

1 Peter Part 10 – The Foundation of Suffering – Assembly in Suffering – Summary & Study Guide – April 23, 2026

Summary

This teaching is on the final chapter of **First Peter**, specifically focusing on the essential **qualities of leadership** and the **practice of humility** within the church. The text clarifies that **elders** are called to shepherd their congregations willingly rather than through coercion, serving as **compassionate examples** instead of exerting heavy-handed authority. Central to the message is the instruction for believers to **humble themselves** by actively **casting their anxieties** upon God, which is presented as the primary method for resisting the devil's influence. By maintaining a **sober spirit** and enduring trials, the faithful are promised that God will ultimately **restore and strengthen** them. The discourse concludes by reinforcing that **suffering is temporary**, whereas the **divine glory** and stability granted to the humble are eternal.

Study Guide: Shepherding the Flock with Humility and Vigilance

This study guide focuses on the final chapter of **First Peter**, specifically the practice of suffering and the structural integrity of leadership within the assembly.

Definitions of Key Words

Elder (Presbuteros): A specific subgroup in the assembly. In this context, it refers to men who have met specific scriptural criteria (as seen in the books of Timothy) rather than simply being older in age.

Participle: A part of speech that functions as a "verbal adjective," used here to describe the **how** or the **means** by which an action is completed.

Lording it over: The act of manipulating authority to impose power and position over followers.

Humility: Described as a "permissive passive" action, meaning to **allow oneself to be humbled**. It is the necessary condition for receiving God's grace.

Casting (Epiriptō): The act of throwing or tossing; in this context, it is the specific **means** by which a believer humbles themselves under God's hand.

Sober Spirit: A state of mental alertness and vigilance against spiritual deception and pride.

Key Points Expansion

1. The Credibility and Calling of Leadership (1 Peter 5:1-4)

Peter begins this section by establishing his credibility to exhort the leadership. He identifies as a "fellow elder" and an "eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ" (**Luke 23:49**).

This transition from addressing the general assembly in Chapter 4 to the "elders" in Chapter 5 emphasizes that the success of the assembly during suffering depends heavily on the quality of its leadership.

2. The Mandate for Shepherding (1 Peter 5:2-3)

The command to "shepherd the flock" is an **imperative verb**. Peter provides three contrasts for how this role should be fulfilled:

Voluntarily, not under compulsion: Following the will of God.

Eagerly, not for "sordid gain": Motivated by service rather than profit.

As examples, not "lording it over": Leadership must be proven through lifestyle, not just public teaching.

3. The Divine Condition: Humility vs. Pride (1 Peter 5:5-6)

A major theme is that God's grace is **conditional**. Peter states that "God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble" (**1 Peter 5:5**). Believers are commanded to humble themselves under "the mighty hand of God" so that He may exalt them at the "proper time," which is predominantly a future promise rather than a present reality and expectation.

4. The Mechanism of Humility: Casting Care (1 Peter 5:7)

Humility is not an abstract feeling; it has a specific "how." Peter uses a participle of means—**casting**—to explain that we humble ourselves by throwing our anxiety on God.

The Four-Part Mechanism:

1. **The Verb:** Humbling ourselves (**the what**).
2. **The Participle:** Casting (**the how**).
3. **The Noun:** Anxiety/Worry (**the object being thrown**).
4. **The Reason:** Because He cares for you.

5. Vigilance Against the "Roaring Lion" (1 Peter 5:8-10)

Pride is described as the "lifeblood of Satan". Peter warns that the devil prowls like a "roaring lion" seeking to devour those who open the door through pride. Believers are called to resist him by remaining "firm in your faith," recognizing that suffering is a shared experience among the global brotherhood.

Biblical References: 1 Peter 5:8-10; James 3:1 (context of stricter judgment for leaders).

Questions for Review

1. What are the "Three Ps" Peter uses to structure his epistle?
 2. How does Peter establish his credibility before giving commands to the elders?
 3. What does the phrase "permissive passive" imply about the act of humbling oneself?
 4. According to the teaching, why is taking anxiety upon yourself considered an act of pride?
 5. What is the "proper time" for exaltation mentioned in verse 6?
 6. How does the text describe the relationship between pride and the "roaring lion"?
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Answer Key

1. **The Three Ps:** Purpose, Place, and the **Practice of suffering**.
 2. **Credibility:** He identifies as an Apostle, a fellow elder, and an **eyewitness** to the sufferings of Christ.
 3. **Permissive Passive:** It means to **allow oneself to be humbled**.
 4. **Anxiety as Pride:** Taking on worry is the opposite of casting it on God; it implies you are carrying the burden yourself rather than submitting to God's "mighty hand".
 5. **Proper Time:** The teaching suggests this is **predominantly future**, referring to the coming glory of the kingdom.
 6. **The Roaring Lion:** Pride opens the door for the devil (the lion) to influence and devour the believer.
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Biblical References in the Sources

1 Peter 5:1-14

1 Peter 4:7-19

Luke 23:49 (Peter as witness)

James 3:1 (Stricter judgment for leaders)

First and Second Timothy (Criteria for elders)

Exhortations

Count the Cost of Leadership: Leadership is not a path to easy joy; it is a calling that requires one to put their "life on the line" for the flock and involves a stricter judgment (**James 3:1**).

Maintain Your Dress Code: Just as you put on clothes daily, you must intentionally "clothe yourselves with humility" toward one another.


Be a "Great Caster": Do not scramble in the "water" of your own worries. Put your confidence in God's care and cast every anxiety onto Him.

Watch the Door: Pride is the invitation the "roaring lion" is waiting for. Stay alert and vigilant to keep that door closed.


Endure the "Little While": Though suffering may feel long, in the scope of eternity, it is a "little while." Trust that God will eventually perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

1 Peter 5: Leading and Living in the Suffering Assembly


THE BLUEPRINT FOR ELDER LEADERSHIP



Shepherd the Flock Voluntarily
Elders must lead with eagerness and a willing heart, avoiding compulsion or sorted gain.

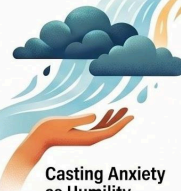


Leadership by Example
Authority should never be manipulated to 'lord it over' others; elders must be living examples.




Credibility through Suffering
Peter qualifies his commands by identifying as a fellow elder and eyewitness of Christ's suffering.


THE MECHANICS OF TRUE HUMILITY




Casting Anxiety as Humility
True humility is achieved by throwing all worries on God because He cares for you.



Pride as a Spiritual Doorway
Anxiety and pride open the door for the devil to devour believers like a roaring lion.



The Conditional Nature of Grace
God's grace is specifically promised to the humble, while He opposes the proud.



GOD'S RESTORATION PROMISE

- Perfect**: To be put into a proper, complete condition
- Confirm**: To establish and make firm the believer
- Strengthen**: To make the believer strong in their faith
- Establish**: The final grounding of those who follow Christ