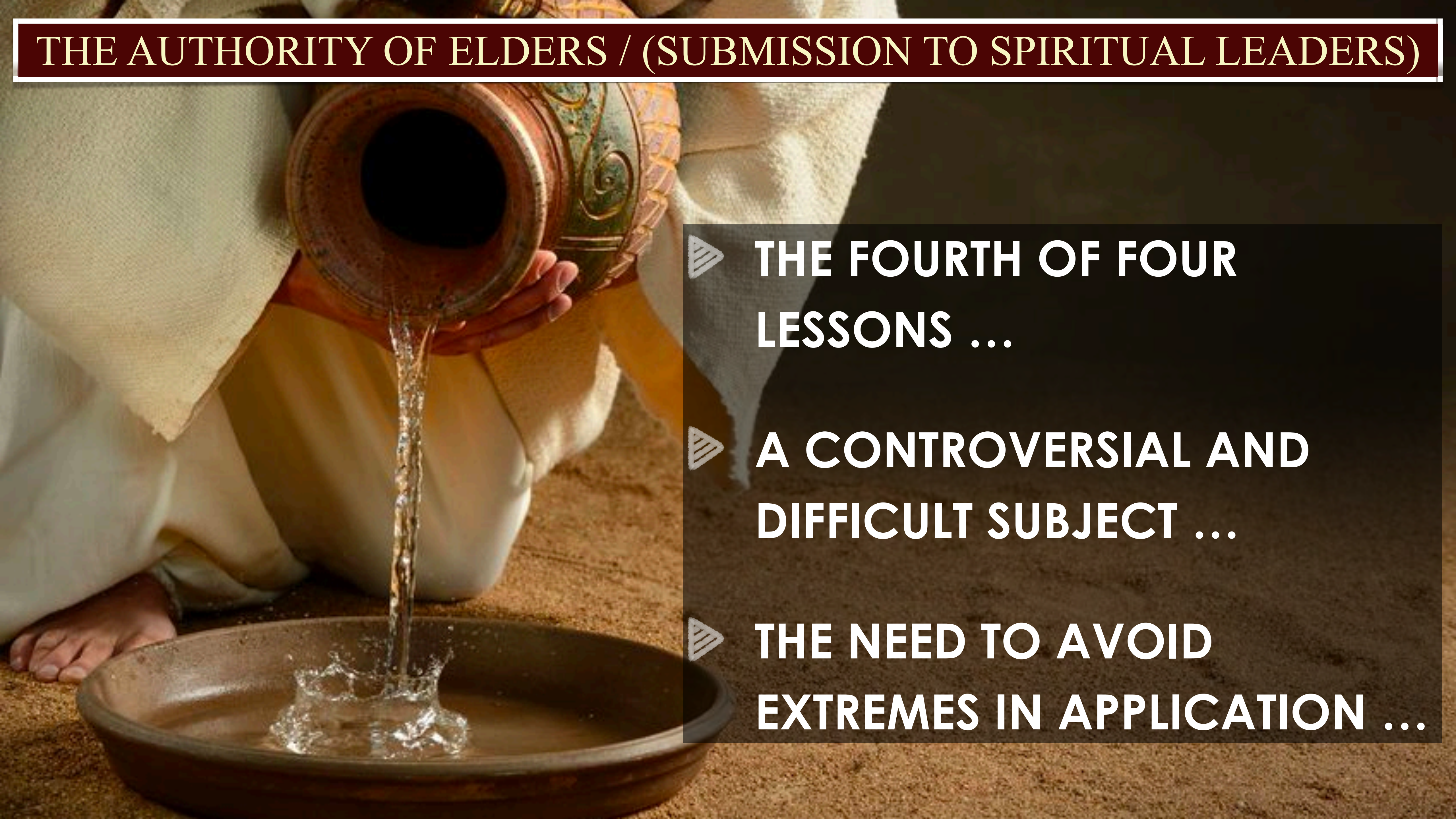


“THE AUTHORITY  
OF ELDERS”

*(Submission To Spiritual leaders)*

(1 Peter 5:1-5)

