

¹ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

1 Peter 5:1-4 (NIV)

When deciding who to trust as a leader:

1. Examine how they view themselves?
2. Do they have a shepherd's heart, or a hirelings heart?
3. Examine who they are trying to please.

Discussion Questions:

1. What comes to your mind when someone says the word “leader” or “leadership?” Do you think the failure of so many political and religious leaders in their personal lives has damaged the whole notion of “trusting leaders?”
2. What about this passage/message was new information to you? Could you explain the basic role of an “elder” in the local church and the key characteristics essential in fulfilling this responsibility?
3. How are these principles of leadership transferable in our leadership roles as: parents, teachers, spouses, discipliners, fellow servants, bosses, supervisors, managers, etc? Share how at least one of these principles of leadership could be put into practice in some sphere of your life right now.
4. In our day there is a “general suspicion” of almost all authority and with some good reason. How can this negative attitude be prevented from having a detrimental impact in this local church? What could leaders at all levels do to counteract this notion, and what specific steps could those following leadership take to prevent a negative attitude toward authority?
5. What would motivate a person to want to aspire to be an elder/overseer in a local church? What factors might make this desire be tempered with some legitimate fear?
6. Take a few minutes to pray for the various leaders at your local church, including the elders. Consider dropping a note of encouragement to someone who is carrying the weight of leadership responsibility at some level. Discouragement is a leader’s greatest enemy; encouragement in knowing their labor is not in vain is what sustains them.

The Command:

1 Peter 5:5a (NIV)

^{5a} *In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another,*

The Reason:

1 Peter 5:5b (NIV)

^{5b} *because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”*

The Application:

1 Peter 5:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.* ⁷ *Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Many books, seminars, and teachings are directed to help us become better leaders in our homes, work, church, and ministries. 1 Peter 5:5-7 addresses how to be a “successful follower.” Why do you think it is important for all of us to learn to be excellent followers as well as excellent leaders?
2. Read verse 5 out loud in your group. Now brainstorm and list 5-10 ways that “the sheep” can practice the truth of this verse toward their shepherds. Look up Hebrews 13:17 – how does God’s word balance the command for followers to obey and submit to leadership in this passage?
3. Biblically speaking, what is humility? Why, according to this passage, is humility so important? Read Philippians 2:3-8 and John 13:1-14 for a picture and definition of humility as you discuss this concept.
4. Discuss the relationship in this passage between the commands to “clothe ourselves with humility toward one another” (v. 5), and to “humble ourselves before God” (v. 6). Is it possible to have one without the other? Yes, no, why.
5. Think carefully and quietly—what would true Biblical humility look like if you practiced it this week in 1) your home, 2) your work or school, and 3) at your own church? Be honest not superficial - this is a potentially radical and life changing application to undertake.
6. How does our anxiety prevent us from genuine humility? What are we to do and how is it done (v. 7)? What are the short and long-term benefits of practicing humility? What specific step of servant-hood (humility in action) are you going to take this week to obey God’s Word and honor those around you?

Main Idea: The proper way to defeat Satan's attacks

- **Recognize** his schemes.
- **Resist** him with a firm faith.

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Structure:

1. *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* 1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

A. We are warned to beware of Satan's attacks.

- Context -
- Be sober -
- Be alert -

B. Why? - because we have an adversary (enemy).

- Our adversary is the devil. Diabolos = slanderer
- His objective is to devour (literally drink down, swallow whole) you.

C. Facts:

- We are in an invisible war [Eph. 6:10-12](#).
- Satan has specific strategies of attack [1 Cor. 2:10-11](#).

2. *Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

1 Peter 5:9 (NIV)

A. We are to resist him (stand solid) on the firm foundation of our faith.

B. Facts:

- We (believers) are to fight... have no fear of Satan [James 4:7-8](#).
- Satan is a defeated foe [Col. 2:15](#); [Heb. 2:14-15](#).
- We (believers) are equipped to win [1 John 4:4](#); [Rev. 12:11](#).
- We (believers) have weapons to win [2 Cor. 10:4-5](#).

Summary:

- We have a model to follow (Matthew 4).
- We have to balance to maintain.
- We have nothing to fear.
- We have a responsibility to fulfill.
- We have a victory to proclaim.

