



THE VILLAGE CHURCH

1 Peter

**Experiencing Victory in
a Hostile World -**

***“... a primer for winning the
war that really matters”***



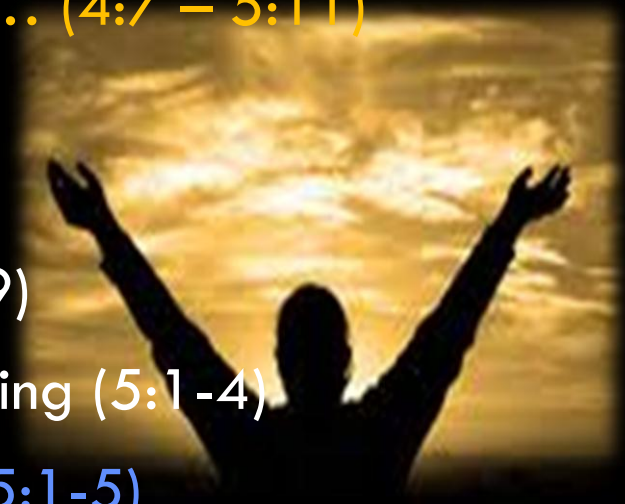
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1 Peter

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

➤ **Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope... (4:7 – 5:11)**
Our Lord Will Return Soon

- Our approach during Suffering (4:12-19)
- Expectations of Shepherds during Suffering (5:1-4)
- ↕ – **Fundamentals for a Healthy Church (5:1-5)**
- Victorious Outcomes from Navigating Suffering Biblically (5:5-11)
- Closing (5:12 – 14)



Peter reminded?

- “*Shepherd the flock*” (1 Pet. 5:2)
 - John 21: 15-17 “tend my lambs”...”shepherd my sheep”...” feed my lambs”
- Not to “*lord it over*” (1 Pet. 5:3)
 - Matt. 20:25-28 “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, ...”
- “*clothe yourselves with all humility*” (1 Pet. 5:5)
 - John 13:4 “and taking a towel, He girded Himself.”

Fundamentals of a Healthy Church

1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you,
as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

2 shepherd the flock of God among you, *(Shepherd the Flock)*
exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to
the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,
but proving to be examples to the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears,
you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

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

(Submit to Elders)
(Humility towards each Other)



Fundamentals of a Healthy Church

Our Objective: What does God want us to learn?

*That in a healthy church, the elders will **Shepherd** and the flock will **Submit**, all in a spirit of mutual **Humility**. For suffering will come and test the foundation and strength of a church.*

Fundamentals for a Healthy Church

- I. In a healthy church, the elders will Shepherd the flock (5:1-4)
 - The requirement for shepherding is a close personal experience with Christ (5:1)
 - Focusing on the suffering of Christ is the motivation.
 - Focusing on the glory makes an elder live in holiness and hope.
 - The responsibility of shepherding is to exercise oversight with the right attitude. (5:2-3)
 - Not out of duty, but out of delight and calling (5:2)
 - Not to make money, but rather to serve God with zeal. (5:2)

Fundamentals for a Healthy Church

- Remember: The Flock belongs to God! Lead by example. (5:3)
- The reward for shepherding is the unfading Crown of Glory. (5:4)
 - Remember: We are only Under-shepherds accountable to the Chief. (5:2)



“Therefore” why do Elders Suffer?

1 Pet. 5:1-4 Continued

One must assume that Peter's exhortations to the elders and younger men (v. 5) in this text are related to his teaching on suffering in the immediately preceding verses.

What is the relationship between leadership and suffering?

Peter does not directly answer this question, but from other biblical texts we find a close relationship between leadership and suffering. Consider the following reasons elders suffer:

- The “fiery ordeal” in 4:12 is a judgment from God that begins with the house of God -- elders. (1 Pet. 4:17; Ezek. 9:4-6)

- 4 The Lord said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.” 5 But to the others He said in my hearing, “Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity and do not spare. 6 Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary.” **So they started with the elders who were before the temple.** (Ezek. 9:4-6)
- 17 For it is time for **judgment to begin with the household of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Pet. 4:17)

“Therefore” why do Elders Suffer?

- Sinful natures rebel against God and thus resist God’s leaders, who act in His behalf (see Exodus 16:7-8; 17:2).



- Elders are not necessarily appointed democratically nor do they rule democratically (see Numbers 16:1-50). Ultimately, elders are divinely appointed (Acts 20:28), and thus accountable, to God (Hebrews 13:17). The elders therefore do not “represent” the church congregation as elected officials are supposed to represent their constituency. The elders represent God and are to act according to the directives of His Word, which may mean their decisions are not always popular.

“Therefore” why do Elders Suffer?

- Because they lead, elders get the blame when things seem to go wrong. Things are considered wrong when commitment, self-denial, or rebuke are required, or when suffering or adversity are encountered.

Israel grumbled and complained at every little difficulty and grasped for every chance to indulge themselves (see Exodus 16:1-12; 17:1-7; 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:13)



“Therefore” why do Elders Suffer?

- Christian leaders appear to be weak, ineffective, and certainly unimpressive, because God chooses the foolish things to confound the wise (Acts 4:13-14; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 3:18-23),
 - because of the methods they employ or refuse to employ (e.g. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:2, 10-11),
 - and because of their convictions (1 Corinthians 9).
 - They also do not commend themselves (2 Corinthians 3:1 f.; 5:12; 10:12, 18; 12:11).
 - How ironic that suffering is the badge of a Paul's ministry, and yet it is what caused many to reject his apostleship for smooth-talking, easy-living false leaders (Philippians 1:12-18.)

“Therefore” why do Elders Suffer?

- We all, to one extent or another, are to bear the burdens of others (Galatians 6:2), but leaders seem to bear a greater part of the burden (2 Corinthians 11:28-29).
- The corrective and disciplinary responsibilities of elders (and others) require as much privacy as possible, which means that all facts behind any action are not a matter of public knowledge. Misunderstanding and criticism may therefore result (Matthew 18:15-20).