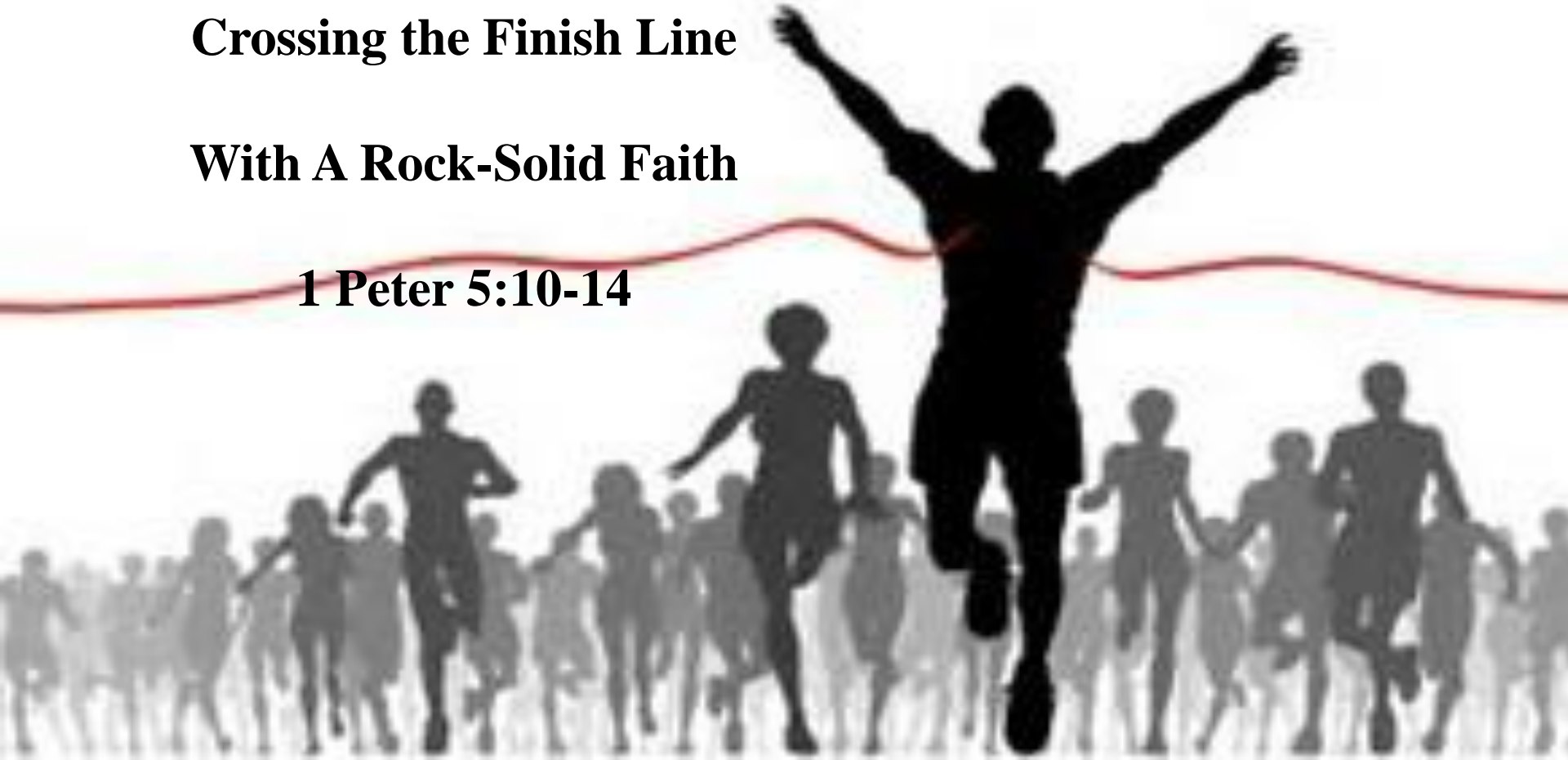


**Crossing the Finish Line**

**With A Rock-Solid Faith**

**1 Peter 5:10-14**



## SUMMARY OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

Peter ended his letter with a few nuggets of distilled truth. In just a couple of verses, he concentrated everything he had already said.

## **SUMMARY OF TODAY'S MESSAGE**

To his suffering audience, Peter offered assurance of God's perfect plan that began when they trusted in Christ and wouldn't end until they were firmly secure in the glories of heaven.

Though pain is part of the process of perfection, the finish line is worth it!

Six things Christian athletes on the track of life  
need to know to make it to the finish line

I. God's Character: "*God of all grace*"

Paul called Him the "God of all comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3)

Exodus 34:6

I am the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious

# A. Six things Christian athletes on the track of life need to know to make it to the finish line

Psalm 86:15

But you, Lord are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness

2. God's Calling: *"called us to His eternal glory"*

God's purpose for my life includes eternal life

**John 17:24**

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world

"Other than the Bible itself, this may well be the single most  
life-changing book you'll ever read." — *Steve Warren*

# HEAVEN

OVER  
1 MILLION  
SOLD



RANDY  
ALCORN

### 3. God's Condition: "*by Christ Jesus*"

John 14:6; heaven is exclusive

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."



## IV. God's Curriculum: *"after you have suffered a while"*

Pain happens to every person, but purposeful pain happens only to the child of God

1. Romans 8:28

Sodium and chlorine are poisonous on their own, but if you combine them, you get table salt  
The right combination of harmful things can actually be beneficial

## IV. God's Curriculum: *"after you have suffered a while"*

### 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

1. When he said "thorn in the flesh," Paul was referring to a sharp impaling stick
2. "A thorn in the flesh was given to me"—implies that God gave it to him
3. Why would God allow Paul to go through pain like that?

## IV. God's Curriculum: *"after you have suffered a while"*

It was good for him

Psalm 119:71

It is good for me that I was afflicted,  
That I may learn Your statutes.

Satan wanted to destroy him; God used it to  
develop him

## IV. God's Curriculum: *"after you have suffered a while"*

### Job 2:10

But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

IV. God's Curriculum: *"after you have suffered a while"*

"A while" is a deliberate comparison to the word  
"eternal"

V. God's Commitment: "*perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you*"

These four words are synonyms

Peter stacked up the verbiage to make a point  
God really does use suffering to bring a real benefit

V. God's Commitment: "*perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you*"

**Saeed Abedini**

"The Word of God says that when we are persecuted for our faith, we are to count it all joy. When I think that all of these trials and persecutions are being recorded in heaven for me, my heart is filled with complete joy....

V. God's Commitment: "*perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you*"

.... I always wanted God to make me a godly man. I did not realize that in order to become a godly man we need to become like steel under pressure. It is a hard process of warm and cold to make steel.



V. God's Commitment: "*perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you*"

The process in my life today is one day I was told I will be freed on bail to see my family and kids on Christmas (they are all lies) and the next day I am told I will hang for my faith in Jesus.

V. God's Commitment: "*perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you*"

One day there are intense pains after beatings in interrogations, the next day they are nice to you and offer you candy. These hot and colds only make you a man of steel for moving forward in expanding His Kingdom"

VI. God's Compensation: *"to Him be the glory and the dominion"*

What does God get out of all of this?

This is a benediction

There is a principle behind it

When this life is over, including all the suffering and trials, we'll see that everything God did and allowed was perfectly justified



# CLOSING THOUGHT

Finish well; make the kind of choices today that you'll  
never have to look back on with regret  
Start here; start now