Under the Mighty Hand of God

1 Peter 5

In chapter 5, Peter continues to prepare his readers for the more intense trials that are to come. Each member of the church will need to take special care if they are to rejoice in trying times and possess a genuine faith that brings glory to God.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Instructions for the Elders

1. What credentials did Peter have to exhort the elders? (v. 1)

_____

_____

> ***Shepherd*** - to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep, to rule, govern
>
> ***Overseers*** - look after, care for; one who looks for the purpose of leading

2. **THINK:** Using the definitions provided, describe what you think Peter was exhorting the elders to do through these metaphors.

_____

_____

3. Use the chart below to break down how they were to shepherd the flock.

Not by	But
v. 2c	
v. 2d	
v. 3a	

> ***Eagerly*** - a willingness to serve because of readiness and eagerness within the heart

4. What promised incentive is given for shepherding in this way? (v. 4)

_____

_____

When Peter mentioned a crown of glory, his audience would have pictured an athlete's reward for having won a race. But the Lord's crown of glory is not merely a wreath of flowers draped around one's neck that will fade away. It is an ornament of His grace, an inheritance that will never fade (1 Peter 1:4).

5. According to 1 Corinthians 15:10 and 1 Peter 4:11, how are we able to do the things God asks of us?

_____

The Crown of Glory is an ornament of God's grace. Grace that willingly shares the glory that belongs to Him alone! Oh, what an amazing Savior we have!

6. Elders can look forward to the appearing of the Chief Shepherd and shepherd their flocks willingly and eagerly despite difficult times. How can focusing on Christ's return encourage you in serving and rejoicing while facing various trials?

_____

_____

7. **THINK:** What sort of influence do you think elders, who shepherd as instructed in this passage, can have on those in their care?

_____

_____

8. **THINK HARDER:** Peter may be addressing elders in these verses, but what do you think you can apply to your own service from this section of Scripture?

_____

_____

9. Even while suffering, Peter encouraged those in positions of leadership to willingly and eagerly serve others who were suffering as well. Do you know anyone facing a difficult time right now? How could you serve them in the coming weeks?

_____

_____

10. How is Jesus described in verse 4?

_____

11. Read the following verses and record what you learn about Jesus as the Chief Shepherd.

Psalm 23

_____

_____

_____

John 10:1-14

_____

_____

_____

12. **THINK:** Consider the instructions given to these elders and the descriptions of our Chief Shepherd. How did Jesus serve as an example in each of these areas during his earthly ministry?

Willingly Shepherding	Eagerly Shepherding	Being an Example

13. What does it mean to you to know that Jesus is your Good Shepherd?

_____

_____

Read 1 Peter 5:5-11.

Instructions to the Younger (Young & New) Believers

14. Record the instructions given not only to new believers but to all of us.

v. 5b
v. 5c
v. 5d
v. 6a

v. 7
v. 8a
v.8b
v. 9a
v.9b

Submit Yourselves to Your Elders, Be Submissive to One Another, and be Clothed in Humility

Younger - recently born, new

Submit/Submissive - to yield to one's admonition or advice, obey, be subject

15. **THINK:** Why do you think Peter may have directed the instruction to submit to your elders to the younger believers?

_____

_____

16. **THINK HARDER:** Why do you think it can be difficult for us to yield to an elder's advice or admonition?

_____

_____

> Strive all to serve each other; let the pastors strive to serve the people, and the people the pastors; and let there be no contention, but who shall do most to oblige and profit all the rest.
>
> - Clarke

Humility - having a humble opinion of oneself; a deep sense of one's (moral) littleness, modesty, lowliness of mind

Clothed in Humility - to fasten or gird on oneself; to cheerfully put away our own agenda for God's, even if God's agenda is expressed through another person - Guzik

During this time, slaves commonly wore aprons fastened to their clothes, which served to distinguish them from freemen. Peter is suggesting that we gird ourselves with humility as a sign of our servanthood to Jesus and our willingness to serve others. Willingness to serve others is impossible without humility.

17. **THINK:** What role do you think humility plays in submitting and being submissive to one another?

_____

_____

18. **THINK:** In what ways can humility be seen in our serving?

_____

_____

19. Why does Peter instruct us to submit to elders and to be submissive to one another in humility? (v.5)

_____

_____

Resists - to rage in battle against

Proud - an overestimate of one's means or merits, despising others or even treating them with contempt, haughty

Grace - the aid or benefits of divine grace

20. So, even more importantly, what are we to do? (v. 6)

_____

Humble Yourselves Under the Mighty Hand of God - to submit oneself in a lowly spirit to the power and will of God

Exalt - to raise the spirits by the blessings of salvation

Cares - anxiety

21. **THINK:** Read 1 Peter 5:6-7 carefully. Peter mentions both exaltation and cares. How do you think each of these **depend on being** humble under God and **reflects being** humble under God?

