**The Pastor’s Calling**

1 Peter 5:1-4

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Joy in Suffering (1 Peter Series)

Prepared by: Matthew S. Black

Sunday, April 30, 2017, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois

**livinghopechurch.net**

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e’re looking in our Bible **1 Peter 5**.We are considering taking on a new pastor for our congregation. Listen to the words of C.S. Lewis:

“Whatever “call” a man may pretend to have, if he has not been called to holiness, he certainly has not been called to the ministry.”

**~ C. S. Lewis**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. **Welcome to our Visitors!**
2. **Pastor Garcia Installation service**: Today in celebration of the installation of Pastor Garcia, we will have a Latin meal afterward provided by our Spanish ministry.
3. **Men’s Retreat:** Becoming Worthy Men, this Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, $20 for adult, $10 for child, If you are bringing two or more sons, the total family price is $35.

**Introduction**

Today is a glorious day that we have prayed for through many years. Today, by God’s grace, we are installing Jose Alberto Garcia as pastor of our Spanish ministry: Iglesia Esperanza Viva. What a joy that God has called this man to be a gift to our church. And today we are looking at the Pastor’s Calling from **1 Peter 5:1-4**.

## **God Calls those who are Nothing**

Isn’t it amazing that God calls any one of us? Paul says about our calling that God doesn’t call many wise or noble or strong. He calls the weak to shame the strong. He calls chooses the despised to bring to nothing the wise, that no flesh should glory in his sight.

## **Judgment Begins with Leadership**

1 Peter is a book about joy in suffering. Those who are truly born again are to suffer with joy in Christ. This is the test of a true Christian. Do we care for one another? This is the essence of the love of Christ. Peter says in **1 Peter 4:17**, “For it is time for judgment to begin at the household [family] of God.” Peter then considers his own self. Lord, let judgment begin with me. Judgment – not condemnation but examination – should always begin with leadership.

The example and examination should always begin with leadership. Today is a glorious and joyful day, because we celebrate the installation of our precious Hispanic pastor, Jose Alberto Garcia and his dear wife Mayra. This is a day I’ve prayed about for many years.

**1 Peter 5:1-4**, “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

By the way, everything that we see here concerning the Pastor really ought to be applied to any teacher or leader in the church! That means if God calls you or has already called you to be an elder (which is another word for pastor or preacher), or if He has called you to be a leader, or a deacon, or a missionary, or a servant, or a Sunday School teacher, than you ought to listen to what I am about to say.

## **Sheep Need Care**

This passage says that a pastor ought to shepherd and care for the flock. Sheep need care and direction. “It is no accident that God has chosen to call us sheep,” wrote W. Phillip Keller. “The behavior of sheep and human beings is similar in many ways.… Sheep do not ‘just take care of themselves’ as some might suppose. They require, more than any other class of livestock, endless attention and meticulous care.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

*Sheep are Dumb*

You and I are sheep. We are His sheep. Aren’t you glad? Do you know what sheep are? Dumb! I don’t mean to insult you; it’s just the truth. The Bible says to say everything in truth with love, so with love I tell you—you’re dumb. I’m dumb. We’re dumb.

You will never find sheep **in the circus**—ever! They’re not jumping through hoops. They’re not riding the elephants. Isaiah said, “All we like sheep have gone astray” (Isa 53:6). Sheep need guidance because sheep are dumb. I should know. I am one of the Lord’s sheep, and without Him I am nothing. Can you testify to that saints? Sheep are dumb. They need guidance.

You never see sheep **guiding a carriage (like a horse) in Chicago**. That’s would be interesting. They are too **weak**. They are too **distracted**. If there was a cliff, they’d lead you over it. They are dumb.

Sheep need a Shepherd. Jesus is our Good Shepherd isn’t He? Jesus says in **John 10:27**, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

*Sheep are Dirty*

You know what else sheep are? They’re **dirty**. I am enamored with sheep, because we’re the sheep of his pasture. I’m so glad we have a Good Shepherd that will “anoint my head with oil.” Such oil was put on the head of the sheep as a repellent from insects. Sheep are very dirty without a Good Shepherd to clean them up. Flies can nest in the sheep’s wool and leave larvae. They can next and leave maggots in the sheep’s wool. Sheep are dirty. All we like sheep have gone astray. We need a good shepherd to guide us and clean us up.