Resources:

- Key passages for further study – Ephesians 6:10-18
- Books:
 - [The Screwtape Letters](#) by CS Lewis
 - [The Adversary](#) by Mark Bubeck
 - [Overcoming the Adversary](#) by Mark Bubeck

Discussion Questions:

1. C.S. Lewis has astutely observed that Christians tend to err in two extremes with regard to the devil, "They are either pre-occupied with him or don't think about him at all." In those "rare moments of being out of 'balance'," which of these two extremes do you find yourself leaning toward? Why do you suppose this is true?
2. What was the single most important thing you learned or sensed God wanted to communicate to you through this message?
3. The three commands in this passage are: 1) be sober, 2) be alert, and 3) resist the enemy. Define what each of these commands mean and discuss what obedience to them looks like in your daily life.
4. What passage or truth from this message gives you the most confidence and reassurance in knowing that spiritual warfare is not something to be feared?
5. Satan has specific schemes and strategies (II Corinthians 2:10) –deception (II Corinthians 11:13), intimidation (I Peter 5:8), and condemnation (Revelation 12:10) – to name a few. What avenue of attack are you most susceptible to and why?
6. The media (in all forms) is one of the most powerful shaper of our ideas, concepts, and world view. What type of media (music, movies, magazines, books, etc.) would the enemy use on you to distort, deceive, and cloud your view of God, yourself, and others if he were to be most effective in neutralizing your living a holy life of impact?

¹⁰ *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.*

¹¹ *To Him be the power forever and ever. Amen.*

1 Peter 5:10-11 (NIV)

Just before you say, “I quit” – remember:

1. God’s unlimited resources are available to you 100% of the time for free!

2. You are the object of His affection both now and forever.

3. Suffering will not last forever.

4. God’s promises that you will not suffer in vain.

Discussion Questions:

1. In all of our lives there are seasons when we feel like we just can't go on. Imagine you just received a phone call from an old friend who's called to tell you he/she is "giving up" in some crucial relationship or situation. Armed with the truth of 1 Peter 5:10-11, what would you tell him/her?
2. Hope is the driving force behind perseverance under trial. When we lose hope, we soon "give up" or "give in." What aspect of this message gives you the most hope personally and why?
3. Think back to a time that you were tempted to "cash it all in" in some respect, but didn't. Briefly share with the group what sustained you. Also, share what you would have missed if you had quit prematurely.
4. Patience, waiting, trust, and time are all words that have to do with God's process of developing our lives. Why is it so hard to accept this process in the world we live in? What factors, disciplines, and people help you remain faithful to God's developmental program when you don't feel like it?
5. Maturity doesn't come cheap. Read James 1:2-4 and Hebrews 10:36. Now encourage each other by recalling how some of the "worst things" you've been through have developed some of the "best things" you now enjoy.

The Content Outline:

Part I: The Salvation of the Believer

1 Peter 1:1 – 2:12

1. Salutation 1:1-2
2. Salvation of the Believer 1:3-12
 - Hope for the future 1:3-4
 - Trials for the present 1:5-9
 - Anticipation in the past 1:10-12
3. Sanctification of the Believer 1:13 – 2:12
 - Be holy 1:13-21
 - Love one another 1:22-25
 - Desire the pure milk of the Word 2:1-3
 - Offer up spiritual sacrifices 2:4-10
 - Abstain from fleshly lusts 2:11-12

Part II: The Submission of the Believer

1 Peter 2:13 – 3:12

1. Submission to the government 2:13-17
2. Submission in business 2:18-25
3. Submission in marriage 3:1-8
4. Submission in all of life 3:9-12

Part III: The Suffering of the Believer

1 Peter 3:13 – 5:14

1. Conduct in suffering 3:13-17
2. Christ's example of suffering 3:18 – 4:6
3. Commands in suffering 4:7-19
4. Minister in suffering 5:1-9
 - Elders, shepherd the flock 5:1-4
 - Saints, humble yourselves 5:5-9
5. Benediction 5:10-14

Chart for visualization:

| Focus | Salvation Of the Believer | | Submission Of the Believer | | | | Suffering Of the Believer | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Divisions | Salvation of the Believer | Sanctification of the Believer | Submission to the Government | Submission in Business | Submission in Marriage | Submission In All of Life | Conduct in Suffering | Christ's example of Suffering | Commands in Suffering | Minister in Suffering |
| Topics | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Place | Either Rome or Babylon | | | | | | | | | |
| Time | Circa A.D. 63 - 64 | | | | | | | | | |

Either Rome or Babylon

Circa A.D. 63 - 64

Outline & Chart by Bruce Wilkerson

Internalize through principles:

- Tracing themes in a book –
- Correlating themes in a book –
- Principles to remember –
 - 1.
 - 2.

Making it memorable:

- Key words –
- A picture's worth 1,000 words –
- Walking through a book –

Conclusion: Application is the goal!

- Your standing –
- Your strength –
- Your storm –