

▶ GLENSTONE CHAPEL ◀
Community Group Bible Study Guide

Passage: 1st Peter 5:1-4

For use August 12-18, 2007

FOR PERSONAL PREPARATION:

1. If you sense God has called (or may be calling you) to a leadership role(s) among the people of Glenstone Chapel, **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION**. If not, use this paragraph to learn what you should rightfully expect from the leadership of this emerging congregation.
2. As you read the text, compare Peter's directives for congregational leaders with his own example (as seen in the Gospels and Acts). To what extent may Peter be guilty of telling the readers, "Don't do what I do; do what I say"?
3. "I appeal as a fellow-elder..." (vs. 1) is perhaps the most touching phrase in these verses.
 - "Peter ... was one of the three [disciples] who saw Christ's glory at the Transfiguration (Mark 9:1-13; 2 Peter 1:16-18). Often the spokesman for the apostles, Peter witnessed Jesus' death and resurrection, preached at Pentecost and became a pillar of the Jerusalem church. But writing to the leaders, **he identified himself as a fellow elder, not a superior**. He asked them to 'care for the flock of God,' exactly what Jesus had told him to do (John 21:15-17). Peter was taking his own advice as he worked along with the other elders in caring for God's faithful people. His identification with the elders is good example of Christian, showing that authority is based on service, not power (Mark 10:42-45)."¹ (*emphasis added*)
 - Those who would impose later historical developments back to the times of the apostles find scant Biblical support from these verses for the idea that Peter was a majestic, regal authority figure.
3. What's an "**elder**"? Here are some synonyms:
 - "Senior."
 - "Leader."
 - "Older."
 - "Chief."
 - "Higher-ranking."
 - This concept of honoring those of greater maturity may help to explain Paul's instruction to Timothy, "Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands. . ." (1 Tim. 5:22). A certain level of personal and spiritual maturity is required for those who will lead others within the Christian fellowship.
4. Note
 - "Praise God."
 - "Commit your soul to your Faithful Creator."
 - "Go on doing all the good you can."²
5. "**Because you are willing...**" (vs. 2) s. ."³
6. "**Glory**" (vss. 1, 4). What does Peter have in mind with the use of this key word? Study the following references: Ex. 24:10, 16-17; Ex. 33:18, 22; Ex. 40:35; Matt. 17:2; Luke 9:29-30; John 1:14; 2 Cor. 3:7, 18; 2 Cor. 4:6; Heb. 1:3; 2:7, 9; 9:5; 13:21; 1 Pet. 5:10-11; 2 Pet. 1:3, 17; Rev. 15:8; 18:1; 21:11, as you ponder this question. Him."⁴ ▶▶
- ▶▶ 7. "... participate
8. "**The Spirit of glory rests on you.**" (vs. 14) "... the *Shekinah*, the luminous glow of the very Presence of God."⁵
9. **What a Christian should not be** (vs. 15)
10. "**Do not be ashamed. . . .**" (vs. 16 dicap."⁶
11. "**If**" (vs. 18). *The Message* translates this verse intriguingly, "If good people barely make it, what's in store for the bad?"
12. "**. . . their faithful Creator. . . .**" (vs. 19). God created the world and He has
13. As believers, we w2, 3)."⁷

³ *The Letters of James and Peter*, by Wm. Barclay, pages 257.

⁴ *The Letters of James and Peter*, by Wm. Barclay, pages 258.

⁵ *The Letters of James and Peter*, by Wm. Barclay, pages 259.

⁶ *The Letters of James and Peter*, by Wm. Barclay, pages 257-258.

⁷ *Word in Life Bible*, page 1961.

¹ *Life Application Bible*, page 2005.

² *The New Testament in Modern English*, by J. B. Phillips, pages 492-493.

Passage: 1st Peter 5:1-4

LAUNCHING

1. If someone wanted to hurt you badly, what pain would you find the hardest to endure? Check (✓) one, then share with group.
 A. "Being in solitary confinement in a prison."
 B. "Having my face burned with a lit cigarette or having my fingernails or toenails pulled out."
 C. "Being fired from my job without cause."
 D. "Having a 'root canal' without anesthetic."
 E. "Seeing my young children subjected to torture."
 F. "Having my eyes put out."
 G. "Having to observe my wife being raped."
 H. Another gruesome alternative:
 "I'll pass on this one."
2. What's the best way to motivate people toward excellent performance? Please comment if you have ever had one of the following roles: store or office manager, foreman, "boss," coach, military commander, teacher, pastor, parent, sales manager, owner of a small business.
3. When's the last time you had a really BIG surprise, either negative or positive? For example, a surprise party in your honor, receiving a large bequest, a diagnosis of cancer, a sudden death in the family, being given a prestigious award, a special blessing by the Holy Spirit.

UNDERSTANDING 1st Peter 5:1-4

1. Read aloud 1st Peter 4:1-12-19. Ask the group to look for answers to these questions as you read:
A. According to this passage, what of a Christian's behavior and demeanor honors and glorifies God?
B. What detracts from God?
2. Discuss the alternatives and consequences for each sentence starting with "if." (vss. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)
3. What are Peter's perspectives on persecution?
4. What does Peter say are INAPPROPRIATE reactions to persecution? Which are APPROPRIATE?
5. What reasons does Peter give to his readers to motivate them to "continue to do good" (vs. 19)?

►► MUSING on 1st Peter 5:1-4

1. "When you feel like giving up and not continuing, what keeps you going?"⁹
2. "If you were asked to tell a group of new Christians what [difficulties] to expect in the Christian life, what are some things you might tell them [based on this passage]? Why?"¹⁰
3. In what ways have you experienced harassment, maltreatment, bullying, singling out, hounding, discrimination, bias, prejudice, unfairness, bigotry, intolerance, inequity, injustice, chauvinism, injury, grievance, and/or partiality, etc. FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN? In what environment did this "persecution" take place: the workplace, in or among my family, school (at any level), recreational setting, religious context and/or in civil affairs?
4. How has 'suffering' hurt, changed, molded or matured you?¹¹

FURTHER MUSING (on your own)

- "Sometimes a person will grumble, 'He's just picking on me because I'm a Christian,' when it is obvious to everyone else that the person's own unpleasant behavior is the cause of his or her problem. It may take careful thought or wise counsel to determine the real cause of our suffering. We can be assured however, that whenever we suffer because of our loyalty to Christ, He will be with us all the way."¹²

⁸Leader should duplicate for easier application by group members.

⁹*Serendipity New Testament*, page 449.

¹⁰*Serendipity New Testament*, page 449.

¹¹*Serendipity New Testament*, page 449

¹²*Life Application Bible*, page 2004.