

An Auburn Tiger, a GA Bulldog, and GT-YJ, were working for an oil company in the Middle East where they were arrested and found guilty for speeding. The punishment for their crime was a public beating where they were to receive (50) lashes. When punishment day arrived, they were brought before a local sheik who said, “Today is your lucky day. B/c it’s my wife’s birthday, I’ll grant you each one wish. The Tiger asked to have a pillow tied to his back – but it wasn’t enough – and after only (10) lashes, it was ripped to shreds and he had to endure the pain of the next (40) lashes. The Bulldog saw what happened and wished for (2) pillows tied to his back. They granted his wish, but after (20) lashes the pillows were shredded and he had to endure the agony of the next (30) lashes.” The YJ then said to the Sheik, “Sir, in honor of your kindness and your wife’s birthday, I humbly request you grant me (2) wishes.” The Sheik said, “I can’t promise you (2) wishes, but make your 1st wish, and then I’ll decide if I’ll grant you a 2nd.” The YJ said, “Sir, I am sorry for my crime and I’m guilty – so my 1st wish is that you give me not (50) but (100) lashes.” The Sheik said, “You’re a noble man, if (100) lashes is what you desire – so be it. And b/c you’re a brave man, I’ll grant your 2nd wish too. What will it be? The YJ said: “Please tie the Bulldog to my back.”

We've been in a series in **1 Peter** entitled **GLOW**. To *glow* means to emit a steady radiance of light. In this study, we've seen that the essential ingredient to glowing for God's glory is found in having experienced God's grace found in Jesus. For since we've all violated God's rule, and we stand guilty before Him deserving any punishment due for our sin. Yet b/c of the love/mercy God in Jesus, He has offered us a plea bargain. By allowing Jesus to absorb our punishment by His wounds (his grace) we can be healed – and we can glow!

As we finish up this series today, Peter offers (6) final encouragements to assist the believers in glowing for God.

In the same way, you who are younger, ¹submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, ²clothe yourselves w/ humility toward one another, b/c, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ³Cast all your anxiety on him b/c he cares for you. ⁴Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁵Resist him, standing firm in the faith, b/c you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ⁶And 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. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Have you ever baked a cake or made cookies? This is what I think of when I read this text. I think of what you get when you follow a recipe using the right ingredients. That's what we find in 1 Peter 5. In his final instruction, Peter offers (6) final ingredients to having a life that glows for God's glory.

I Be SUBMISSIVE to Spiritual Leadership

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders...

in the same way – refers to the teaching made to spiritual leaders (elders) to be in right alignment under Christ. In like manner, the church (Christians) are to live in right alignment w/ God by living under the influence of the leaders God has placed over them.

This is no small request. But as we learned (2) weeks ago – the people called as elders have a great calling on their lives to lead, feed, and protect the church. Why? **To help us to know Christ, to grow up in Christ, so that we can go out in His name to live Christ.** To do this, we must willingly come under Christ, His word, and His our spiritual leaders.

submit (*hupotasso*) under and in alignment. It is a military word meaning *to put oneself under another in rank* by having an attitude of respect that results in positive obedience to authority placed over you.

Peter calls believers to put aside their own self-promoting agenda to follow the people God has anointed to lead.

This doesn't mean leaders are to be w/out accountability, but ultimately, we must grasp that these people have a divine responsibility to challenge us to be everything God has called us to be. They're called to equip/mobilize the church to accomplish God's mission in the world. And the job of the church is to follow them and to make their calling a joy.

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hb. 13:17

And lest we should forget – God's commission to the church involves *imperfect shepherds* leading *imperfect sheep* in the service of a *perfect God* – who's given us a *perfect plan*.

II Be HUMBLE before God and Others

All of you, clothe yourselves w/ humility toward one another, b/c, God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time...

