

Path to Hope: First Peter

Hope & Humility



Perfected in Hope and Faith

Peter closes this letter by addressing the subject of hope and humility. It's the same kind of powerful humility that Jesus demonstrated while on this earth. "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant." *Matt 23:11*

A. Humble Leaders *1 Peter 5:1-4*

Peter must have recalled his time with Jesus along the sea of Galilee when he wrote these words. (See John 21)

1. Shepherd the flock :2 Peter repeats what he heard Jesus tell him in John 21:16. To 'tend' is to care, feed and protect. It is never 'my' flock since Jesus is the 'Chief Shepherd.' *1 Pet 5:4*
2. Serve the flock :2-4 Pastors need a 'servant-heart' [*See Matt 20:25-28*] to fulfill their call of shepherding the flock.
 - a. **With a willing heart** :2 Some early manuscripts add "according to the will of God." Willing here means 'with intention' or vision.
 - b. **With an eager heart** :2 Eager here (*prothumos*) means to serve with a forward spirit; with intention and initiative.
 - c. **As an example** :3 Paul put it this way, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." *1 Cor 11:1*

B. Humble Followers *1 Peter 5:5-7*

1. Be submissive :5 Literally 'under obedience' but better understood in practice as 'accountability.'
2. Be humble :5-6 'Being accountable is also a form of humility and honesty—the key to walking in hope and faith. "God resists the proud (those who are NOT accountable) but gives grace to the humble (those who ARE accountable.)'
3. Be dependent :7 Jesus desires to carry our cares!

C. Humble Living *1 Peter 5:8-11*

1. Resisting the enemy :8-9
 - a. **Be sober** :8 To be self-controlled. *Gal 5:23*
 - b. **Be vigilant** :8 To be awake and watchful *Matt 26:41*
 - c. **Resist him steadfast in the faith** :9 (*See also James 4:7-8*) We put our 'faith and hope' in what the Word says— "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." Satan cannot be near to God.
2. Fruit of humility :10-11

This is not just the results of resisting the enemy—but a summary statement of the entire chapter and the entire book for those who endure suffering—this is the result!

 - a. **He will perfect us** To restore and mend—to complete!
 - b. **He will establish us** Steadfastly set on His path *Psalms 16:11*
 - c. **He will strengthen us** This is inner strength or strength of the spirit—strength to sustain our commitment to Him.
 - d. **He will settle us** To 'consolidate' or 'to lay a foundation.' Jesus brings stability out of our instability and suffering.

When we recognize more clearly who He is and who we are—it will cause us to bow down and worship Him as Lord. *5:11*

1 Peter 5:1-11 (NKJV)

A. Humble Leaders

:1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, **servi**ng as overseers, **not** by compulsion but **willingly**, **not** for dishonest gain but **eagerly**;

:3 **nor** as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being **examples** to the flock;

:4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

B. Humble Followers

:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and **be clothed** with humility, for "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

C. Humble Living

:8 Be **sober**, be **vigilant**; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

:9 **Resist** him, **steadfast** in the **faith**, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

:10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, **perfect**, **establish**, **strengthen**, and **settle** you.

:11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.