

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen” 1 Peter 5:6-10

This passage reveals a glimpse of God’s ways that we may never fully understand. Why would the Lord of all love and power allow us to “have suffered a little while?” God’s knowledge and wisdom is so different from ours that it is often hard for us to understand.

Peter warns us to resist the devil by standing firm in the faith. This seems like a hopeless battle! Yet, the apostle also tells us that God will allow us to be tempted to strengthen us in the end. God’s love for us abounds so much that He allows this in order to make us even more resistant when the hot flames of temptation arise again.

Think of a vaccination shot. The shot will actually contain a small amount of the disease itself! This strengthens our immune system for the battle when the disease truly does come. Although God never tempts us nor leads us into temptation, our Father *does* allow us to fall. Then He saves and restores us. His arms are waiting at exactly the right place to cushion us with His mercy and love. Then God lifts us up with His Spirit, making us even stronger than when we first fell. When we fall into a sin, *we* are not the one to bring us out of it. “The God of all grace...will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.” May the glory be to God forever and ever!