
          - 1:3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant

- mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!”
  - The Resurrection Is A Fact! And Gives Hope!
  - You Must Believe That Jesus Rose From The Dead For You!
- Through The Return Of Jesus Christ!
  - 1:7 - “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ!
  - You Must Believe That Jesus Will Return For You!
- 1 Peter Begins With The Gospel!
  - And How You & I Must Respond To The Gospel!
  - 1:8-9 - “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: / Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls!”
- Through The Gospel - Jesus Alone - You Are Born Again!
  - And Now, You Have The Life You Need In Order To Grow! And God Will Fortify Your Faith As:

## 2. ***God Calls You To Suffering!***

- A Key Theme In 1 Peter Is Suffering!
  - Just Like Muscles Are Strengthened Through Resistance!
  - God Uses Suffering To Fortify Your Faith!
- The Example Of Suffering!
  - 2:21 - “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps!”
  - “In His Steps” - Charles Sheldon - “What Would Jesus Do?”
  - The Steps To Follow Are The Steps Of Suffering!
- The Experience Of Suffering!
  - 4:12 - “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you!”
  - The Life Of A Christian Is A Call To Suffering!
    - Different Kinds / Forms / Causes!
    - But It Is Not About “Your Best Life Now!”
  - Not Uncommon / Not Unusual / Not Unique For Those Who Have Faith In & Are Followers Of Jesus Christ!
- The Expression Of Suffering!
  - How To React? 4:13-14 - “But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be **glad** also with **exceeding joy**. / If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy** are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified!”
  - 1 Peter Teaches Us Very Practically How We Are To Respond!
    - What’s The Point? Purpose?
- The Effect Of Suffering!
  - 3:14-15 - “But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; / But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear!”
  - How You Handle Suffering Provides Opportunities To Tell Others About Jesus!
- Handling Suffering In This Way Seems Impossible!
  - But Through It, God Will Fortify Your Faith! As You Learn:

## 3. ***God Calls You To Sojourning!***

- The Reason For Our Suffering & Our Strength In Suffering:
  - There Is Something Different! You Are Different!
- You Are Strangers!
  - 1:1 - “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia,

- Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia!”
- 2:11 - “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul!”
- You May Live In The World, But You Are Not To Love It!
- You May Be In The Word, But You Are Not Of It!
- Your Home Is Different Than The World!
- You Are Special!
- 2:9 - “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light!”
- Your Habits Are Different Than The World!
  - Often The Cause Of Ridicule & Suffering!
- But There Is A Purpose!
- To Live In God’s Marvellous Light! To Share It! (Matthew 5:16 - “Let Your Light So Shine!”)
- While You:
  - Remember Your Salvation!
  - Respond To Your Suffering The Right Way!
  - Reside As A Stranger In This World!
  - God Is Fortifying Your Faith - So He Can Use You!

#### 4. ***God Calls You To Service!***

- It Is Hard To Work When You Are Sick!
  - Muscles Ache! Don’t Want To Get Out Of Bed!
  - Christians Feel Like This Too! God Will Help You To Continue To Serve, As Jesus Did, Even Through Suffering!
  - Mark 10:45 - “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many!”
    - Jesus Served Through His Suffering! Us Too!
  - Because Service To Others Is Service To God!
    - 2:16 - “As The Servants Of God!”
    - We Are “Servants Of God”:
- Under The Law!
  - 2:13-14 - “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; / Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well!”
- In Our Livelihood!
  - 2:18 - “Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward!”
- To Our Loved Ones!
  - 3:1 - “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands!”
  - 3:7 - “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered!”
  - In Case He Left Anyone Out - 3:8 - “Finally, be ye **all** of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous!”
- In Each Of These, Serving Through Suffering Is What God Uses To Get The Attention Of Unbelievers!
  - Under The Law - You Can: “Put To Silence The Ignorance Of Foolish Men!” (2:15)
  - In Our Livelihood - “This Is Thankworthy!” (2:19)
  - To Our Loved Ones - Especially In A Wife’s Relationship To Her Unbelieving Husband: “They Also May Without The Word Be Won By The Conversation Of The Wives!” (3:1)
- God Will Fortify Your Faith In Order To Use You!
  - As You Serve Him By Serving Others!
  - And As You Become Stronger, You Will Mature! Because:

#### 5. ***God Calls You To Sanctification!***

- God Has Called You In Order To Change You!
  - Just As Muscles That Are Used & Exercised Regularly Change! Become Stronger / Larger / More Useful!
- You Will Become More Holy!
  - 1:15-16 - "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; / Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy!"
  - A Holy Christian Is A Useful Christian!
- You Will Become More Hungry! (For The Word Of God!)
  - 2:2-3 - "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: / If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious!"
- You Will Become More Honest!
  - 2:12 - "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation!" (Truth!)
- You Will Have More Heart!
  - 4:8-9 - "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins! / Use hospitality one to another without grudging!"
- You Will Become What God Has Called You To Be!
  - 5:10 - "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you!"
  - He Will Fortify Your Faith!

**Conclusion:**

1. Throughout 1 Peter, God Teaches Us How He Will Fortify Our Faith!
  - Through Our Salvation / Suffering / Sojourning / Service / Sanctification:
    - Our Faith Is Made Stronger! Respond?
2. Key Verse - 4:19 - "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator!"
3. Questions: How Do Each Of These 5 Major Themes Relate To You?
  - Are You Saved?
    - You Will Not Receive The Strength You Need Until You Receive The Savior You Need! He Is Using The Problems / Pressures In Your Life To Get Your Attention!
  - Are You Suffering?
    - Different Kinds! Response - "Rejoice!"
    - God Uses Suffering To Fortify Your Faith!
  - Are You Sojourning?
    - Is There A Difference In Your Life? Love / Lifestyle?
    - Keep Your Perspective / Priorities Right!
  - Are You Serving?
    - Never Stop! God Gives You Strength To Serve!
  - Are You Being Sanctified!
    - Is There Noticeable Change On The Inside?
4. This Is The Message Of 1 Peter!
  - God Will Fortify Your Faith In These Ways!
    - Will You Let Him?

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