# THE AUTHORITY OF ELDERS / (SUBMISSION TO SPIRITUAL LEADERS)

- 
- ▶ **THE FOURTH OF FOUR LESSONS ...**
  - ▶ **A CONTROVERSIAL AND DIFFICULT SUBJECT ...**
  - ▶ **THE NEED TO AVOID EXTREMES IN APPLICATION ...**

# SUBMIT TO GOD'S ORDAINED AUTHORITIES



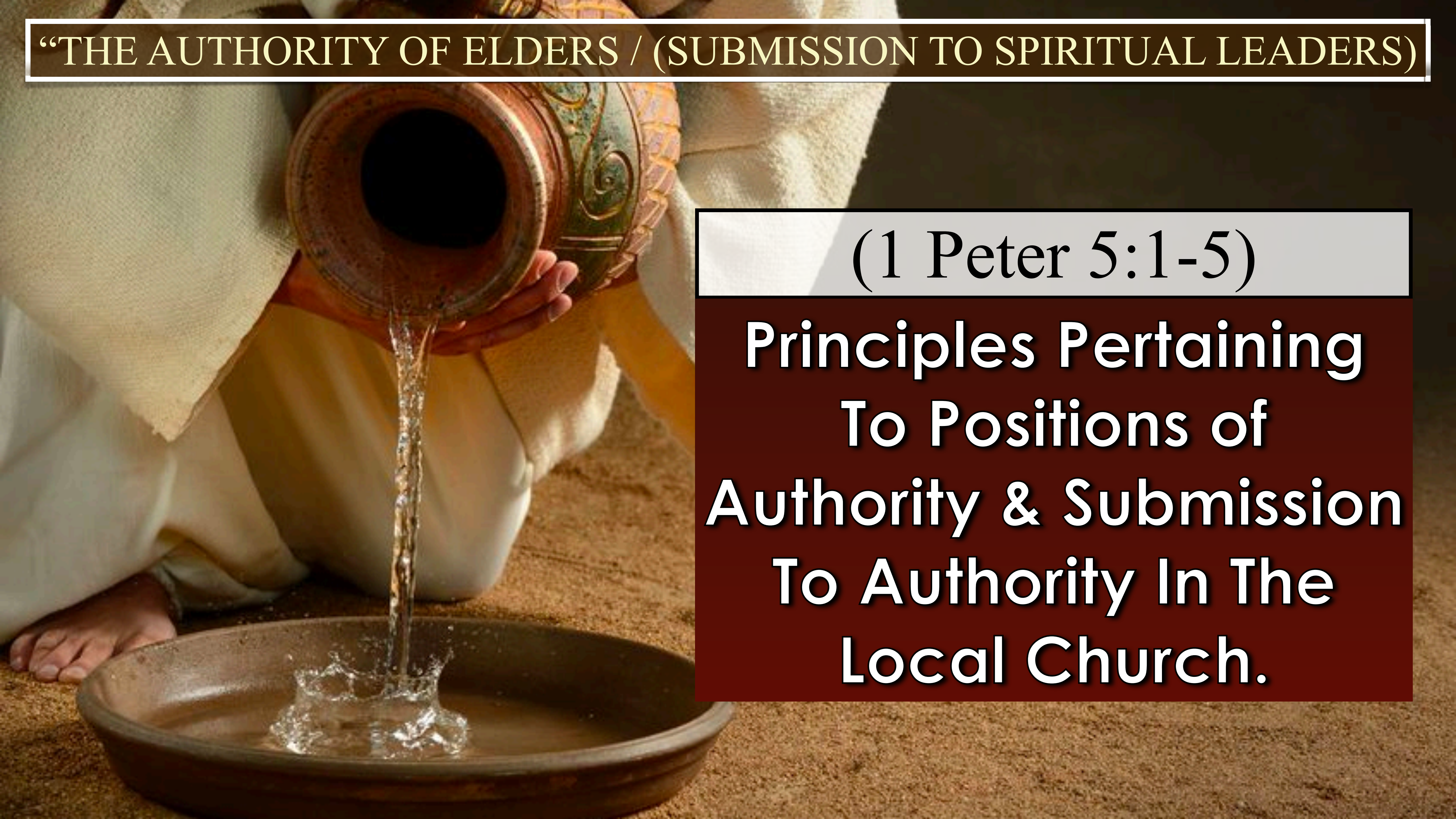
ABSTAIN FROM  
FLESHLY LUST WHICH  
WAR AGAINST THE  
SOUL! (2:12)

