

Going to the Next Level

You are encouraged to read verses before and after the selected passages.

Sunday: 1 Peter 5:1-11 Authority and the body of Christ.

Monday: 1 Timothy 3:1-7 Qualifications for Elder.

Tuesday: Titus 1:6-9 Elder characteristics.

Wednesday: Proverbs 3:34 God gives grace to the humble.

Thursday: Matthew 6:25-34 Do not be anxious.

Friday: Ephesians 6:10-20 Put on the armor of God.

Saturday: James 4:1-10 Resist the Devil.

This week's memory verse

NIV 1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

1 Peter 5:1-11 NIV

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed:² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

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.”

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.

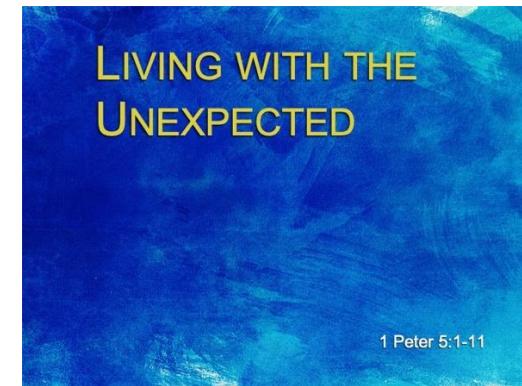
¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Sermon Series: **Thrive: Not Settling for the Ordinary**

Speaker: Dr. Bill Patterson

March 22, 2020

Sermon Notes



Big Idea: *Congregations can learn how to live with the unexpected.*

Praying God's Word ~ 1 Peter 5:1-11

- Thank God for godly spiritual leaders. Pray as KEFC implements an elder training program this month, so qualified men will be eager to serve.
- Praise God that he is returning with rewards to those that serve him.
- Ask God to help KEFC establish a men's mentoring ministry.
- Seek humility.
- Ask for wisdom in learning how to cast our anxiety on Christ.
- Thank God that we can resist Satan.

These questions help with applying today's text to your life!

When a man becomes an elder it is a significant honor. He is entering the oldest religious office in the world. Its history can be traced back through Christianity and Judaism for 4,000+ years. Being an elder is no small responsibility for he is set apart to help shepherd the flock of God and defend the faith. (Wm Barclay, *The Letters of James and Peter*)

What qualities are shown for elders today's passage?

Compare and contrast today's verses on elders with Hebrews 13:17.
How do these passages complement each other?

How could KEFC make a difference in Keokuk with a men's mentoring ministry?

What might be specific topics of discussion/discipleship?

How does the exercise of humility impact our ability to cope with the unexpected? (Note: While the world sees humility as a weakness the Bible presents it as a moral strength. Humility is not groveling, but agreement with God's assessment of who you are.)
Serenity is an outcome for casting our anxiety on Christ.

Why can we trust God with that which makes us anxious?

How can self-control and alertness help us resist our adversary, Satan?

Note: Satan is the adversary who accuses the Christian in the presence of God. Satan is the prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11); his residence is on this earth and he restlessly moves from place to place. Satan not only controls the whole world (I John 5:19), but also is a slanderer who turns the truth into a lie. He slanders God and man, pits one person against another, and undermines the believer's faith in God.

What else can one do to resist Satan? (The very statement telling us to resist obviously implies that we can. Resistance is not futile!)

Peter concludes today's passage with a prayer emphasizing God's grace. He intimates that God is the source, the possessor, and the giver of all grace. He mentions the concept *grace* repeatedly in his epistle. The apostle teaches that God's grace is rich and varied (4:10) and is given to those who are humble (5:5).

Take a few minutes to thank God for his grace in your life.