

1 Peter 1:1-12

Salvation: what God has done for us

1 Peter 1:13-3:7

Holiness: what God requires from us

1 Peter 3:8-4:11

Suffering: What can we expect in this world

1 Peter 4:12-5:14

Perseverance: How can we continue in this world to the end

1 Peter 5

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.

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

“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the **humble**.”

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.

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the **devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ 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.

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² With the help of Silas, ^[b] whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

How can believers stand firm (persevere) to the end?

1. Where are we now? Believers will suffer (earlier chapters)
2. Where are we heading? Christ will return to judge and to reward (1 Peter 5:4)
3. What can we do? (1 Peter 5 passage structure)

- v1-4 **Elders**: shepherd the flock through suffering
- v5 **Younger Christians**: submit yourselves to your elders.
- v5 **All**: Humble yourselves so that God may exalt you
- 8-11 **All**: Resist the devil
- 12-14 **All**: God's grace for believers. Stand firm in it

In another words

- **Relations between believers in a church (How leaders shepherd and members submit)**
- **Resist our enemy**
- **Trust God's power to sustain you**

To the elders among you.....

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The elders are to *shepherd the flock of God* (5.2) – a concept rich in both OT and NT background. In Ezekiel 34 the leaders of Israel face God's judgment for failing to shepherd the flock, using them for their own gain

How then should elders (leaders) lead?

- Watching over them (actions)
- Be willing (posture)
- Not pursuing dishonest gain (no hidden agenda)
- Not lording over others (attitude)
- Anticipate the coming of Christ (hope)

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Anticipate the coming of Christ

- Knowing what is to come determine our present motivations**
- Faithfulness will not be short-changed**

What does “**not lording it over those entrusted to you**” mean to you?

Give some examples

A recent experience of “watching over those under our care” and not “Lording” over them

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A unified stand against persecution. How?

- It will take humility for non-elders to be submissive to their church leaders, but elders will need the same virtue if they are to lead sacrificially
- Pride can manifest dangerously

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

⁹ 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.

How should we lookout for one another?

- **Deception**
- **Distractions**
- **Distortion**

**He roars through persecution.
He roars through strong temptation.
He roars through blasphemies and accusations against God.**

What do you think are lies/influences the devil could be planting in our life in this age and time?

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

We are called us to His eternal glory; but what does this glory entail?

- It is the glory of purified character.
- It is the glory of complete victory over sin and persecution
- It is the glory of being honored by a King.
- It is the glory of having the right relations with fellow believers
- It is the glory of the enjoyment of God Himself.