

## Discerning the Call to Leadership

1 Peter 5:1-4 and Various

1. Is there godly aspiration?
  - a. Godly aspiration proceeds from a shepherding \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Godly aspiration is attested by pastoral \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. Is there biblical qualification?
  - a. Godly \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Sufficient \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Suitable \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Is there corporate confirmation?
  - a. A congregation should be able to confirm \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. A congregation should be able to confirm \_\_\_\_\_.

A painting of a shepherd with long hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a dark sash, leading a large flock of sheep. The shepherd is seen from behind, holding a long, curved staff. The sheep are packed closely together, filling the foreground and middle ground. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape under a bright sky. The overall style is that of a classical painting.

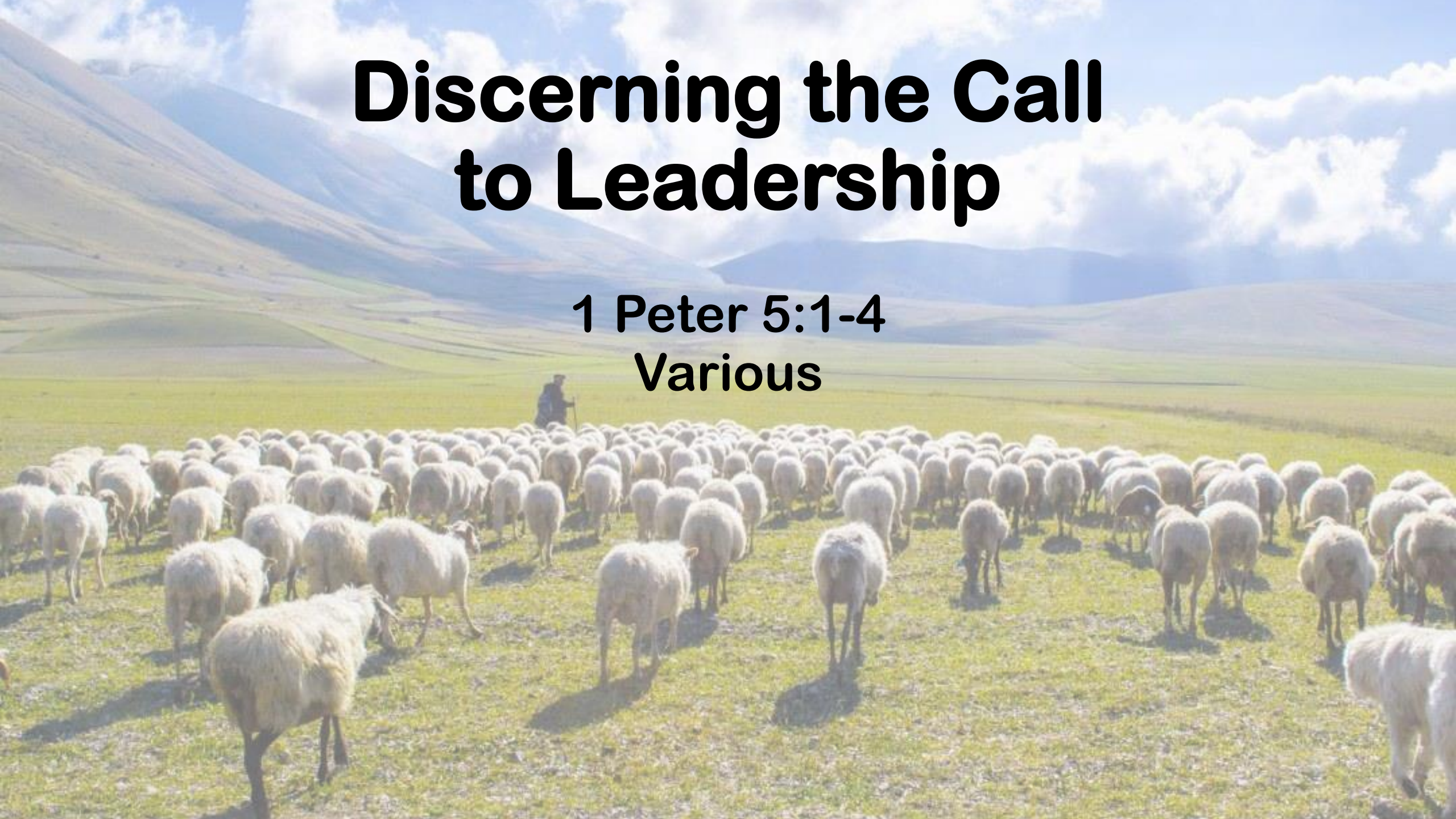
# First Peter

To God's Chosen Ones



# Discerning the Call to Leadership

1 Peter 5:1-4  
Various







**1 Peter 5:1-2**

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you,  
as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,  
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,  
shepherd the flock of God among you,  
exercising oversight not under compulsion,  
but voluntarily, according to the will of God;



**1 Peter 5:2-4**

...and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;  
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,  
but proving to be examples to the flock.

And when the Chief Shepherd appears,  
you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

# **Big Idea:**

A church must understand how to discern whether a man is called to shepherding leadership if it is to preserve and protect the gospel.



# A Calling

## 1 Peter 5:1-4

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you...  
shepherd the flock of God among you,  
exercising oversight not under compulsion,

but willingly, **according to** the will of **God**;

and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;  
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,  
but proving to be examples to the flock.



# A Calling

Romans 1:1

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, **called** as an apostle,  
**set apart** for the gospel of God...



# Discerning the Call to Leadership

Is there godly aspiration?



# Aspiration--Peter

## 1 Peter 5:1-4

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exercising oversight not under compulsion,

**but willingly**, according to the will of God;

and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;  
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,  
but proving to be examples to the flock.

# Aspiration--Paul

**1 Timothy 3:1**

It is a trustworthy statement:  
if any man aspires to the office of overseer,  
it is a fine work he desires.



