

similarly to each other as good stewards of the abundant generosity of God. 11 When any of you speak, do so using the revelations of God. When any of you minister, do so out of the strength which God furnishes, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and authority for ever and ever. Amen.

### **In the Face of Adversity, Consecrate Yourself to Live as a Christian (4:12–19)**

12 Beloved friends, when a refining fire comes upon you to test you, do not think that something odd is happening to you. 13 Instead, because you are members of the covenant community, rejoice in the sufferings of Christ, so that in the apocalypse of his glory you may also rejoice and be exceedingly glad. 14 If you are reviled because you are of Christ, you will be blessed, because the spirit of glory and “the spirit of God will rest upon” you [Isa. 11:2]. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or as one who works with evil spirits or as a meddler or as an ecclesiastical usurper. 16 If, on the other hand, anyone of you suffers as a Christian, let that person not be ashamed but glorify God in the very name of Christ. 17 For the commencement of the judgment will begin with the house of God, and if it starts first with us, what shall be the end for those who obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if “the righteous are scarcely saved, how will it turn out for the impious and the sinner?” [Prov. 11:31 LXX] 19 Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God dedicate, consecrate, and by living a life of well doing entrust their souls to God, who is our trustworthy Creator.

### **Counsel to the Adults (5:1–4)**

1 Being an elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ and who am also a partaker with you of the future glory that shall be revealed, I call upon the elders among you: 2 Feed the flock of God in your midst, watching over them not by compulsion but voluntarily, as God has instructed; and not for shameful money but eagerly; 3 and not lording over those entrusted to you but by being examples to the flock. 4 And when the High Shepherd shall appear, you will receive a crown of glory that shall never fade or wither away.

### **Counsel to Youth (5:5a)**

5 In the same spirit, youth, stand arrayed behind your leaders.

**Counsel to All (5:5b–11)**

And all of you, sustaining one another, be robed with humility, for “God is arranged in battle to stand against the proud, but gives grace to the humble” [Prov. 3:34 LXX]. 6 So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God so that he may exalt you at the final judgment. 7 “Cast all your cares and worries upon him” [Ps. 54:23 LXX], for he cares for you. 8 Be alert and watchful, for the devil, your enemy, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, being firm in the covenant, knowing that the same sufferings are being foisted upon all your brothers and sisters throughout the world. 10 But the very God of every gift, who has called us into his eternal glory in Christ after we have suffered for a brief time, will perfectly and firmly affix, strengthen, and be the solid foundation rock for all of us. 11 In him is strength into the eternities. Amen.

**Closing Salutation (5:12–14)**

12 I have written these few words to you with the help of my scribe Silvanus, a faithful brother whom I esteem. I exhort and bear witness that this gift of God is true. Stand fast in it. 13 She who is my co-elect in Babylon, along with my son Mark, send you best wishes. 14 Greet each other with an expression of sincere Christian affection. Peace be with all of you who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.