## **Jesus Became a Sheep, a Lamb of God**

And before you think that I’m just insulting you, because I’m not really insulting, because I’m one of those, too. I’m a lamb, too. Just remember that our Savior became the precious Lamb of God. He condescended and became like us. He knows how we are, and He became the Lamb of God.

## **Shepherds are called to care for the Sheep in three ways**

Shepherds are called to care for the sheep in three ways: through worship, through leadership and through stewardship.

Leaders out there – ministry leaders, Titus 2 men and women, we should all strive to be disciple makers. And even though this message is for the **installation** of our dear Hispanic Pastor, this applies to all of us!

Pastors, elders, deacons, mature men and women, who do we lead the congregation? We begin with getting to know the Shepherd. Peter knew the Shepherd in a precious way.

1. The pastor is called to **worship** (1 Pet 5:1).

**1 Peter 5:1**, “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed.”

Peter knew the Shepherd in a precious way. He was witness to his suffering and to his glory. He saw the Lord suffer and rise again from the dead.

What amazing training for a pastor and elder. Peter was given the gift of Christ revealed to him. What a gift to worship Christ in that way. That’s a gift, but it is absolutely necessary for every leader in the church.

## **Humble Worship comes from personal witness of Christ**

Peter was blown away by witnessing the sufferings and glory of Christ. You can see he has quite the reason to worship Christ. Because of his walk with Christ, Peter addresses his fellow elders very humbly as a “fellow elder,” not an exalted apostle.

*Peter Witnessed His Suffering*

Peter was “a witness of the sufferings of Christ.” Peter was there when Christ sweat great drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. He saw the Lord as he was being beaten the home of Caiaphas the high priest. Christ even met eyes with Peter through a window there after Peter had denied him. Peter scattered at the crucifixion “like a sheep without a shepherd,” but perhaps he could see the Lord from a place of hiding. Peter witnessed Christ’s sufferings.

The apostles were often called witnesses because they walked with Christ and were witnesses of his life and death and resurrection.

*Peter Witnessed His Glory & It caused him to worship!*

As Peter begins his exhortation to the church—he first turns to the office of the pastors and elders. He says something very precious. He says, “I’ve not only witnessed the sufferings of Christ,” but I am “a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed.” You know the glory that we are going to experience when Jesus comes again? I’ve experienced it already.

Peter says, “I was there when the Lord transfigured himself.” Peter says, “I witnessed the glory that Christ had before the world began” up on that Mount of Transfiguration. Christ “led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light” (**Mt 17:1-2**). I saw his glory! Christ for just a moment peeled back the robe of His humanity, and the Shekinah glory of His blinding divine presence was revealed. Peter was saying, “*You know that one day we will see Christ in all His glory? Well, I as an elder have experienced it already*.”

*The Pastor: Witness to Christ’s Glory*

The Pastor and elders and deacons are to be witnessing the glory of Christ. The Pastor is to shepherd the flock by being “a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed” (v.1).

The Lord’s people will rarely ascend to heights that the pastor has not scaled first. It is utterly vital that the pastor have a living dynamic loving walk with God, a man of fervent prayer. The pastor must be one who knows how to touch heaven and to cling to the Lord.

The pastor is one who must partake of the glory of Christ! He must **succed** in his personal walk with God. In the book of Genesis, we read: **Enoch** walked with God (5:24), **Noah** walked with God (6:9). I want to know **child of God** do you walk with God? Your pastors and elders walk with God. And it is our highest joy to see you walking with Him.

A leader must succeed in his walk with God. Any man that wants to lead God’s church must **succeed** in his own walk with God.

## **Worship Christ personally**

To have power in preaching, he must constantly be before the Throne of Grace. He must succeed with in devotion with his family. He must hold that old-time family altar. He must pray with his wife, pray with his children, pray with his brethren in Christ. He must be a man of continual prayer! The pastor must succeed in putting the Word of God into practice! It’s easy to defend what you believe. It’s a whole ‘nother story to live what you believe! The pastor if he is to preach powerfully, must live out the principles of God’s Word *before* he preaches them!

* **1 John 3:18**, “let us not love in **word** or **talk** but in **deed** and in **truth**.”

In doing God’s will the pastor desperately needs to be conscious of the power of God to change people. **Pastors do not change people—God changes people!**

1. A pastor is called to **leadership** (1 Pet 5:2-3).

**1 Peter 5:2-3**, “shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.”

## **LEAD by Feeding the flock**

Before shepherding and caring for the flock, shepherds must first pay careful attention to their own walk with Christ.

