

**STANDING FIRM: How Can We?**  
Andy Deane · 5/19/2024 · 1 Peter 1:1-12

Peter writes to, “*God’s elect (foreigners, strangers, pilgrims, temporary residents), exiles scattered throughout...*” and shares with us why we can stand firm in a culture shifting towards ungodliness.

**We can stand firm because God is still saving:**

*1 Peter 1:2-6a, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice..*

- The God who saves us is triune (1:2).
- The God who saves us has a purpose (1:2).
- The God who mercifully saves us will empower us (1:3-5).
- A saved soul is grateful for the reality of the gospel (1:4).

**We can stand firm despite our suffering:**

*1 Peter 1:6b-9, ...though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

- Suffering is temporary (1:6).
  - That which is temporary we can endure, and a believer’s longest experience will be peace and joy.
  - Revelation 21:4, *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying...*
- Suffering leads to grief (1:6).
  - The pain of suffering is real (read the Psalms) and suffering is diverse.
  - Psalms 34:19, *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.*
- Suffering has a purpose (1:7).
  - Faith that is not genuine, does not save, so it must be proven true.
  - Trials burn away the “dross” stuck on our faith.
  - Suffering reveals to us the strength of our faith: James 1:3, *...testing of your faith produces perseverance...*
- What does it mean to have true faith (1:8)? Ask yourself if these statements are true for you today:
  1. *Though you have not seen him, you love him...*
  2. *Though you do not see him now, you believe...*
  3. *You...are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy...*

**Others can stand firm by our serving:**

*1 Peter 1:10-12, 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.*

- We’ve been served by Old Testament prophets speaking about the coming Messiah (1:10-11).
- We’ve been served by someone in the past who shared the gospel with us (1:12).
- We join in and serve others in the same way, by sharing the gospel with someone:  
Romans 15:7, *Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*