- To succeed in our spiritual "pilgrimage" and reach our heavenly destination, we must SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL!
- As pilgrims we are governed by the King of heaven and earth – But, as we sojourn here on earth we must submit to the powers instituted by God -

“THE AUTHORITY OF ELDERS / (SUBMISSION TO SPIRITUAL LEADERS)

(1 Peter 5:1-5)

**Principles Pertaining  
To Positions of  
Authority & Submission  
To Authority In The  
Local Church.**



# 1 Peter 5:1–5 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: <sup>2</sup> Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

# 1 Peter 5:1–5 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. <sup>5</sup> Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*”

## “elders who are among you I Exhort” (1)

### 1 Peter 5:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

- The pattern for congregational government is a plurality of elders in each congregation (1,2; Ac 14:23; 20:17; Phil 1:1; Ti. 1:5; 1 Tim. 5:17).
- The use of the plural (elders) in the singular (church) implies that each local church is to have a plurality of elders just as Philippi (Phil. 1:1), Ephesus (Acts 20:17, 28), Jerusalem (Acts 21:18) and the cities in Crete (Titus 1:5).

## “elders who are among you I Exhort” (1)

### 1 Peter 5:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

- The terms elder, bishop & pastor are descriptive terms emphasizing a different aspect of the work and function pertaining to the same office.

### 1 Peter 5:1-2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>The elders (*presbuteros*), who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: <sup>2</sup>Shepherd (*poimen*), **the flock of God which is among you**, serving as overseers, (*episkopos*),



## “elders who are among you I Exhort” (1)

### 1 Peter 5:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

- 📌 **Elder** - [*presbuteros (n)*] denotes age and seasoned wisdom that belong to its experiences. Acts 14:23; 20:17; 1 Pet 5:1
- 📌 **Pastor, shepherd** – [*poimen (n); poimaino (v)*] – Emphasizes the care, watching and feeding of the flock of God over which they have been appointed. – Act 20:28; Ep 4:11; 1 Pet 5:2
- 📌 **Bishop** – [*episkopos (n); episkopeo (v)*] – Denotes the overseeing function – not legislative, but leading and enforcing within the Law of God – Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2; (Heb 13:7,17)

## “elders who are among you I Exhort” (1)

### 1 Peter 5:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

- Elders, like everyone else, needs instruction and encouragement. As spiritual overseers, elders need to be encouraged and equipped to attend to their responsibilities with diligence, especially in difficult times (2; 4:17-19; 5:1-4)
- Remember the suffering of Christ, [we should also be sacrificial], and the glorious reward that we will receive, [such sacrificial service will be worth it], (2; He. 12:1,2).

## “Shepherd the flock of God” (2)

1 Peter 5:2  
(NKJV)

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

- ‘SHEPHERD’ - to care for the flock by feeding and watering, to guide, to guard and protect, to seek out the missing, etc. (Psalm 23:4; Titus 1:9-11; Acts 20:29-30)
- Elders are taking care of something that belongs to God and not themselves (Jeremiah 23:1-4)
- “Among you” - their authority and work is limited to the local congregation of which they are overseers (Acts 14:23; 20:17,28)

