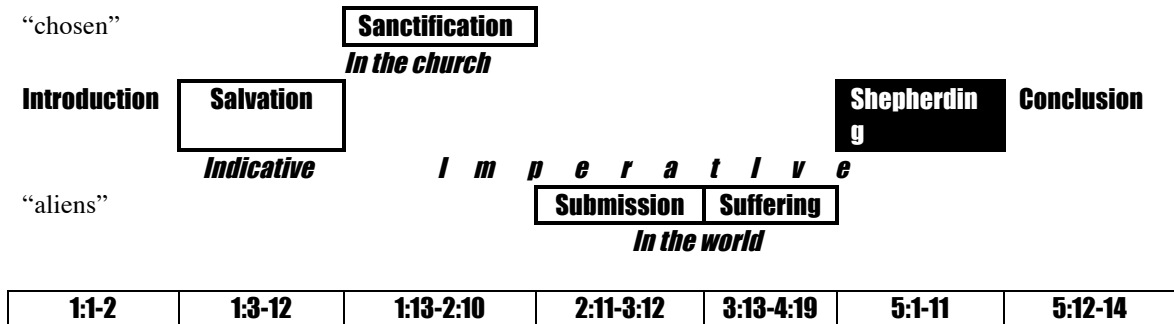


1 Peter 5:12-14



How to turn a test into a testimony

1. Resist the right things.

Pride not passivity

5 . . . God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

Satan not circumstances (magistrates, masters, mates)

8 Be of sober {spirit,} be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in {your} faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

Gen.3:1-7, Matt.4:1-11, Matt.16:21-28

Being established in this world not the Kingdom

10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen {and} establish you. 11 To Him {be} dominion forever and ever. Amen.

2. Stand firm in the grace of God.

12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard {him}), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that **this is the true grace of**

God. Stand firm in it! ¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and {so does} my son, Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

Adoniram Judson, a missionary to Burma, endured great testing, for 17 months was tortured for his faith in Ava Prison. The scars on his body were a mark of his shared fellowship with Christ. Undaunted, upon his release he asked for permission to enter another province to resume his ministry. The godless ruler denied his request, saying, "My people are not fools enough to listen to anything a missionary might SAY, but I fear they might be impressed by your SCARS and turn to your religion!"

This man's test became his testimony.

Jesus' greatest influence on the church was not from his ethical teaching, his moral example, or his charismatic leadership. It was in his suffering and death.

It was his testing before the cross that produced the testimony that is remembered in the epistles.

Noah – fool to build an ark

Abraham – tested as he left his home

Moses – tested to lead without gifts

David – tested by moral failure – God's heart

Jesus – tested in prayer

Peter – after several foul ups writes this letter

How can we turn our tests into testimonies? Lets ask Peter.

Ephesians 6:11-12

“¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² for our struggles is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

II Corinthians 10:3-5

“³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

“you will all fall away because of Me” Matt.26:31

test

Judas

did not abide

Peter

did abide

Death

Testimony