

**THE HUMBLE BEHAVIOR OF THE BELIEVER**

**PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.**

**Lesson Aim:** Maintain a humble spirit in times of persecution by the grace of God.

**Suggestion:** This lesson will call attention to important truths in this week's Lesson. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

**Introduction:** This chapter falls naturally into four parts: (1) charge to the elders; (2) conduct of the believers - 5:5-9; (3) care of God - 5:10-11; (4) conclusion of the letter - 5:12-14. "May the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you" (1 Pet 5:10 NKJV).

**How are elders (pastors) to fulfill their ministry? 5:2-3**

Pastors are to feed the people in their churches with the Word of God. They are to give baby food to new believers and strong meat to mature believers so all believers are able to work and witness for the Lord in their communities. Pastors are to oversee the lives and work of these believers on behalf of God so that they bring honor and glory to Him: they should because they belong to Him. They are to do this work willingly, not for personal wealth or for power to lord over the people, but to be an example of humility and godliness to them.

**How do believers get clothed with humility? 5:5**

The first part of this verse tells believers how to put on the clothes of humility. First, it speaks to young believers. The context of this verse indicates that young believers are to submit to the elder (their pastor). They should humbly do what their pastor tells them to do. Second, this verse tells all believers to be subject one to the other. If a poor believer asks a rich believer for his help to clean the restrooms, the rich person humbly helps the poor believer clean the restrooms. If a worker in the nursery asks a young person to help in the nursery, the young person humbly helps in the nursery. Jesus is the perfect example of being clothed with humility. When His Father asked Him to leave His glorious position in Heaven to go to earth and die for the sins of all people, He did not consider His glorious position a thing to be tightly held to Himself, but He humbled Himself to become a man, to be a slave, to take the death penalty for the sins of all people and to die the most excruciating pain of all executions, even death on the cross (Phil 2:5-8). If we hesitate to be clothed with humility, consider the words at the end of this verse: "God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble." Do we want God's resistance or His grace?

**Why is it wise for believers to humble themselves? 5:6-7**

Notice, first of all, believers are to humble themselves. If we ask God to humble us, we ask amiss. We must not ask God to do what we are able to do. It may be difficult to humble ourselves in some situations, but there are two reasons why it is wise to do so. First, if we humble ourselves, He will exalt us in the future. He may exalt some believers in this life, but He will exalt all believers when they reign with Christ in His Kingdom on earth for 1000 years. Second, if we humble ourselves, we can cast all of our concerns and anxieties on Him, because He cares for us. That is a precious privilege.

**How can humble believers be blessed when they are persecuted? 5:10-11**

First, humble believers can go to God for His grace. Grace is God's supply for their needs. He has all the grace that is needed for all their needs. Second, humble believers will keep in mind that suffering does not end in darkness and gloom; it is the way to God's glory by Christ Jesus. Third, humble believers will suffer a while by man's persecution, but they know it cannot be compared to God's eternal glory. The glory begins when they reign with Christ for 1000 years. Then they will live in the beautiful New Jerusalem forever where fresh blessings will be provided and delightful assignments will be given to them. Fourth, they know that suffering will perfect, establish, strengthen and settle them so they will be in the image of Jesus Christ (Rom 8:28-29; 1 Jn 3:2).