

- I. **1 Peter 5:1-5 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”**
- A. An Elder is a *poimen* (Shepherd, Pastor).
 - B. An Elder is an *episkopo* (Bishop). An elder *oversees*, watches over, and takes care of the flock of God.
 - 1. Not compulsively, but willingly
 - 2. Not for shameful gain, but eagerly
 - 3. Not domineering, but by example
 - C. Elders are to model a life in God that is righteously motivated by eternal reward!
 - D. Others are exhorted to be subject to the above-mentioned responsibilities of their pastors.
 - E. Together, the whole body is called to reflect Christ-like humility.
 - F. Whatever is said here to the elder, can be said in a different context to any husband or father, any wife or mother, any person that has responsibility to care for others in any setting. And whatever is said here to the whole church can be said in a different way to the family unit, to close friend groups, to organizations etc.
- II. **1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,**
- A. It is the broken and contrite that God looks upon
- III. **1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him**

A. because he cares for you. (ponder long and affectionately on God's love for you)

1. He lowered Himself for you (in the incarnation) Philippians 2
 - a) He bends over just to observe the heavens yet He cares for you **Psalm 113:5-8 Who is like Yahweh our God, who is enthroned on high, ⁶ who _└condescends to look at_┘ what is in the heavens and in the earth? ⁷ He raises the helpless from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, ⁸ to seat them with princes,** (Lexham English Bible)
2. You are the center of His creation (Psalm 8, Heb 2)
 - a) We are His prized possession in all the universe. When the creator wanted to communicate Himself among creation He became a Man. He suffered with us.
3. He Suffered for you
 - a) 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God

B. You have an adversary - 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1. Know that you have an enemy, an accuser, so that when you hear the voice of accusation you don't always have to own it as if it's your

C. Others are suffering with you - 1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1. Suffering is best endured in Christian community

D. Suffering will only be a little while - 1 Peter 5:10 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1. John 16:16-24 "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷ So some of

his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸ So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?” ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. ²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

- a) At Jesus’ Return, the consolation that He brings is so potent that all who are joined to Him will forget their pain. It will fade away when standing beside Jesus.
- b) Until then, even in this life, most seasons will pass as we move into a new one. The life of David and the Song of Solomon bear witness that the journey of mature love takes us in and out of various seasons, some of which are difficult, but none of them should define our whole journey.