



Standing Firm in Grace
1 Peter 5:12-14
Study Guide

1. Peter brings his magnificent epistle to a close. He penned the last verses himself. What do we know about Silas (Silvanus) from elsewhere in Scripture (Acts 15:22-40; 16:19, 25, 29; 17:4, 10-15; 18:5; 2 Cor. 1:19; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1)? Peter refers to him as a “faithful brother.” What does this tell us about his character? To what extent can faithfulness be said of you? Do you finish things you are asked to do? Are you reliable? Ask God to make you a more faithful servant in the church. Seek out a faithful Christian you know and express your appreciation to them.
2. 1 Peter has been written so that suffering Christians would stand firm in God’s grace. This is Peter’s last imperative (“Stand firm in it.”). What would this have meant to the persecuted believers? At this point you will want to rehearse the meaning of grace and how it is experienced. What is grace? Why is it so important in the Christian life? What difference would grace make in difficult times? These are unusually important questions because often a Christian word like grace can be used without any real grasp of its meaning. How has grace been used in 1 Peter (1:2, 10, 13; 3:7; 4:10; 5:5, 10)?
3. The word “Babylon” has been the occasion for a variety of interpretations. What do you think is the most hermeneutically sound interpretation? The word “She” has puzzled some. Who do you think this “co-elect” one is in Babylon? What are some of the possibilities? Is it Peter’s wife?



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4. Mark is mentioned as sending his greetings to the churches. He is affectionately called “my son.” Who is this Mark? What do we know about him (Col. 4:10; Acts 13:5, 13; 15:37-39; 2 Tim. 4:11)? Why is Mark a wonderful study in overcoming failures in one’s life? Have you allowed some past failure to keep you from serving God effectively?
5. As Peter closes he asked that greetings be given to one another in connection with a kiss of love. This was common sign of fellowship and Christian love in the early church (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26). What would be our cultural counterpart to this kind of greeting? The final statement, “Peace be to you all who are in Christ,” draws attention to the kind of peace needed in the midst of persecution (Jn. 14:27). How can this inward peace become a reality in the believer’s life (Phil. 4:6-7)? When you are going through difficult times do you know what it is to have genuine peace? How would you know that you do have it?
6. Do you see any similarity between the close of Peter’s letter and its beginning (1:2)? Before you finish this study take some time to ask God make the truths of 1 Peter real in your own heart and life.

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