



**“Shepherding the Flock”**  
**1 Peter: The Transforming Epistle**  
**1 Peter 5:1-4**

**Introduction:**

- Regarding the COVID 19 coronavirus pandemic...
- Regarding the need for spiritual leaders during this time...

1 Peter 5:1-4 “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, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

**In the midst of uncertainty, there is a great need for strong and confident spiritual leadership.**

**I. The Friendly Reminder**

1 Peter 5:1 “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...”

**A. From Peter: The Fellow Elder**

Peter’s Unforgettable Lifelong Leadership Lesson (John 21:15-17)  
Effective spiritual leaders show they truly love Christ by taking care of His flock!

**B. From Peter: The Fellow Sufferer**

1 Peter 5:1 “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness (Greek: martus = martyr) of the sufferings of Christ...” (cf. John 21:18)

**C. From Peter: The Fellow Partner in Blessing**

1 Peter 5:1 “...a partaker (Greek: koinonos = partner) also of the glory that is to be revealed...” (cf. 1 Peter 1:7-8)

**II. The Fantastic Responsibility**

1 Peter 5:2-3 “...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”

**A. The Command “...shepherd the flock of God among you...” (1 Peter 5:2)**

A spiritual leader’s primary ministry is to “serve the servants of God.” Cf. Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 53:6

- As frail sheep, we need tender care
- As defenseless sheep, we need protection from false-teaching wolves
- As stubborn sheep, we need clear guidance and correction
- As foolish sheep, we need proper feeding
- As precious lambs of God we need to be loved, nurtured and prepared for what’s next.  
(cf. Acts 20:28)

1 Peter 5:3 “those allotted to your charge...” i.e. those entrusted to them by the Holy Spirit.  
Christ’s sheep can never be left without under-shepherds...especially in times of trouble!

## B. The Conduct

1 Peter 5:2 "...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight (Greek: episkopeo = see from above) ..."

Spiritual leaders must never get bogged down in short-sighted committees, near-sighted projects or any other myopic endeavors that would keep them from being watchful. (cf. Hebrews 13:17)

## C. The Cautions

1 Peter 5:2-3 "...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock."

### **Shepherding Caution #1: It must not be forced.**

1 Peter 5:2-3 "...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion..." (cf. 1 Timothy 3:1)

A true spiritual leader must be given a Holy Spirit-led push to stretch out in God-inspired faith and go after a God-ordained position (Hebrews 13:17 "Let them do this with joy...")

### **Shepherding Caution #2: It must be done willingly.**

1 Peter 5:2-3 "...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily..." (1 Corinthians 9:16 "...for I am under compulsion...")

### **Shepherding Caution #3: It must be according to the will of God.**

1 Peter 5:2-3 "...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God..." i.e. shepherd the flock as God would have it and in the way God would do it. (cf. Colossians 1:28-29)

### **Shepherding Caution #4: It must not be for greedy gain.**

1 Peter 5:2 "...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain (i.e. intense greed) ..." (cf. Titus 1:7) Shepherds are to be prompted by a deep love for people -- not power, position, plaudits, popularity, pennies, pensions or prosperity.

### **Shepherding Caution #5: It must be done with eagerness.**

1 Peter 5:3 "...shepherd the flock of God among you...with eagerness..."

Out of the depths of a Spirit-filled soul comes the calling of Christ to shepherd the flock of God with eagerness...now!

### **Shepherding Caution #6: It must not be abusive leadership.**

1 Peter 5:2-3 "...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over (Greek: katakurieuo) those allotted to your charge..."

Matthew 20:25-28 But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them (Greek: katakurieuo), and their great men exercise authority over them (Greek: katexousiazō = wield power over them). It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. (cf. Mark 10:42)

Spiritual leaders are to be servants of the servants of God. (cf. 2 Corinthians 1:24)

## Shepherding Caution #7: It must be exemplary leadership

1 Peter 5:3 “...but proving to be examples to the flock.”

At the core of biblical leadership is the understanding that we can only lead others as far along the road to maturity as we ourselves have traveled. Leaders who do not influence the flock spiritually by their own example of godliness are a huge stumbling block, regardless of all of their other accomplishments.

### III. The Future Reward

1 Peter 5:4 “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

**A. The Dispenser of the Reward:** Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd (Greek: archipoimen)

#### **B. The Nature of the Reward**

1 Peter 5:4 “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

**1. The Crown** (Greek: stephanos)

**2. The Unfading Crown** (Greek: *amarantinon*) (cf. 1 Cor. 9:25)

**3. The Unfading Crown of Glory**

1 Thessalonians 2:19 “For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? (i.e. our *stephanos*) Is it not even YOU, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?”

For spiritual leaders the “crown of glory” in heaven is the recognition of the people they effectively shepherded while on earth! The people who were shepherded by the people the spiritual leaders shepherded will also be their “crown of glory.”

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Who has Christ called you to shepherd?
2. Which of Peter’s cautions are needing the most attention in your life?
3. Who are the people (or groups of people) who you expect will be your “unfading crown of glory” in heaven?
4. What did you get most out of this message?
5. Write a note of encouragement to a spiritual leader in your life.