GL2026-14 **GROWTH & LEADERSHIP** **Name:_____**

Reading: I Peter 5:1-6 **Topic:** Learning From Elders

INTRODUCTION: There are various sources that one may _____ things from, and today we will look at the avenue of _____ from the elders who have had years of experience that they can share with those that are coming after them.

I.WHO IS AN ELDER?

A.Definition:

1. The dictionary defines an elder as "one who is _____ than others," which is an uncomplicated way to figure out who _____ be an elder.
2. A second definition of the word elder is "one who is of a great _____," which again is also a simple way to figure out who _____ be an elder.
3. A third definition of the word elder is "a leader or _____ figure in a tribe, group or people" which is another obvious way to determine _____ may qualify for that title.

B. Bible Definition:

1. The Bible definition of an elder in the New Testament is "one who is a senior spiritual _____," or the _____ from the Greek language is "presbyter" which is defined as "a minister or an elder." I Tim 5:17
2. The Scriptural inference of an elder is not necessarily one who is of a great _____, but one who is of spiritual maturity and has some _____ of spiritual experience. Titus 1:5

II. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ELDER:

A.To Lead & Feed:

1. The Scripture reveals the responsibilities of those who become the _____, and the primary work of those servants of Christ is to _____ the people that are in his care. I Pt. 5:2
2. The second responsibility of the _____ is to be the spiritual leader under Jesus Christ to lead the people into the paths of spiritual growth and _____ to become strong in the Lord.
3. The warning is also given that the _____ must not fall into the trap of becoming a power hungry leader who desires to control and be like a dictator to the _____ he is leading. I Pt. 5:3

B. To Accomplish The Mission:

1. The leader and _____ that God places over His church must be one who has the mission of Jesus In his own heart which is to _____ and to _____ that which is lost. Lk. 19:10
2. When the church has both the vision and the burden to reach the lost _____ that are in the community and the Gospel is being preached, backed up with prayer and fasting, the Body of Christ will experience the revival and _____ that God has in His plan. 2 Pt. 3:9

C. To Train & Develop:

1. The Apostle Paul gave instructions to Timothy to pass down the things that he _____ from him, his elder, to others that he, Timothy, now an elder himself, needed to _____ to them, who would also become elders one day that would be teaching others. 2 Tim. 2:2
2. The five-fold ministry that God has given to the church is comprised of _____ with various gifts and callings that are for the _____ of training and equipping the saints for ministry. Eph. 4:11,12

3. The elders who God places in the leadership of a group of people may be endowed with _____ and anointings that develop with _____ and experience in ministry. 2 Tim. 4:5

III. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SAINTS:

A.To Follow & Learn:

1. As it is the duty and responsibility of the _____ to lead as the shepherd of the flock, so also it is the responsibility of the _____ to submit and follow the elder that God has placed there. I Pt. 5:5
2. The emphasis is placed here on the key element to harmony and the _____ of God's work and that is the quality of _____, the example of Jesus Himself who became the servant even though Hs is Lord.

B. To Mature & Minister:

1. The plan of God for all who are born again is that they _____ spiritually and become involved in the ministry of the _____ of Christ of which they are a part of. 2 Pt. 3:18
2. Jesus saved us so that we would be delivered from the bondage of _____ and death, but also that we would become a _____ of His plan to bear spiritual fruit which leads to the saving of lost souls. Jn. 15: 16

CONCLUSION: Jesus spent three and a half _____ to train and develop His disciples, who in turn became the first spiritual leaders and _____ of the New Testament church, and they in turn discipled and developed many more leaders and elders for the growth of the church.