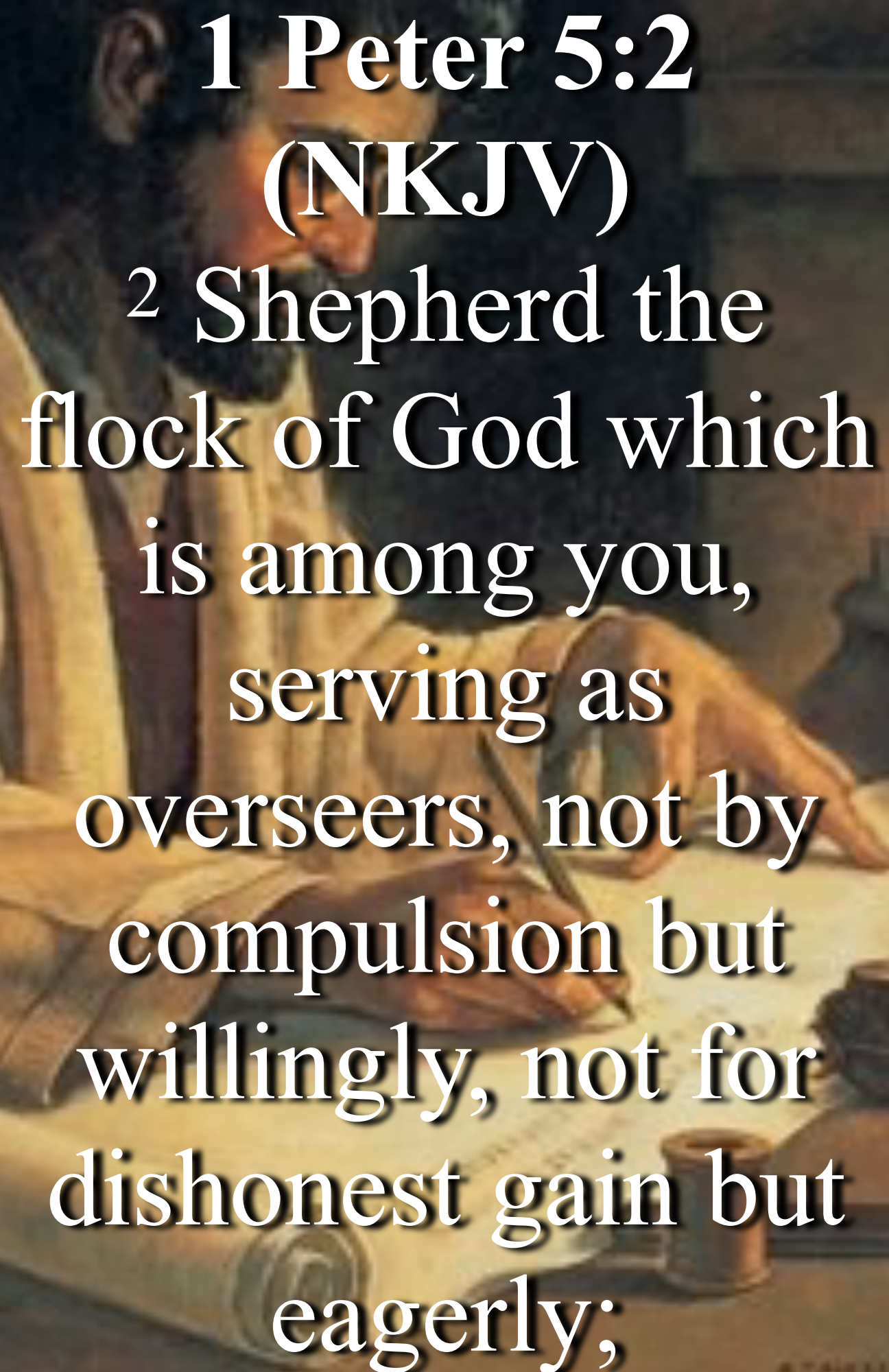
## “Shepherd the flock of God” (2)

1 Peter 5:2  
(NKJV)

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

- ‘SERVING AS OVERSEERS’ - accepting the role of serving others by providing care, leadership and oversight of the collective work (Acts 20:28)
- The office or position of a bishop is NOT a legislative position, but an administrative position in which qualified men are to serve willingly, and eagerly, by serving His people to the best of their ability (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 20:28-33)

## “Shepherd the flock of God” (2)



1 Peter 5:2  
(NKJV)  
2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

- **“not by compulsion”**-‘not by force, unwillingly’ (Vine p. 232), ‘but willingly, i.e., voluntarily. — The motivation to serve must come from within the man who desires to serve God (Rom. 6:16,17; 1 Tim. 3:1).
- **“not for dishonest gain”** O.T. Shepherds often turned their position into a lucrative business, i.e. serving from the motive of personal profit (Isa. 56:11; Jeremiah 6:13; 8:10; 5:31; 1 Tim. 3:3; 5:17)

