

# DEVOTED

## GOING DEEPER- 1 Peter 5:1-4

### Read 1 Peter 5:1-4

Shepherding care and oversight in the congregation should be exercised in this manner:

- **Willingly:** Not feeling forced or pressured, but freely.
- **Eager to serve:** With a passion and energy to be a servant.
- **Being examples:** With lives that model faithful Christianity.
- **Not for shameful gain:** Not seeking personal profit.
- **Not domineering:** Avoiding abusing authority and power.

**Peter sees himself as a fellow elder** anticipating the same reward, modelling the humble servanthood he is calling the leaders to model.

**The Chief Shepherd is Jesus.** His example to us (as throughout all of 1 Peter) is the model we are to imitate and reflect to others. By God's grace, there is a prize we anticipate, an "unfading crown of glory" that Jesus Himself will give us on His return.

**Question:** Are you in some leadership position (or have leadership influence) inside and/or outside of the church? How might this example motivate you to exercise your leadership? If you are not, how does this passage speak to you?

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You that You are our Chief Shepherd. Thank You for opportunity to serve those around us. We pray for all of our leaders, that You would help us model Your servant leadership. We also pray that all of us would willingly and humbly serve one another as examples of faith in You! For your glory.*

# DEVOTED

## GOING DEEPER- 1 Peter 5:5-14

### Read 1 Peter 5:5-14

**The true grace of God is tightly linked to our humility** towards one another. As we humble ourselves, God gives His grace to us and at the proper time, God will exalt us.

**Yet the warning is strong, "God opposes the proud".**

With God on our side, regardless of whoever opposes us, we can endure. But if God opposes us, what chance do we have?! Such value God places on humility, for He Himself exemplifies humility.

At the heart of it, **God's grace enables us to be firm in the faith**, to withstand the pressures and anxieties, as well as the attack of the enemy as we are persecuted or suffer for our faith.

**We must beware the enemy** who seeks purposefully to destroy us. Peter encourages us to resist him and stand firm.

**The time will come** when the God of all grace, who has called us, will Himself **restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us**. What four powerful words that encourage us in our struggles!

**Question:** Why do you think there is a such a strong link between God's grace and our humility? How might humility grow in your life? How might you need to grow your resistance to Satan?

**Prayer:** *Jesus, thank You for modelling humility to us. Help grow our humility before you and towards each other. Thank You for the promise of Your grace. Please restore, confirm, strengthen and establish us, as we await Your return. Amen.*