**Acts 20:28**, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

**John 21:15**, Jesus says to Peter, Simon – do you love me more than these things and people – do you love me more than anything? “Peter said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to Peter, “**Feed my lambs**.”

Loving Jesus precedes feeding His lambs. We dare not try to feed the sheep without first getting the food from the shepherd.

*Feed with sound doctrine*

He must feed the flock with good **doctrine** (take heed to the doctrine)

* **1 Timothy 4:16**, “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the **teaching**. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”
* **1 Timothy 4:13**, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to **teaching**.”
* **Titus 2:1**, “But as for you, teach what accords with sound **doctrine**.”

There are some pastors who would rather *dissect* the Bible rather than *digest* the Bible. If the pastor does not “taste and see that the Lord is good” he will have nothing but dry bones to give to others!

**Psalm 34:8**, “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

**Psalm 1:2**, “his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.”

***Be Bold!*** *Feed the Sheep with Good, Strong Meat*

Preaching must be God-centered. Rich, expository, practical preaching! The pastor must read, study, and grapple with the Scriptures so that he can adequately feed the people of God. The man of God must be so God-saturated that he preaches out of the overflow, and the message focuses on the Person and Plan of God in the world. **People DO NOT need entertainment in the pulpit; they need FOOD**.

***Be Balanced!*** *Feed the Sheep with the Whole Counsel of God*

Preaching must emphasize the whole counsel of God. Paul said to the Ephesian elders in **Acts 20:27**, “I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.” The sheep need a BALANCED diet of the whole counsel of God.

The sheep don’t need the pastor’s preferences or favorite parts of theology. It is best to preach through the Bible (lectuo continuo), book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, line upon line, precept upon precept.

***Be Diligent!*** *Feeding the Sheep is Hard Work*

Shepherding God’s people is hard work. Isaiah calls the watchman of Israel in **Isaiah 56:10-11**, “lazy dogs” who are “blind watchmen” who like lazy dogs “have a mighty appetite” but “they never have enough.”

The shepherds are going to give an account, and so he must work hard! The truth of the matter is that ministry is hard work. There is not a place in ministry for the under motivated and the lazy. Much of the energy resident in any local church is in part the result of the leadership dynamic of its pastor.

The term bishop, which means “overseer” is from the same word as is above “taking the oversight.” This comes right out of the Old Testament. Paul’s Hebrew mind was thinking of the word “watchman” in the Hebrew.

**Sadly, there are so-called pastors who think that the pulpit is for entertainment and self-help! They do not preach doctrine, but avoid it. The Lord says** they are “blind shepherds that cannot understand.” If a pastor gives the sheep nothing but sugar when what they really need is sustenance, avoid that man!

But look at God’s promise in **Jeremiah 3:15**, “I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.” I believe we have that with Pastor Jose Garcia. What a gracious God we have!

**LEAD by Overseeing the flock**

**1 Peter 5:2-3**, “shepherd the flock of God that is among you, **exercising oversight**…”

**Lake Ponchatrain**

I remember when I lived in Louisiana, I visited a friend off of Lake Ponchatrain. Now the people who live there use a boat to even get to school. One day we traveled around to see friends around the Lake. It was windy and the waves were higher. That was the first time I was introduced to motion sickness. You get off that boat and you don’t know if you are standing on the ceiling or on the floor. Even when you are motionless everything is moving. It’s an awful experience. And the Apostle Paul is saying that’s the picture of what happens to someone not rooted and established in truth. I want you to be grounded so you can’t be tossed about by those waves.

Leadership is About Discipleship

The idea of “exercising oversight” is to be personally involved in the life of the sheep to assess their spiritual condition. ***Leadership is about discipleship***.

We are called to lead God’s precious flock by **getting them ready** for the day when we all meet Christ. That’s why a text like **Hebrews 13:17**, is very convicting: “…your leaders… are **keeping watch over your souls**, as those who will have to give an **account**. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Or another sobering command to elders in **Acts 20:28**, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to care for the church of God, **which he obtained with his own blood**.”

You can hear the earnestness and the seriousness in those words: you elders shepherd the people “whom God purchased with his own blood.” In other words, don't take this work lightly.

The word “**overseers**” / “**oversight**” (Obispo) is another way to say the pastors and elders are to be watching over and looking out for the spiritual state of the sheep.

A pastor must take the oversight—he is helping people first be born again. All spiritual food is vain unless a person is born again. Without regeneration, there can be no meaningful growth. So the pastors and elders are to lead so that people will be prepared to for the final Judgment Day.