# **Discerning Godly Aspiration**

*Godly aspiration proceeds from  
a shepherding impulse.*

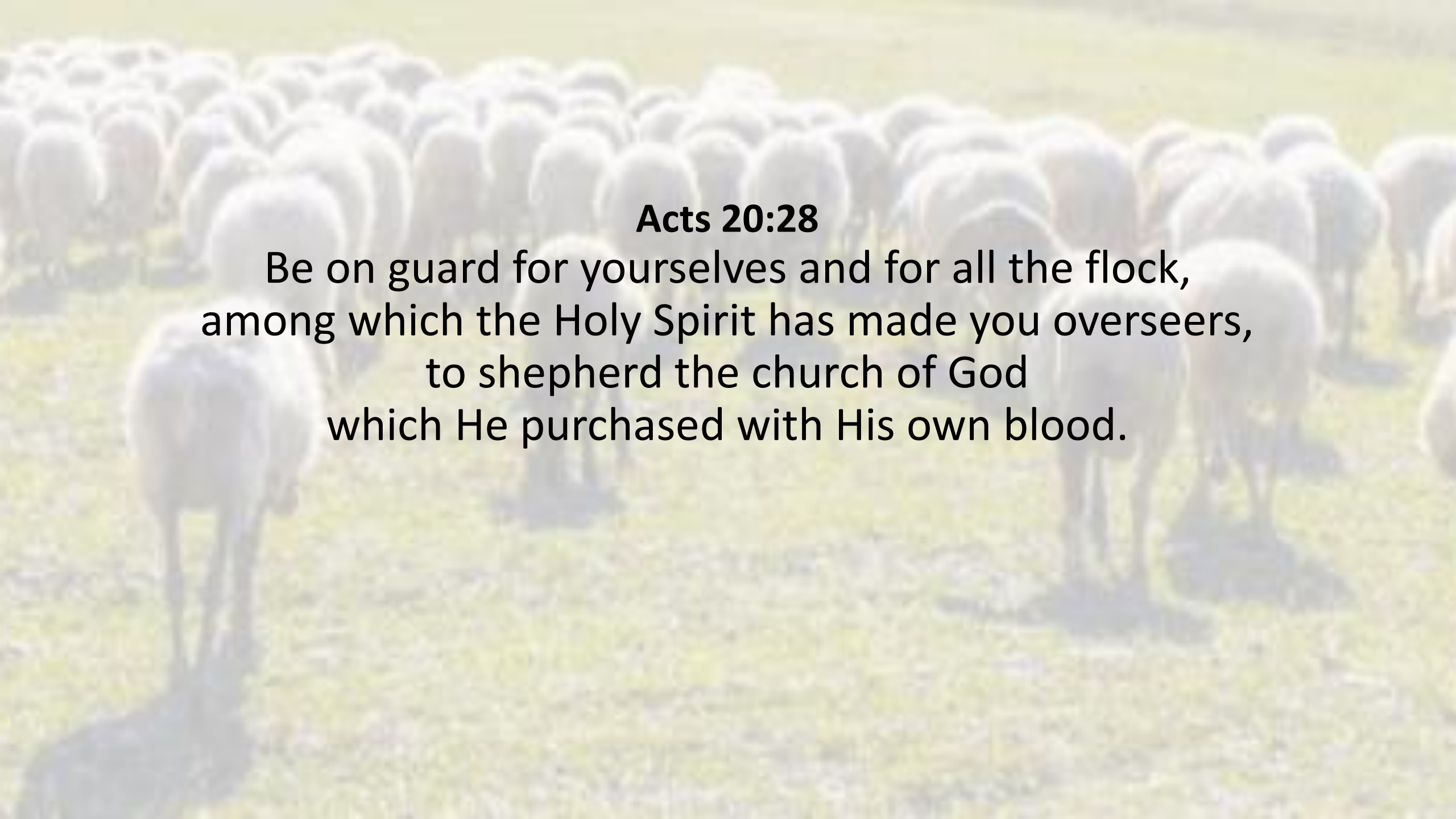


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A large flock of sheep is shown in a field, with the sheep in the foreground slightly out of focus and the ones in the background more prominent. The sheep are white and appear to be grazing or standing in a line. The background is a soft, green field under a bright sky.

**Acts 20:28**

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock,  
among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,  
to shepherd the church of God  
which He purchased with His own blood.



Men who are made overseers  
by the Holy Spirit are made  
to shepherd God's church.

**This implies that they will be  
given an impulse to do so.**



## 1 Peter 5:1-4

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but proving to be examples to the flock.

A **shepherding** impulse is a strong inclination to care for God's church when weakness, sickness, and brokenness are observed.

**In other words, shepherds will love the church.**





**Acts 20:28**

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among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,

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which He purchased with His own blood.

# Godly Aspiration

*Godly aspiration proceeds from a shepherding impulse.*

*Godly aspiration is attested  
by pastoral initiative.*



## 1 Peter 5:1-4

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**Romans 12:6-8**

And since we have gifts that differ according  
to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly...  
he who leads, with diligence;  
he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

# Pastoral initiative is expected.

## Ezekiel 34:2-3

Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel.  
Prophesy and say to those shepherds, "Thus says the Lord God,  
'Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves!

