



July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 • 1 Peter 5:12-14  
Standing Firm in the Grace of God • The Book of 1 Peter  
Message #17 • by Pastor Marcus Johnson



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## Standing Firm in the True Grace of God

### 1. Peter’s brief Apostolic Letter

- by Silvanus – a faithful brother (*see additional notes by Karen Jobes*)
- Peter’s authorship – affirmed by early church fathers but rejected by modern-day liberal scholars (*see additional notes by Karen Jobes*)

### 2. This is the True Grace of God – Stand firm in it!

- we are elect exiles – chosen by God to proclaim His excellencies as sojourners in this world (1:1ff; 2:9ff)
- we are called to holiness (1:14ff; 2:11; 4:2) & brotherly love (1:22; 2:17; 3:8; 4:8)
- we submit to human authorities (2:13ff; 3:1ff) & honor everyone/others (2:17; 3:7,15f) – while doing good (2:12,15; 3:1,17) & fearing God (2:17,23; 3:12; 4:5,17)
- we follow in Christ’s footsteps thru suffering (2:21ff; 3:13ff; 4:1; 5:1ff) – while blessing those who do evil (3:9ff; 4:14)
- we rejoice in our sufferings (1:6ff; 2:19; 4:13) – while setting our hope on the salvation & glory that will be revealed (1:3ff; 4:13; 5:1,10f)

### 3. Peter’s Concluding Greetings

- from she who is at Babylon (the church in Rome?)

- from Mark my son
- greet one another with the kiss of love
- peace to all of you who are in Christ

### The Authorship of 1 Peter

Quotes below taken from *1 PETER*, by Karen H. Jobes, © 2005 (ECNT)  
Words in [brackets] are added for clarification sake

By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. (1 Pe 5:12 ESV).

#### [Peter & Silvanus]

Silvanus is probably the same man who accompanied Paul on his travels in Asia Minor and Greece (2 Cor. 1:19) and is listed as a coauthor of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, along with the apostle Paul and Timothy (1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1). The name Silvanus appears to be the Latinized form of the Greek name Silas, whom Luke refers to as Paul’s companion (Acts 16:19,25,29; 17:4-15; 18:5); Silas in turn was probably the Greek form of his Aramaic name. Silvanus was among the trusted leaders of the early church in Jerusalem (15:22) and held Roman citizenship (16:37). This companion of apostles was among the well-known core leadership of the first-century church from its earliest days in Jerusalem, through Paul’s missionary journeys, and later with Peter and Mark in Rome. (p.321)

#### [Peter’s Authorship & His Knowledge of Greek]

Most interpreters who date this letter within the lifetime of the apostle Peter consider the Greek vocabulary and style to be too good for what could be expected of a Galilean fisherman. The traditional answer is to understand Silvanus as Peter’s amanuensis [one who writes what another one dictates], apparently assuming that Silvanus, being a Roman citizen, could have produced Greek of this quality ... The several assumptions that attend the inference that the Greek is too good for someone like the apostle Peter to have written it need to be critically examined (p.320) ... Those who accept pseudonymous authorship [something written using someone else’s name, a practice common in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, but not one accepted by the early church for letters recognized as Holy Scripture] opt for an anonymous author from the Petrine circle [those closely associated with Peter] in Rome per perhaps a Christian elder in Asia Minor. Those who wish to defend Peter as the author often propose his use of an amanuensis, perhaps even Silvanus (1 Pet. 5:12), writing under the direction of the apostle. It thus appears that the quality of the Greek of 1 Peter is recognized by both sides of the authorship debate as being too good for Peter himself to have written. This opinion involves many assumptions that need to be critically reconsidered from time to time as more knowledge of the presence of Greek in Galilee becomes available. There seems to be a presumption that Galilean fishermen were uneducated, and relative to other segments of the population, that assumption is probably more true than not. However, the further assumption that only formally educated people can develop a high level of proficiency in a second language probably rings truer to North Americans, who generally acquire a second language through formal academic courses. However, there are pockets of the population, mostly in the borderlands, who live in societies that are in practice bilingual. In those areas, even formally uneducated people can develop a relatively high level of proficiency, especially if exposed to the second language early in life. (p.325).