**1 Peter 5:2-4**, “shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

Oversee with Enthusiasm, as a spiritual pulse

**1 Peter 5:2a**, “shepherd the flock of God that is among you, **exercising oversight, not under compulsion**, but **willingly**.” Their ought to be a ready and willing spirit, a spiritual enthusiasm.

“The joy of the Lord is my strength” (Neh 8:10). “not under compulsion, but willingly” – of an enthusiastic spirit – a ready mind.

Yes the pastor’s job is often difficult, but what a joy! That joy, that willingness is the spiritual pulse of the congregation. Everything stands and falls by leadership.

The pastor must maintain a sense of the spiritual pulse of the church. He must prayerfully discern the will of God and like Moses of old, communicate to the church when we have “compassed this mountain long enough” (Deut. 2:3).

Oversee with Effort

Not only should a pastor oversee with enthusiasm, but that enthusiasm leads him to give more and more effort. “The joy of the Lord is my strength” (Neh 8:10). A leader and overseer is really a servant. It takes great effort. We are not to be barking orders at people. **1 Peter 5:3**, “**not** **domineering over those in your charge**, but being examples to the flock.” The pastor is not a lord—but a fellow brother. He serves under the Great Shepherd of the sheep, the Lord Jesus Christ. He does not exalt himself, but he preaches and exalts the King of kings and Lord of lords!! He bows his knee before Christ each day.

The pastor is to demonstrate humility and meekness. These traits are the strength of leadership. It is a proper understanding of position that translates into a right heart in the exercise of leadership. David said in **Psalm 84:10**, “a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a **doorkeeper** in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.” That’s all pastors and elders are – we are doorkeepers. God is the owner; we are just humble servants.

And as a servant, we do what our Lord says. We are not “domineering,” but gently and humbly and lovingly serving.

Oversee as an Example

**1 Peter 5:3**, “not domineering over those in your charge, but being **examples** to the flock.”

Shepherds are to become sufficiently involved in the lives of the flock that they establish a godly pattern for the people to follow.

An example is a prototype, a mold to be duplicated. **1 Timothy 4:12-13**, “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

1. The pastor is called to **stewardship** (1 Pet 5:4).

**1 Peter 5:4**, “And when the **chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” The pastor will, like everyone else, appear before the throne of God on Judgment Day. We will all give an account. And so, his motive for all he does is first, to honor the chief shepherd.

## **The Appearing of the Chief Shepherd**

**Chief Shepherd** is one of the most beautiful titles for the Savior in all of Scripture. The shepherd imagery for Messiah first appears in the Old Testament (Zech. 13:7; cf. Ps. 23:1).

the Second Coming, at which time shepherds **will receive the unfading crown of glory.** In the Greco-Roman world of Peter’s day, crowns rather than trophies were the awards for victory at athletic events:

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. (1 Cor. 9:24–25)

Temporal crowns would eventually rust, fade, or, if made from plants, die quickly. Peter was not looking forward merely to some **unfading** version of an earthly **crown,** but metaphorically to eternal **glory,** which can never fade.[[2]](#footnote-2)

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## **Katie and Daddy**

When we lived in Spain, I remember Katie was my little carpenter. She helped me with so much. Kristen and Will have helped me since then!

But when we were in Spain they didn’t have garages, like us Americans. They don’t need all the stuff we need apparently. Anyway, Katie “helped” me build the garage. She didn’t know much about power tools at the age of 6 or 7, but I had her help me. I made sure it turned out ok.

The Lord of glory is doing the work in souls, and he is letting us be his helpers. What a privilege!

## **Conclusion**

Christ’s undershepherds face a daunting task, but faithful oversight brings eternal reward in the form of greater service and joy in the Lord’s heaven: “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master’ ” (Matt. 25:23).[[3]](#footnote-3)

So leaders, don’t grow weary in well doing! Thomas Watson rightly said, “None ever complained of serving God: it was their comfort and their crown on their death-bed.”

May the Lord give grace as we install Pastor Jose Alberto Garcia to a long and fruitful ministry with Living Hope and Iglesia Esperanza Viva!

1. W. Phillip Keller. *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979], 20–21 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2004). [*1 Peter*](https://ref.ly/logosres/mntc1pe;ref=Bible.1Pe5.4;off=646;ctx=ist$E2$80$99s_revelation_at_~the_Second_Coming,_a) (pp. 270–271). Chicago: Moody Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)