**“nor as being lords ... but being examples” (3)**

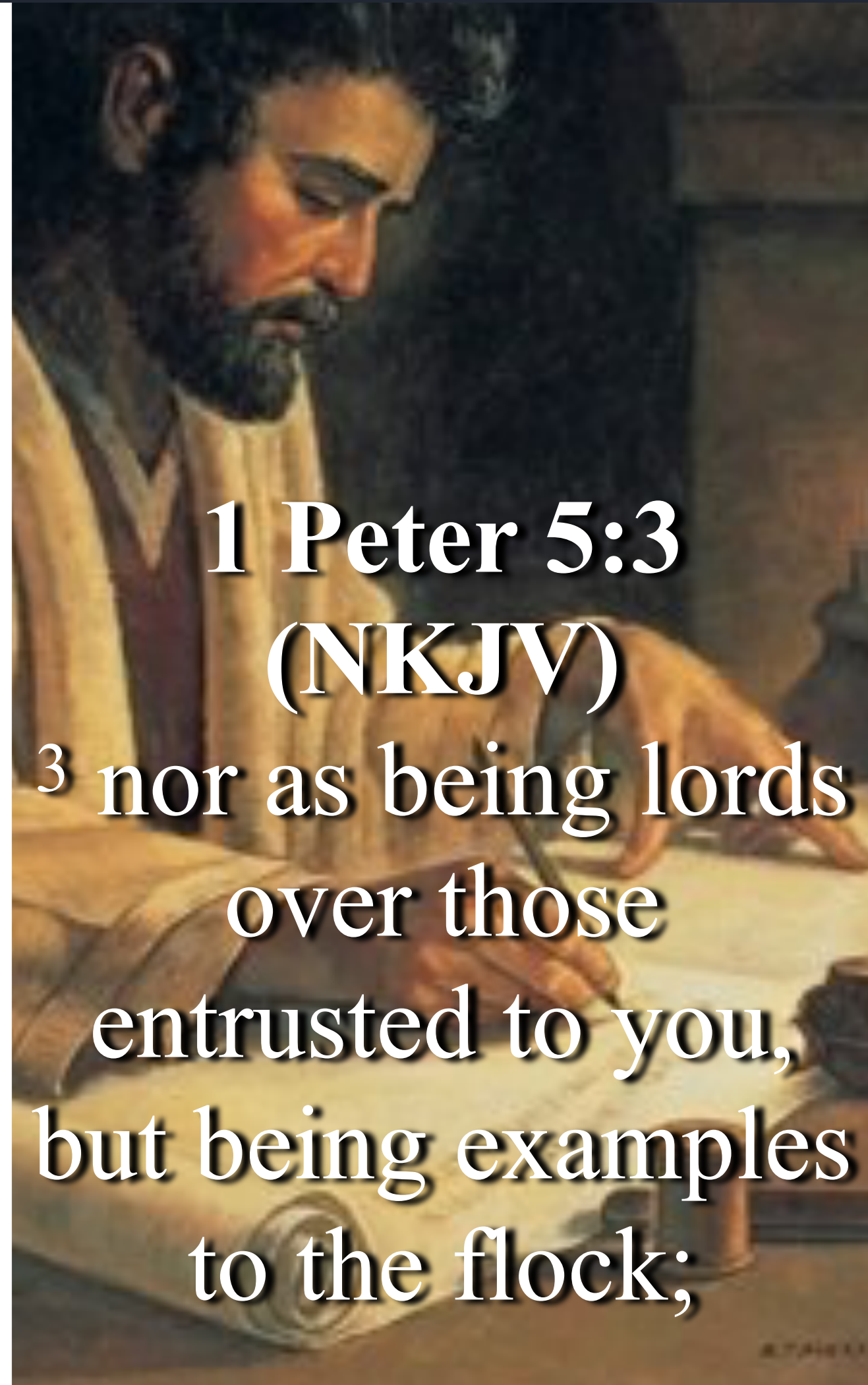


**1 Peter 5:3  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>3</sup> nor as being lords  
over those  
entrusted to you,  
but being examples  
to the flock;**

- **“nor as being lords over”** — after warning against the motive of greed, next we are warned against the motive of power.
- Elders have delegated authority. They are to ‘rule’ by administering the authority of Christ [civil rulers / social / husbands] (1 Thes. 5:12; 1 Tim. 3:4,5; 5:17; Heb 13:17)
- But NOT like the Gentiles, or Diotrophes, who ruled arbitrarily, tyrannically, selfishly, & with excessive force (Mat 20:25-28; 3 Jn 9)

