

1 Peter

Chapter Five

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Five

SUMMARY: Verses 1-14

1. Peter calls himself by the term elder. Not only did he operate as an apostle but he deemed himself to be an elder over God's flock. He writes to encourage his fellow elders to remain strong.
2. Peter gives the duties of an elder in a short list: Shepherd, care, oversee, do it willingly, don't lord over people, don't work just for greed and money, and live out the example of Christ to those under your care.
3. One aspect of a good Christian leader is to be humble. Never let the cares pressing upon you cause you to become prideful and lose sight of God's call on your life.
4. Those leading must learn to cast their care on Jesus and He will care for them. Part of this assumes that the sheep under a shepherd's care are to be cast over on Jesus. In short, a shepherd is never to dominate and lord over the sheep but cast the sheep under his care over on the Lord.
5. Peter exhorts his fellow elders to take their Christian calling seriously. We are to live alert. Why? There is an adversary named the devil looking to devour any and every one.
6. We are exhorted to RESIST the devil. You can't play games with the devil and expect to come out a winner.
7. Here, Peter connects the sufferings of Christians spoken about in previous chapters to the working of Satan. Suffering is always at the hand of the devil. Although Satan is designated as the culprit behind all suffering, Peter defines God as being the one who restores, strengthens, establishes, and supports you.
8. Peter ends by encouraging his readers to stand in the true grace of God and that what he wrote in his letter was evidence of that grace.
9. The evidences of true grace: Christ suffered, Christ died, Christ rose, Christ lives, Christ overcomes, Christ will return, Christ will judge, and Christ will have dominion forever.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. Why does the perception of Christian leaders / Pastors / seem so different from Peter's list of attributes?
3. Why was humility such a big factor to Peter?
4. Why would it be stated that God 'resists the proud'?
5. Why does Peter exhort so heavily to live alert and sober?
6. How do you think the devil PROWLs around? Did you ever view the devil as being so active in this way?

APPLICATION

1. How can your Christian life and faith be put on a higher alert status?
2. Are there areas of compromise that may cause you to take things less serious than they really are?
3. Do you have a pastor who cares for you and watches over your soul? Why is this so important?
4. How can you better learn to resist the devil?

