

INSIGHTS ON 1 PETER: HOPE AGAIN: WHEN LIFE HURTS AND DREAMS FADE

HOPE BEYOND RELIGION: A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR SHEPHERDS

1 PETER 5:1-4



The Heart of the Matter

Most folks in the business world are well-acquainted with the importance of a job description. It spells out in precise detail what is expected of anyone in the company. Without these written lists of expectations and objectives, ambiguity and frustration abound. But when they are present, employees know what is required, and employers have criterion upon which to base evaluations of employees' competence and/or qualifications. In ministry, little is said regarding a minister's specific responsibilities. Even though this is true, most people being ministered to have numerous expectations. This is the "perfect setup" for conflicts, which may explain why so many ministries are notorious for their conflicts and struggles. How helpful it is to find in Scripture some specific guidelines by which to form our expectations! Such sections are rare, yet they always assist us in our desire to be fair, realistic, and objective with those who serve in vocational Christian service.



Discovering the Way

1. Practical Words of Exhortation Regarding Expectations

The shepherd must remember the value of clear-thinking realism and the importance of two-way tolerance.

2. Biblical Guidelines for All Who Minister (1 Peter 5:1-4)

Two effective principles regarding ministry shine forth from 1 Peter 5: pride of position must be absent, and the heart of the Shepherd must be present. Every minister should foster three essential attitudes: willingness, eagerness, and meekness. Shepherds will ultimately receive an imperishable reward from the Good Shepherd Himself.



Starting Your Journey

To those who lead, keep a healthy balance. To those who are led, be a reason for rejoicing.

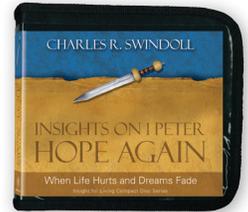


INSIGHT FOR LIVING

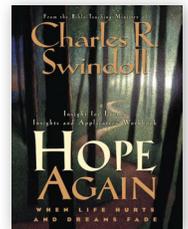
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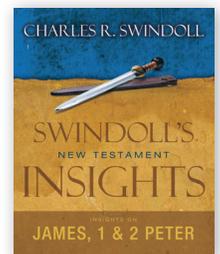
Tools for Digging Deeper



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