

Approximately 35 minutes Expository



Stand Firm in the True Grace of God

A Study Through 1 Peter Chapter 5:

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come before You in the powerful name of Jesus. Thank You for walking with us through this incredible letter of 1 Peter. As we open chapter 5, give us humble hearts. Strengthen leaders. Encourage believers who are fatigued. Help us stand firm in Your grace. And if anyone listening does not yet know You, draw them to salvation today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Historical Setting: Shepherding a Suffering Church

Peter writes this final chapter in the early 60s AD. The Roman Empire is tightening its grip. Persecution is rising. Within just a short time, Emperor Nero will unleash brutal opposition against Christians.

Peter knows suffering firsthand.

He has been imprisoned.

He has been beaten.

And church history tells us he will soon face martyrdom.

This is not a comfortable church environment.

So how does Peter close his letter?

- Not with panic.
- Not with politics.
- 👉 But with pastoral care.

He speaks to leaders.

He speaks to young believers.

He speaks to the whole church.
And he reminds them: stand firm.

1 Peter 5:1-4 Shepherd the Flock:

1Peter 5:1-4(NIV) 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.

Peter begins by addressing elders
church leaders.


“To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings...” (v.1)

Notice Peter’s humility.

He doesn’t say, **“I am the great apostle.”**
He says, **“I am a fellow elder.”**

Then he gives instruction:

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care...” (v.2)

The church does not belong to the pastor.
 It belongs to God.

Leaders are shepherds not CEOs, not celebrities, not controllers.

So here is a question....

How are they to shepherd?

- Not because you must, but because you are **willing**.
- Not pursuing dishonest gain.

- . Not lording it over those entrusted to you.
- . But being examples.

Leadership in God's kingdom is not about controlling people or throwing your weight around. It is about humbly leading by example. True shepherds do not dominate the flock; they show the flock what it looks like to follow Christ.

And verse 4 gives motivation:

“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” (v.4)

Jesus is the Chief Shepherd.

Every under-shepherd answers to Him.

Verse 5 Clothe Yourselves with Humility:

1 Peter 5:5(NIV)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.”

Peter now addresses younger believers and the church at large.

....Clothe yourselves.... (v.5)

Humility is something we intentionally put on.

Why?

“...God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” (v.5)

- Pride resists God.
- 🙌 Humility invites grace.

- A proud believer struggles.
- 👉 A humble believer grows.

Verses 6-7 ... Casting Your Anxiety on Him:

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.

Let us take verse 6....

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” (v.6)

Promotion in the kingdom comes from God.

- We **do not** elevate ourselves.
- We trust Him to lift us.

Then one of the most comforting verses in Scripture:

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (v.7)

All.

- Not some.
- Not the spiritual anxieties only.

👉 All your anxiety.

Why?

👉 Because He cares for you... God Loves you....

This is deeply personal.

The God who rules the universe cares about your burden.

Let that sink in..... 🤔

👉 When anxiety rises, humility releases it to God.

Verses 8-9 ... A Real Enemy:

1Peter 5:8-9(NIV) 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.

Peter now shifts to spiritual alertness.

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

 This is serious.

We have a real enemy.

 Satan is not symbolic.

- He is active.
- He prowls.
- He seeks weakness.
- He targets isolation.

Peter says:

“Resist him, standing firm in the faith...” (v.9)

So how do we resist?

- Stay grounded in truth.
- Say in God’s Word daily, At least (4) times a week...
- Stay connected to believers.
- Stay sober-minded.

Stay **prayerful**. That is our **Offensive weapon**.

👉 Everything in Ephesians chapter 6 that God gives us, except two, are defensive armor. Our only offensive weapons are the Word of God and prayer. **Ephesians 6:17-18**(NIV) ***17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.***

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Peter also reminds us that our sufferings are not alone.....

“...because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” (v.9)

You are not alone.

The church worldwide faces opposition.
But we stand together.

Verses 10-11 The Promise of Restoration:

1 Peter 5:10-11(NIV) 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.

Now Peter gives incredible hope.

Verse 10....

“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while...” (v.10)

Notice the phrase *a little while*.

- Suffering feels long.
- But compared to eternity, it is brief.

God promises four things:

He will:

- . Restore you
- . Make you strong
- . Firm you
- . Steadfast you

Suffering does not have the final word.

👉 Grace does.

Peter ends with praise:

“To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.” (v.11)

Verses 12-14 Stand Firm in Grace:

1Peter 5:12-14(NIV) ***12 With the help of Silas, 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.

Peter concludes:

“I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.”

(v.12)

That is the summary of 1 Peter.

👉 Stand firm in grace.

- Not legalism.
- Not fear.

👉 Grace.

- Grace that saves.
- Grace that strengthens.
- Grace that sustains.

Bringing It All Together:

1 Peter 5 teaches us:

- . Leaders must shepherd humbly.
- . Believers must submit respectfully.

- . Everyone must clothe themselves with humility.
- . Cast anxiety on God.
- . Stay alert against the enemy.
- . Resist the evil one firmly.
- . Trust the God of all grace.
- . Stand fast.

This is how a suffering church survives and thrives.

- Not through power.
- Not through popularity.
- Through humility.
- Through alertness.
- Through grace.

Invitation to Be Born Again:

Now let me speak clearly.

Peter says:

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (v.7)

But you cannot cast your burden on Christ if you do not belong to Christ.

- Maybe you are anxious because you are carrying guilt.
- Maybe you are restless because you have never surrendered your life to Jesus.
 - The Bible says we all have sinned.
 - We all fall short.

But Jesus the Chief Shepherd laid down **His life for the sheep.**

- He died on the cross.
- He bore your sin.
- He rose again.
- He offers forgiveness.
- He offers peace.
- He offers new life.

If you have never trusted Him, you can today.

This very minute pray this prayer with faith believing....

Let us Pray.....

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner..... I believe You died for me and rose again..... I humble myself before You.... Forgive me.... Save me..... I cast my life into Your hands..... Be my Shepherd and my Lord..... Amen.”

Now listen....**”If”** you prayed this pray, or something like this, with faith in what Jesus did for you..... then... you are now part of His flock, His family!!!

John 3:16-17(NIV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall

not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

👉 I say to you...Welcome to God's family....

Final Encouragement:

Brothers and Sisters, Listen up...."**stand firm**".

When anxiety rises 👉 cast it on Him.

When pride creeps in 👉 humble yourself.

When the enemy prowls 👉 resist him.

When suffering comes 👉 trust the God of all grace.

The Chief Shepherd is coming again...
Very soon!!!

Closing Prayer:

Let us Pray.....

Father God, thank You for the truth of 1Peter chapter 5. Teach us humility. Help us trust You with our burdens. Guard us against the schemes of the enemy. Strengthen every leader and every believer. And for those who have trusted You today, hold them close as their Shepherd. We stand firm in Your true grace. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.



Matthew 28:19-20