

## **The Last Word: Exhortations and Instructions for Every Believer**

### **Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.**

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?

### **Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.**

1. This week, we learned that Peter wore the hats of an Elder, an Apostle, and a Saint. We discussed the idea that all believers are saints according to the Bible. Let's use our Bibles and look as a group for examples of this, specifically where the Biblical writers referred to believers in general as saints.
2. Peter wrote that Elders should shepherd the church well, serve with pure and right motives, and show the church what it looks like to walk with the Lord. Have you had experiences where Elders did this well, or where you've seen abuses of the position and calling of Elders. Let's think specifically about that final calling...to set an example that others can follow. This is important for Elders, but really, it's a good idea for all of us. How does this idea admonish you to be an example setter in your home, family, or community?
3. Younger believers were instructed to submit to the Elders of the church, surrender every care and concern to God, and stand against the Devil and his schemes. How did it make you feel to read in verse 7 that God truly cares for you? How does knowing this help you to surrender your cares and concerns to God?
4. Finally, Peter instructed us to resist the Devil. Many believers think of the Devil as a man in a red suit with a pitchfork, but that idea isn't Biblical. Let's take some time and share what we know about the Devil, remembering to back up our statements and ideas with scripture. Why should a believer be on the lookout to stand against the Devil, and what's this idea about him being a roaring lion anyways?

### **Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:**

- 1 Corinthians 1:2
- Ephesians 2:19
- Titus 1:5-9
- John 10:10

**Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?**

1. How does thinking about the qualifications of Elders in the church set an example that you may desire to follow? Shouldn't we all be working towards the kind of maturity that Eldership demands?
2. Of the exhortations and instructions that Peter shared with the church, which ones did the Lord set aside for you? Would you consider sharing your personal growth as an encouragement with the group?