Humility is an essential quality to our faith. Scripture teaches *God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

A Texas rancher and a Wisconsin dairy farmer met and were bragging about their businesses. The dairy farmer told the rancher he operated his business on 125 acres to which the Texan scoffed, “Yankee, that ain’t nothin’. On my ranch, I can get in my truck at sunrise and I won’t reach my fence-line until sunset.” The dairy farmer snorted, “Yeah, I used to have a truck like that too.”

humility (*tapeinoo*) bring to the ground. It refers to having an attitude that thinks rightly of one’s self before God.

God created the world out of nothing – and so long as we realize we’re nothing w/out God, God can make something significant out of us. *M. Luther*

Corrie Ten Boom was asked if it was difficult to be humble. She said, “When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a mule, and everyone was waving palm branches, throwing garments on the road, singing praises – do you think for one moment it ever entered into the head of that donkey that any of this was for him? If I can be a donkey on which Jesus rides into glory, then I’ll give Him all the praise and honor he deserves.

III Be **RELIANT** on God in Everything

Cast all your anxiety on him b/c he cares for you...

casting (*epiripto*) to throw something onto someone else.

anxiety (*merimna*) worries – those things that divide and pull us apart. He's referring to the things in our lives that weigh us down, hold us back, and steal our joy. It's anything that brings discontentment, discouragement, and despair.

Catch – *aorist tense* – meaning we're called to once and for all give our cares to God. We're to not muddle thru life from one worry to the next asking God to care for the big burdens while we struggle w/ the small ones. Instead, we're to cast the whole of our lives into the hands of the Almighty.

We're to throw our concerns onto the Lord allowing Him to take care of them. We're not to trust in our own ability and ingenuity to handle our concerns, *but once and for all*, we're to trust in the Lord w/ all of our heart looking to Him alone to guide us and meet us at the point of our need.

IV Be **ALERT** in all Spiritual Matters

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour...

be on alert (*gregoresate*) be watchful, awake, and on guard. We're to be alert to the tactics of the devil who seeks to kill, steal, and destroy – alert that we're in a spiritual war where the battlefield is the lives of people.

A boxer felt he was getting pummeled in the ring by his opponent. Battered/bruised, b/w rounds, he told his trainer to throw in the towel b/c he was getting pounded. The trainer replied, “He’s barely laid a glove on you.” To which the boxer said, “Then I wish you’d keep an eye on the ref, b/c somebody in that ring is killing me.”

The Bible says we’re in a war; but it’s not physical, it’s spiritual (**Eph. 6**). Sadly, many people don’t believe or recognize the war and their lives are beaten/bloodied and they don’t know who’s throwing the punches.

In *Born Again*, Barna did a survey of religious beliefs in America and he found only 32% “born again” Christians *strongly agree* Satan is a real being and the embodiment of evil, 11% *agreed somewhat*. 48% *agreed* that Satan is only symbolic or they didn’t know!

This is a tactic of Satan. His cleverest trick is to make people believe he doesn’t exist. But let me assure you, the devil may be out of fashion for some, but he’s not out of business.

Billy Sunday said, “I know the devil is in business for two reasons – (1) b/c the Bible says so; and (2) b/c I’ve had the unfortunate misery of doing business w/ him.

If the devil can convince people he’s not real but only a symbol of evil, he’s already won half of the battle. (**EMAIL**)

IV Be TENACIOUS for the Gospel

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, b/c you know the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings...

resist (*anthistemi*) to stand against – on defense not offense. It means to defend oneself against the devil – but not to attack. Not cowering but hunkering down ready to stand.

Before we can stand before Satan, we must bow before God – so get on your knees and fight.

WHY? We do it so we might spur one another along. We do it to encourage/strengthen each other in the battle. We do it so that we don't lose heart and grow weary. We do it b/c the souls of humanity hang in the balance. We do it b/c others before us have stood in the gap for us and the Gospel.

V Be ASSURED of God's Presence

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.

Here's the promise. Peter says God will be w/ us, in us, and for us – and if God is for us – who can be against us.