**“nor as being lords ... but being examples” (3)**



**1 Peter 5:3  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>3</sup> nor as being lords  
over those  
entrusted to you,  
but being examples  
to the flock;**

- **“those entrusted to you” (3)** — that which has been assigned by lot, portion, share’ (Arndt p. 435).
- The local congregation is the portion of God’s people which have been allotted to the care of an eldership (5:2).
- Elders are responsible for those who are under their care and will be held accountable by the Lord (Heb. 13:17; Titus 1:7; 1 Cor. 4:2; 1 Pet. 4:10)

**“nor as being lords ... but being examples” (3)**



- **“but being examples to the flock”** — Examples’ - ‘models for them to copy.’
- Paul urged others to imitate his example (1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 4:9; 2 Thess. 3:7-9), and instructed Timothy (1 Tim. 4:12) and Titus (Titus 2:7-8) to live as examples of the Christian life before others.
- To not abuse authority, but be a good example, does not negate authority (Gov. / husbands / Parents / Elders)



## “when the Chief Shepherd appears,” (4)



- **ACCOUNTABLE:** The Chief Shepherd, ( Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25), will return and render to all according to their works (John 5:28,29; Rom. 2:6; 2 Cor. 5:10; etc.)
- Faithful stewards will be rewarded with “the crown of glory that does not fade away,” the “crown of life” (2 Tim. 4:6-8; 1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Tim. 2:5; James 1:12; Rev. 2:10).
- What about unfaithful stewards? (Mat 15:14; 23:4–35; Jer. 23:1,2; etc.)

## “submit yourselves to your elders” (5)

1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*”

- **RWP:** “... Dative case. Here the antithesis between younger and elder shows that the word refers to age, not to office as in 5:1.”
- The term “**likewise**” and the context seems to point to a continuation of the previous discussion of elders in the congregation, (5:1) — “he is not changing the subject to a different classification of elder but is continuing the subject discussed in 5:1-4.” (Clinton Hamilton, Commentary on 1 Peter)

**“submit yourselves to your elders” (5)**

**1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV)**

*<sup>5</sup> Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

**Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)**

*<sup>17</sup> Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

**“submit yourselves to your elders” (5)**

**1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV)**

*<sup>5</sup> Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 (NKJV)**

*<sup>12</sup> And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup> and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.*

