



Character Under Pressure

1 Peter 5

SHOVEL,
SHOVEL,
SHOVEL!



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WHY CAN'T WE GET A
SNOW BLOWER?? WE
MUST BE THE ONLY FAMILY
IN THE WORLD THAT STILL
SHOVELS THE DRIVEWAY
BY HAND! I'M FREEZING!



IT BUILDS
CHARACTER.
KEEP AT IT.



PRETTY CONVENIENT HOW
EVERY TIME *I* BUILD
CHARACTER, *HE* SAVES A
COUPLE HUNDRED DOLLARS.



REMEMBER LAST YEAR, WHEN IT RAINED ALL WEEK? IT POURED SO HARD WE COULDN'T EVEN MAKE A FIRE.



WITHOUT QUESTION, THAT WAS ONE OF THE WORST EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE.



YES, BUT IT BUILT CHARACTER.

OH SURE.



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WHY CAN'T I EVER BUILD CHARACTER AT A MIAMI CONDO OR A CASINO SOMEWHERE?





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¹To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.



1 Peter 5





— Character Under Pressure —



⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.



1 Peter 5





— Character Under Pressure —



⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.



1 Peter 5





— Character Under Pressure —



¹² With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.



1 Peter 5





— Character Under Pressure —



To the Elders

Imagery of the Shepherd

- Psalm 23
- Isaiah 40:11
- Jeremiah 23:1-4
- Ezekiel 34:1-10
- Zechariah 11:4-18
- Matthew 9:35-38
- John 10:1-18
- John 21:15-17



1 Peter 5





— Character Under Pressure —

To the Elders



Motive of the Shepherd

Not to Be

Not because you must

Not greedy for money

Not lording it over those entrusted to you

To Be

But because you are willing, as God wants you to be

But eager to serve

But being examples to the flock

1 Peter 5





— Character Under Pressure —



To the Flock

Submission

- Living orderly under the leadership of the elder.

Humility

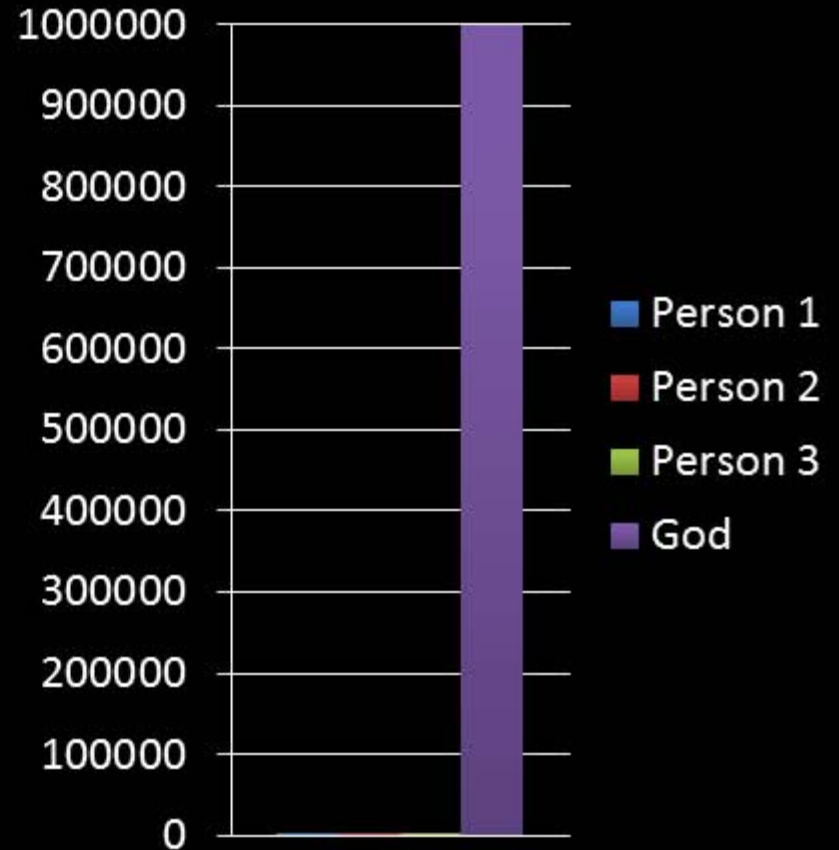
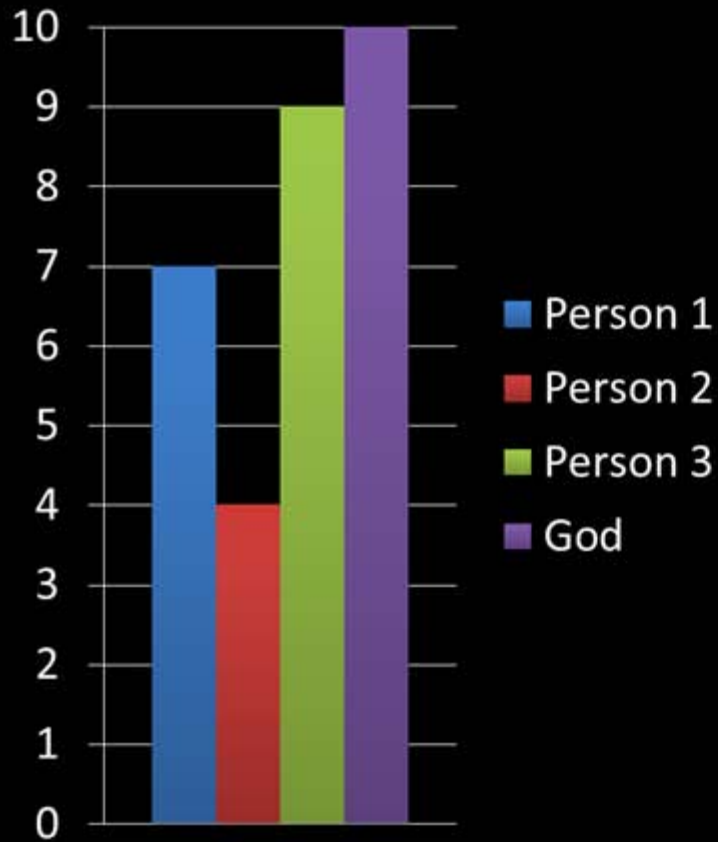
- Not thinking less about yourself, thinking about others more.



1 Peter 5



Holiness Scale





— Character Under Pressure — To the Flock



Submission

- Living orderly under the leadership of the elder.

Humility

- Not thinking less about yourself, thinking about others more.
- True humility comes from understanding our place in relation to God.



1 Peter 5





— Character Under Pressure — To the Flock



“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!”

– Philippians 2:5-8



1 Peter 5





— Character Under Pressure —



To the Flock

Anxiety

*“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’
³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.
³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”*

– Matthew 6:31-34



1 Peter 5





— Character Under Pressure —



To the Flock

Focus on God

- Don't let yourself be distracted

Through God's Power



1 Peter 5





— Character Under Pressure —



Where do you need to improve?

1. Your motivation as a leader?

- Obligation vs. Willing service
- Greed vs. Eager service
- Power vs. Example

2. Your actions as a part of the body?

- Submission to leaders
- Humility
- Anxiety
- Focus on God



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