

Study Guide – Sovereignty Gives Purpose in Suffering

1 Peter 2:21–24

Big Idea: Understanding God’s sovereignty doesn’t remove your suffering — it reshapes your questions.

I. See His Righteousness (vv. 22–23a)

1. Sinless Conduct

“He committed no sin...” (v. 22)

Greek: ἁμαρτία (*hamartia*) – to miss the mark, to fall short of God’s holy standard.

Jesus never missed the mark. Not once. Not internally. Not externally.

Discussion:

- Why is Christ’s sinlessness essential for our salvation?

- How do 1 John 1:8–9 protect us from claiming sinless perfection?

- How does 1 John 3:6 (“abide”) clarify that believers no longer practice sin as a lifestyle?

Greek: μένω (*menō*) – to remain, to dwell, to stay connected.

Abiding means staying relationally connected to Christ so His life shapes your reactions.

Reflection: Is sin your pattern — or is repentance your pattern?

2. Straightforward Communication

“No deceit was found in His mouth.”

Greek: δόλος (dolos) – deceit, bait, trickery, manipulation.

Jesus did not manipulate truth to protect Himself. No spin. No exaggeration. No retaliation through words.

Discussion:

- How does suffering tempt you to distort or defend your image?

- What would it look like to guard your mouth under pressure?

3. Submissive Composure

“When He was reviled, He did not revile in return.”

Greek: λοιδορέω (loidoréō) – to insult, abuse verbally, heap shame.

“He made no threats.”

Greek: απειλέω (apeiléō) – to threaten, to warn with harm.

Instead of reacting, He restrained.

Reflection: What does your default response under accusation reveal about what you’re beholding?

II. See His Reliance (v. 23b)

1. Sacred Entrusting

“He kept entrusting Himself...”

Greek: παραδίδωμι (*paradidōmi*) – to hand over, to deliver into another’s care.

This is continuous in tense. He kept handing Himself over.

- He handed over:
- His reputation
- His defense
- His timeline
- His vindication

Discussion:

- What are you still trying to control?

- What would it look like to continually hand that over to Jesus?

2. Steadfast Endurance

“Who judges justly.”

Greek: δικαίως (*dikaiōs*) – righteously, fairly, without corruption.

Earthly courts may fail. God’s justice never bends.

Reflection: How does knowing God judges perfectly free you from self-defense?

3. Steady Focus

While not stated explicitly here, Hebrews 12:2 tells us Jesus endured “for the joy set before Him.”

Sovereignty gave Him perspective. Jesus saw beyond Friday to Sunday.

Discussion:

- What future promise anchors you in present pain?

III. See His Redemption (v. 24)

1. Substitutionary Sacrifice

“He Himself bore our sins...”

Greek: ἀναφέρω (anapherō) – to carry up, to bear as a sacrifice.

This is priestly language. Jesus carried our sin like an offering to the altar.

Reflection: How personal is this to you? Peter says, “He Himself.”

2. Spiritual Transformation

“That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.”

Greek: ἀπογίνομαι (apoginomai) – to be done with, to be separated from.

Not sinless perfection. But a break in allegiance.

Greek: δικαιοσύνη (dikaiosynē) – righteousness, right standing, right living.

Sovereignty doesn’t just forgive you. It forms you.

3. Saving Restoration

“By His wounds you were healed.”

Greek: μῶλωψ (mōlōps) – bruise, welt, stripe from beating.

Peter points back to Isaiah 53. The blows meant for us landed on Him.

The healing is primarily spiritual restoration — reconciliation with God — though it also anchors our hope for ultimate restoration.

Personal Reflection

1. What suffering are you currently walking through?

2. Are you reacting... or entrusting?

3. What would change this week if you truly believed God was forming purpose in this pain?
