

Instructions to Leaders; Trust in God

1 Peter 5

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Serve God Willingly	5	1-5	- Elders: take care of the people under your care - Young Men: follow the direction of the elders - All of you: exhibit humility to each other
		6-11	- Trust in God to provide - Resist the devil knowing you are not alone - God will bring you to completion through Jesus
		12-14a	Final greetings and remarks
		14b	Benediction

In this chapter of 1 Peter, the leadership of the church is addressed and then some final remarks are given regarding remaining faithful and trusting in God. Humility and dependence on God are emphasized in this short chapter.

There are two passages which serve as the key to this chapter.

1 Peter 5:5b-7 NASB ... and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. **6** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7** casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

This first passage is one of the major themes of New Testament leadership: Humility. Notice that even Peter doesn't exert authority over the men he is addressing but refers to himself as a "fellow elder". He does fulfill the role that Jesus called him, feeding and caring for His flock, but not with an air of superiority over them. He reminds them of God's dislike of pride by quoting from Proverbs and is echoing Jesus' teaching regard humility.

Matthew 23:8-12 NASB "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. **9** "Do not call *anyone* on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. **10** "Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, *that is*, Christ. **11** "But the greatest among you shall be your servant. **12** "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

Luke 14:11 NASB "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18:10-14 NASB "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12** 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' **13** "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' **14** "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

James, whose book was one of the first New Testament letters written, provided similar guidance to the early Christians who had been scattered after the first persecutions of Jewish Christians in Jerusalem.

¹ (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

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James 4:10 NASB Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Peter and James both quote from Proverbs to support their teaching.

Proverbs 3:34 NASB Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.

James 4:6 NASB But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

1 Peter 5:5 NASB You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

This is not some new teaching. Moses, when He is addressing Pharaoh and speaking for the Lord, has the same message. Pharaoh had already seen a number of plagues which showed God's superiority over the Egyptian gods, and yet he still refused to let the Israelites go. So Moses is sent to declare God's displeasure.

Exodus 10:3 NASB Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.'

Consider the following passages which focus on humility (see also the references to humble at the end).

Proverbs 15:33 NASB The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor *comes* humility.

Proverbs 18:12 NASB Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, But humility *goes* before honor.

Proverbs 22:4 NASB The reward of humility *and* the fear of the LORD Are riches, honor and life.

Zephaniah 2:3 NASB Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD'S anger.

Acts 20:19 NASB serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

Ephesians 4:2 NASB with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

Philippians 2:3 NASB Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

Colossians 3:12 NASB So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

James 1:21 NASB Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

The other passage to focus on is found in vs 8-9 of the chapter.

1 Peter 5:8-9 NASB Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your

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brethren who are in the world.

The key here is to be on the alert and resist the devil. Consider the following with regard to resisting the devil.

Ephesians 6:13 NASB Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

James 4:7 NASB Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:9 NASB But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

God wants us to stand strong in our faith, think soberly (Isaiah 1:18; 1 Corinthians 1:17-31; 1 Peter 1:13), and resist the temptations that may come our way. Peter is writing as one who knows what it means to be restored, having been restored by Jesus after having denied knowing Him.

Finally verses 6-7 summarizes this idea best.

1 Peter 5:6-7 NASB Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7** casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Key Words: New Testament, Letters, 1 Peter, Elders, Young Men, Trust, Temptation, Humility, Leadership

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Passages where the word humble is used in the NASB

Exodus 10:3 NASB Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

Leviticus 16:29 NASB "This shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you;

Leviticus 16:31 NASB "It is to be a sabbath of solemn rest for you, that you may humble your souls; it is a permanent statute.

Leviticus 23:27 NASB "On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to the LORD.

Leviticus 23:29 NASB "If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people.

Leviticus 23:32 NASB "It is to be a sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble your souls; on the ninth of the month at evening, from evening until evening you shall keep your sabbath."

Numbers 12:3 NASB (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.)

Numbers 29:7 NASB 'Then on the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall humble yourselves; you shall not do any work.

Numbers 30:13 NASB "Every vow and every binding oath to humble herself, her husband may confirm it or her husband may annul it.

Deuteronomy 8:2 NASB "You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

Deuteronomy 8:16 NASB "In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.

2 Samuel 6:22 NASB "I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished."

2 Chronicles 7:14 NASB and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 33:23 NASB Moreover, he did not humble himself before the LORD as his father Manasseh had done, but Amon multiplied guilt.

2 Chronicles 36:12 NASB He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God; he did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke for the LORD.

Ezra 8:21 NASB Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God to seek from Him a safe journey for us, our little ones, and all our possessions.

Job 22:29 NASB "When you are cast down, you will speak with confidence, And the humble person He

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will save.

Job 40:12 NASB "Look on everyone who is proud, *and* humble him, And tread down the wicked where they stand.

Psalms 10:17 NASB O LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear

Psalms 25:9 NASB He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way.

Psalms 34:2 NASB My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice.

Psalms 37:11 NASB But the humble will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

Psalms 69:32 NASB The humble have seen *it and* are glad; You who seek God, let your heart revive.

Psalms 76:9 NASB When God arose to judgment, To save all the humble of the earth. Selah.

Proverbs 6:3 NASB Do this then, my son, and deliver yourself; Since you have come into the hand of your neighbor, Go, humble yourself, and importune your neighbor.

Proverbs 11:2 NASB When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 16:19 NASB It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 29:23 NASB A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor.

Ecclesiastes 10:6 NASB folly is set in many exalted places while rich men sit in humble places.

Isaiah 58:5 NASB "Is it a fast like this which I choose, a day for a man to humble himself? Is it for bowing one's head like a reed And for spreading out sackcloth and ashes as a bed? Will you call this a fast, even an acceptable day to the LORD?"

Isaiah 66:2 NASB "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Daniel 4:37 NASB "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

Amos 2:7 NASB "These who pant after the *very* dust of the earth on the head of the helpless Also turn aside the way of the humble; And a man and his father resort to the same girl In order to profane My holy name.

Amos 8:4 NASB Hear this, you who trample the needy, to do away with the humble of the land,

Zephaniah 2:3 NASB Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD'S anger.

Zephaniah 3:12 NASB "But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the LORD.

Zechariah 9:9 NASB Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

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Matthew 11:29 NASB "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

Luke 1:48 NASB "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

Luke 1:52 NASB "He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, And has exalted those who were humble.

Philippians 3:21 NASB who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 4:12 NASB I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

James 1:9 NASB But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;

James 4:6 NASB But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

James 4:10 NASB Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

1 Peter 3:8 NASB To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

1 Peter 5:5 NASB You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

1 Peter 5:6 NASB Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,