

1 Peter 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

This magnificent benediction encapsulates the gospel's hope and God's faithfulness to suffering believers. "But the God of all grace" (ho de theos pasēs charitos, ὁ δὲ θεὸς πάσης χάριτος) identifies God by His characteristic attribute—unlimited, unmerited favor. Every blessing flows from grace, not merit. The relative clause "who hath called us unto his eternal glory" (ho kalesas hymas eis tēn aiōnion autou doxan, ὁ καλέσας ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν αἰώνιον αὐτοῦ δόξαν) reminds readers of their destiny: sharing God's glory eternally, a calling secured "by Christ Jesus" (en Christō Iēsou, ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ), emphasizing union with Christ as the means. The temporal phrase "after that ye have suffered a while" (oligon pathontas, ὀλίγον παθόντας) acknowledges present suffering's reality while relativizing its duration—"a little while" compared to eternal glory awaits (Romans 8:18). Then four powerful verbs detail God's sustaining work: "make you perfect" (katartisei, καταρτίσει) means to mend, restore, complete, equip—like setting broken bones or mending nets; "stablish" (stērixai, στηρίζει) means to fix firmly, stabilize, strengthen against collapse; "strengthen" (sthenōsei, σθενώσει) means to make strong, empower for endurance; "settle" (themeliōsei, θεμελιώσει) means to lay foundation, ground firmly. These progressive verbs promise God's active work during and after trials, not abandonment but intensive divine involvement producing maturity, stability, strength, and unshakeable foundation.

Historical Context

Peter writes his closing benediction to believers enduring intense persecution, offering not escape from suffering but divine transformation through it. The phrase "after you have suffered a while" doesn't trivialize pain but provides temporal perspective—present afflictions are brief compared to "eternal glory." In first-century context, this wasn't theoretical comfort but life-or-death reality for Christians facing martyrdom. The fourfold description of God's sustaining work (perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle) draws on Peter's personal experience. After denying Christ, Peter was "restored" (same root as "perfect") by Jesus at Galilee (John 21). After Pentecost, he was "strengthened" by the Spirit to boldly proclaim Christ despite threats. Now facing his own imminent martyrdom (tradition says around AD 67-68, shortly after writing this letter), Peter testifies with absolute confidence: the God of all grace sustains His people through every trial unto eternal glory. Early Christian communities treasured this promise, finding courage to face lions, crucifixion, and burning because they believed God would complete His work begun in them (Philippians 1:6).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does knowing your suffering is "a little while" compared to "eternal glory" change your perspective on current trials and willingness to endure?
2. Which of God's four promised actions—perfecting, establishing, strengthening, or settling—do you most need in your current circumstances, and how can you actively cooperate with His work?

Interlinear Text

τὴν δὲ θεὸς πάσης χάριτος τὴν καλέσας ἡμᾶς εἰς
who But the God of all grace who hath called us unto
G3588 G1161 G2316 G3956 G5485 G3588 G2564 G2248 G1519

τὴν αἰώνιον αὐτοῦ δόξαν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ὀλίγον
who eternal G846 glory by Christ Jesus a while
G3588 G166 G1391 G1722 G5547 G2424 G3641

παθόντας αὐτὸς καταρτίσαι ὑμᾶς στηρίξαι
after that ye have suffered G846 make you stablish
G3958 G2675 G5209 G4741

σθενώσαι, θεμελιώσαι
strengthen settle
G4599 G2311

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 4:17 (Glory): For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (Parallel theme): But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

Jude 1:24 (Glory): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Psalms 138:7 (Parallel theme): Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

1 Timothy 6:12 (Eternal Life): Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

2 Thessalonians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

2 Corinthians 13:11 (References God): Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

1 Corinthians 1:9 (References Jesus): God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 (Glory): That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Romans 16:25 (References Jesus): Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

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