

1 Peter: Chapter 5

Verses 1 – 4

⁵ Therefore, I urge elders among you, as your fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not with greed but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

1. Peter speaks directly to the leaders of the church
He speaks from the perspective:
 - a. of him being a “fellow elder”
 - b. of him being a “witness of the sufferings of Christ”
 - c. of him being a “fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed”
2. He encourages them to:
 - a. “Shepherd” (pastor) the congregation
 - b. Exercise oversight voluntarily without obligation or duress
 - c. According to the will of God
 - d. With eagerness and not being greedy monetarily
3. He continues to encourage them to:
 - a. Without being domineering
 - b. Proving to be an example
4. Do this and they will receive a Crown of Glory from the Chief Shepherd

Verses 5 – 7

⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you.’

5. Peter speaks directly to the younger men in the congregation:
 - a. To be subject to the older men in the church

- b. To show humility to one another
 - c. Why? Because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble
6. Tells them to humble their selves under the mighty hand of God, so He can lift them up at certain times
 7. He encourages them to turn over any and all personal anxiety they might have because He cares for them terribly.

Verses 8 – 14

⁸ Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ So resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. ¹⁰ After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen. ¹² Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! ¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ."

8. Peter says to have a spirit that is aware of what is around us. Why? Because the devil, our adversary, is always looking to rip us apart.
9. He gives them three words:
 - a. to resist the devil
 - b. be firm in the faith
 - c. know that all other Christ followers are experiencing similar sufferings and struggles
10. He reminds them while they go through the suffering times that their gracious God who called them will do four things:
 - a. Perfects them
 - b. Confirms them
 - c. Strengthens them
 - d. Establishes them
11. Peter acclaims all eternal power to God

12. He's sending this brief letter to them by Silvanus (Silas), who in Peter's opinion was a very dependable brother, which he had the highest regard for. He also tells them to stand firm in the grace of God that he has been telling them about.
13. The church is in exile here with Peter but not for a moment forgotten by God. They and Mark, who is like a son to me, gives a shout out to them.
14. Peter closes his letter out by telling them to love one another and show it with holy hugs and tells them to show peace to all who walk in Christ's ways.