

The Gospel-Hearted Elder

1Peter 5:1

- The heart (motivation) of faithful shepherding flows out of the Gospel, the sufferings and glory of Christ, the chief Shepherd. *1 Pet.4:13,14*

1. Gospel Motivation: Witnesses of the Sufferings of Christ

- Witness: sees, says, shares...a spectator who bears witness/testifies **and** shares in the experience;
- Peter is a physical eye witness to Christ's sufferings and His glory, an apostle;
- The mutual bond he shares with fellow elders: participation in the sufferings of Christ along with the testimony they bear. *1 Pet.1:10,11; 1Cor.1:23,24*
- Peter bears witness with Paul: the heart of all they preached and did was the Cross, the crucified Christ. *Gal. 6:14*
- If our Christian lives and service to God are not rooted and grounded in this Gospel, we will not endure, our motives will be wrong, we will not stand.

2. Gospel Motivation: Partakers in the Glory to be Revealed

- Peter physically beheld the Lord's glory at His transfiguration. *2 Peter 1:17,18*
- This is not his focus. He is pointing to the glory that is yet to be ours when Christ returns. *1Peter 5:4; John 17:24; Col.3:4*
- This glory which God is preparing for us is still a mystery to us, but we partake in it through the eye of faith. *1 John 3:2-3*
- This participation in the glory of Christ, confidence in Christ's promises, is a key motivation to be faithful to the chief Shepherd. *Romans 8:16,17*
- We are partakers of Christ's glory NOW, and this is where our confidence lies as we face our flesh, hatred of the world and the opposition of the devil. *Eph 2:5,6*
- We are here and now planted together with Christ, in His death AND His resurrection.
- We can, therefore, by faith, be assured of these promises and can be faithful, standing firm in the midst of fiery trials.
- This Gospel Motivation is for **all** of God's servants, not just under-shepherds.