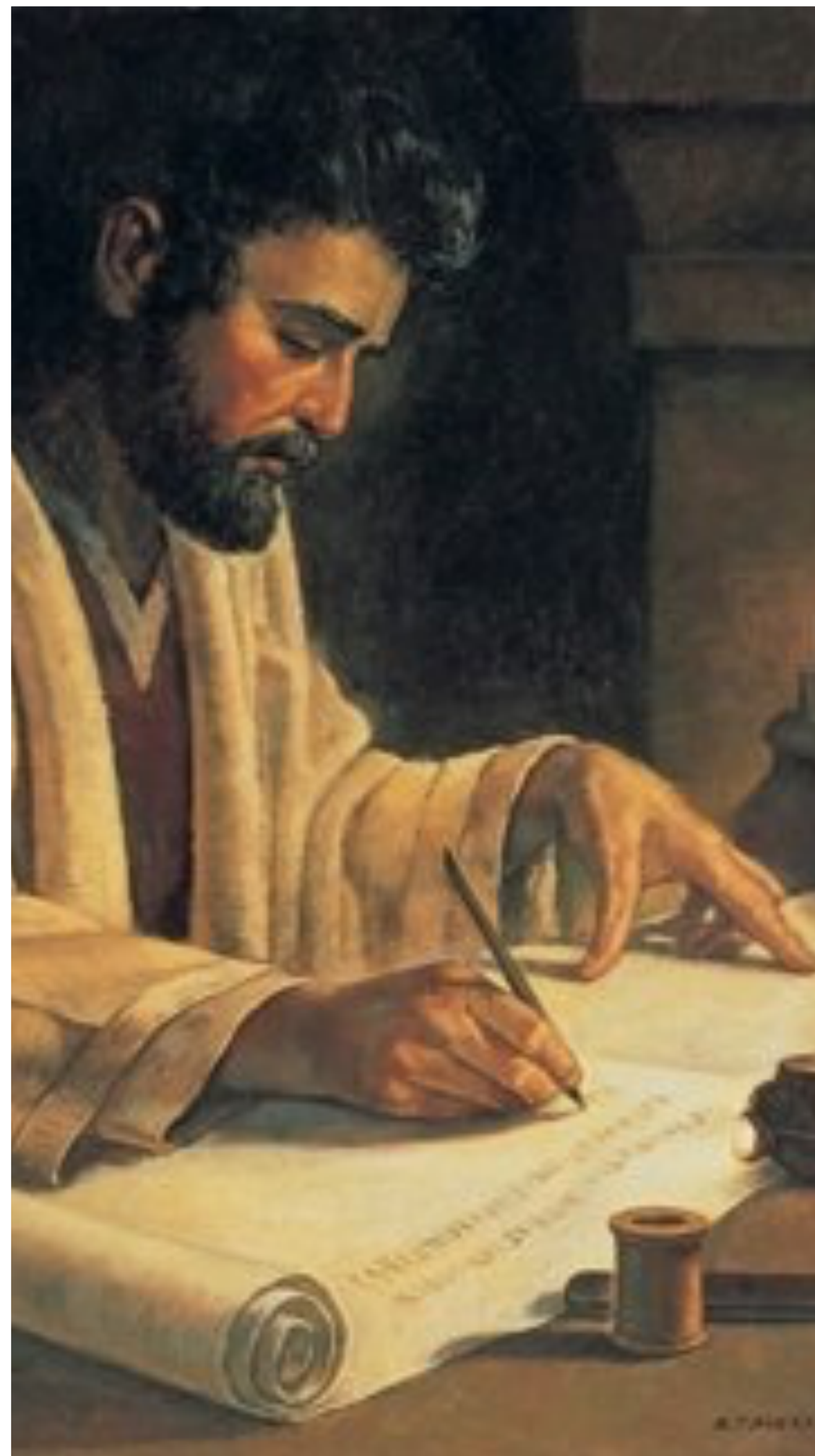
## “submit yourselves to your elders” (5)

1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV)

*5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

- A congregation is to submit to its elders in a similar way we are all to submit to the governing authorities (2:13-17) / servants are to submit to their masters (2:18-21) / and wives are to submit to their husbands (3:1-6).
- Elders are to rule with humility, love, respect, and concern for those under them, (1 Pet. 3:7; 5:5b).

# THE AUTHORITY OF ELDERS / (SUBMISSION TO SPIRITUAL LEADERS)



## THE CHURCH OF TODAY & TOMORROW NEEDS GODLY LEADERSHIP!

- Every father & mother should strive to raise their sons and daughters in a way that will equip them to be faithful servants of God -
- Every young man should strive to grow and mature in the faith - make wise decisions - that will prepare him so that one day he will be able to serve & help shepherd the Lord's flock.

# THE AUTHORITY OF ELDERS / (SUBMISSION TO SPIRITUAL LEADERS)



ABSTAIN FROM  
FLESHLY LUST WHICH  
WAR AGAINST THE  
SOUL! (2:12)

- Christians are not greedy, power hungry, defiant, rebellious, or insolent.
- We have a spirit of meekness, submission, and compliance - regardless of how others treat us.

# THE AUTHORITY OF ELDERS / (SUBMISSION TO SPIRITUAL LEADERS)



ABSTAIN FROM  
FLESHLY LUST WHICH  
WAR AGAINST THE  
SOUL! (2:12)

- We Are "Sojourners And Pilgrims"...
- Our submission to God's will is NOT dependent on how others treat us ...
- We Are Being Observed By Others...
- Is MY Life Glorifying God?





# “THE AUTHORITY OF ELDERS”

*(Submission To Spiritual leaders)*

**(1 Peter 5:1-5)**

**Is the Lord your  
Shepherd?**

**If not, please come  
to Him today!**



“CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING @ 9500 AR 5, ALEXANDER AR. 72002”

“A CHRISTIAN'S  
RESPONSE TO  
ABUSIVE  
AUTHORITY”

(1 Peter 2:18-25)



*Sunday evening lesson live stream*  
*4:00 PM CDT January 21, 2024*



<https://www.youtube.com/user/donmcclain11/live> / <https://www.bryantchurchofchrist.com>