

^{5:5} In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”^a

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² With the help of Silas,^b whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Review the context.

- Leadership can be a daunting task – full of temptations and various examples to inspire or injure God’s “flock”. Peter illustrates how the “Chief Shepherd” leads God’s people through suffering and serves them through tenderness, humility, and watchfulness. How might his readers need to hear this message of encouragement?

Understand it.

- Verses 5-6 repeat a theme of **humility**. How can believers practice healthy submission to those who are older? Why does this attitude toward the elderly matter?
- How does humility help us in our prayers (as we cast our anxieties upon him)?
- What does the image of a prowling lion (ie. the devil) convey about the one who accuses^c and lies about us? (See also Psalm 22:13, Ephesians 6:10-17.)
- What is the encouragement that someone can experience by knowing that other believers across the world suffer because of their faith?
- How does God’s promise of restoration (v.10) enable believers to be “strong, firm, and steadfast” after suffering? Can we expect this strength in our lifetime or is it a promise of our eternal resurrection?
- Peter ends his letter in v.13-14 with words of blessing and love from the believers in Rome (i.e. “Babylon”). How can believers/churches far away strengthen each other?

Apply it.

- Peter warns the believers to be vigilant and reminds them of the spiritual dangers that await them. How have you experienced the devil’s attempts to “devour” you?
- How do God’s promises encourage you to stand firm in the midst of spiritual (or any type of) oppression? How would it help you if God made you strong, firm, and/or steadfast?
- Peter ends his exhortation with a doxological praise of God (v.11). How do/could you offer praise to God in the midst of suffering?

^a 1 Peter 5:5 Prov. 3:34

^c *diabolos* means “devil, false accuser, slanderer”

^b 1 Peter 5:12 Greek *Silvanus*, a variant of *Silas*