"That He may exalt you in due time":

_____

_____

"Casting all your care upon Him":

_____

_____

22. Read the following passages and record how Jesus proved Himself faithful in these areas in the life of Peter.

Mark 1:29-31 _____

Luke 5:1-11 _____

Matthew 17:24-27 _____

Matthew 14:22-33 _____

Acts 12 _____

23. Read the following verses and record four ways God ministers to us when we cast our cares and concerns upon Him.

Isaiah 41:10 _____

James 1:5 _____

Philippians 4:13 _____

Psalm 37:5 _____

24. Record and consider memorizing Psalm 55:22.

_____

_____

Be Sober, Be Vigilant, Resist the Devil, Be Steadfast in Faith

Sober - to be calm, and collected in spirit, to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect

Vigilant - give strict attention to, be cautious, active, to take heed lest through remissness and indolence one falls into sin

25. What do you think it means to be sober when it comes to the reality of Satan?

_____

26. Read the following verses and record what you learn about Satan.

John 8:44 _____

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 _____

Matthew 13:19 _____

Peter is clear that the devil is our adversary. We are instructed to be sober and vigilant, which means that we need to have a proper respect for who he is. He is no joking matter.

27. What kinds of temptation and sin could one easily fall into while facing fiery trials?

_____

_____

28. **THINK HARDER:** How do you think being sober and vigilant work together in resisting these temptations?

_____

_____

29. Read the following verses and record what you learn about how to resist the devil.

1 Peter 5:9b _____

Ephesians 6:10-18 _____

_____

30. How did Jesus resist the devil in Matthew 4:1-11?

_____

31. Peter tells us to resist the devil through steadfast faith. How do you think knowing that other believers have suffered through similar situations can help you when the enemy attacks in the midst of trials?

_____

_____

32. How can we pray for one another in this regard? (1 Peter 5:10)

_____

Perfect - ethically, to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be

Establish - to strengthen, make firm; to render constant, confirm one's mind

Strengthen - to make steadfast, to confirm in spiritual knowledge and power

Settle - metaphorically to make stable, establish

33. Record everything verse 10 teaches you about God.

_____

Our trials may be difficult, but we can rest assured that they are temporary and ultimately lead to glory. In addition, God, in His grace, takes all these hardships and uses them to prove and perfect our faith, making it firm and steadfast.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. In this you greatly rejoice! The genuineness of your faith is being tested by fire so that it will be found to the praise, honor, and glory of Jesus Christ! This is our why. To Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever!

Read 1 Peter 5:12-14.

34. Look up verse 12 in several different versions and summarize Peter's main reason for writing this letter.

_____

She who is in Babylon - a congregation in either literal Babylon or possibly Rome

35. **THINK:** Peter instructs believers to greet one another with a holy kiss. How do you think we can greet fellow believers in a way that would convey the sentiment Peter is talking about here?

_____

_____

36. In times of great persecution and various trials, what did Peter wish for those troubled believers? (v. 14)

_____

Peace - a tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot of whatsoever that is

Take a moment to reflect on the peace Jesus offers you.

A Closer Look at Submit to One Another

1 Peter 5:5

37. Read and write out Ephesians 5:21.

_____

_____

38. Before we get into the details, what are your initial thoughts on what it means to *submit to one another?*

_____

_____

Ephesians 5:21 echoes what we read in 1 Peter 5:5, namely that we are all to be submissive to one another. There has been much misconception surrounding these verses. Some argue that this statement somehow negates the specifics mentioned in other scriptures regarding submission, thereby declaring us all equal in all things at all times. But this is not true.

In Lesson 4, we learned that the Greek word translated as "*submissive*" is ***hypotasso***. It is a military term used to describe the arrangement of troops under a leader's command. It describes the voluntary and strategic submission of soldiers for the good of the unit.

This Greek word, ***hypotasso***, means "submit" and appears in both the above verses that state we are to submit to one another. Hypotasso is never used in the New Testament as a generic term for love and respect for others. The 37 times this word is used in the New Testament are ALWAYS in reference to a relationship in which one party has a higher rank than the other.

Let's examine what the Scriptures say about how and to whom we should submit.

39. According to the following verses, to whom are we to submit:

Ephesians 1:20-22 _____

Ephesians 5:24a _____

1 Peter 2:13 _____

Titus 2:9 _____

Romans 13:1 _____

Titus 3:1 _____

Eph 5:22 _____

Colossians 3:18 _____

1 Peter 3:1 _____

1 Peter 5:5 _____

When we submit to one another, we are submitting to those who have been given a position of authority or leadership in our lives. This is what it means to submit to one another: to willingly place yourself under (according to the Bible) God, Christ, governing authorities, masters (your boss), husbands (if you are married), and elders.

We read in Lesson 4 that submission is a word most view as negative. The Cambridge Dictionary defines it as the act of allowing someone or something to have power over you. Its examples include a country that is bombed into submission and teachers giving in to parents' demands. From weakness to victimhood, the role of submission is rarely something someone grows up wanting to pursue in their own life.

However, this is not God's design. God's design is beautiful, and when we live accordingly, we live in right order and in peace, knowing we are fulfilling His plan and purposes.

40. Using the previous list of verses or the results of your own study, what are some practical ways you can willingly submit (yield, place yourself under) to:

God _____

_____

Jesus _____

_____

Governing Authorities _____

_____

Your Employer _____

_____

Your Husband (if married) _____

_____

Elders _____

_____

> "… 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.'" - 1 Peter 5:5