# Should not the shepherds feed the flock?

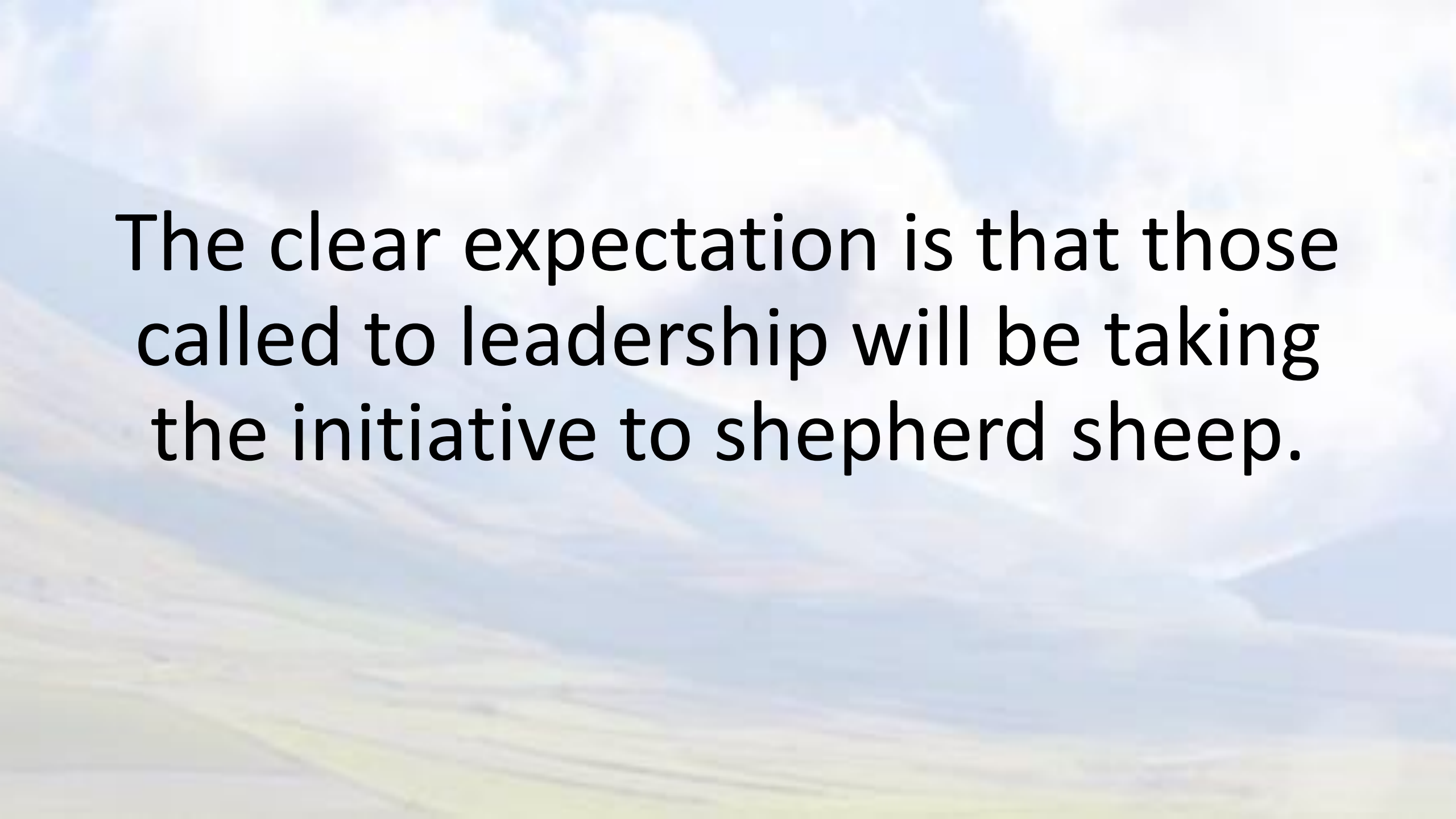
You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool,  
you slaughter the fat sheep without feeding the flock.'

# Pastoral initiative is expected.

**Ezekiel 34:4**

Those who are weak you have not strengthened,  
the diseased you have not healed,  
the broken you have not bound up,  
the scattered you have not brought back,  
nor have you sought for the lost;  
but with force and with severity you have dominated them.





The clear expectation is that those called to leadership will be taking the initiative to shepherd sheep.

# Discerning the Call to Leadership

Is there godly aspiration?

Is there biblical qualification?



# Qualifications

## 1 Peter 5:1-3


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**shepherd the flock of God** among you,  
exercising oversight **not under compulsion,**  
**but voluntarily**, according to the will of God;  
and **not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;**  
**nor yet as lording it over those allotted,**  
**but proving to be examples** to the flock.



# **Biblical Qualifications**

*Godly Character*



## 1 Peter 5:2-4

...and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;  
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,

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And when the Chief Shepherd appears,  
you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

# Character Qualifications

**1 Timothy 3:1**

It is a trustworthy statement:  
if any man aspires to the office of overseer,  
it is a fine work he desires.



# Character Qualifications

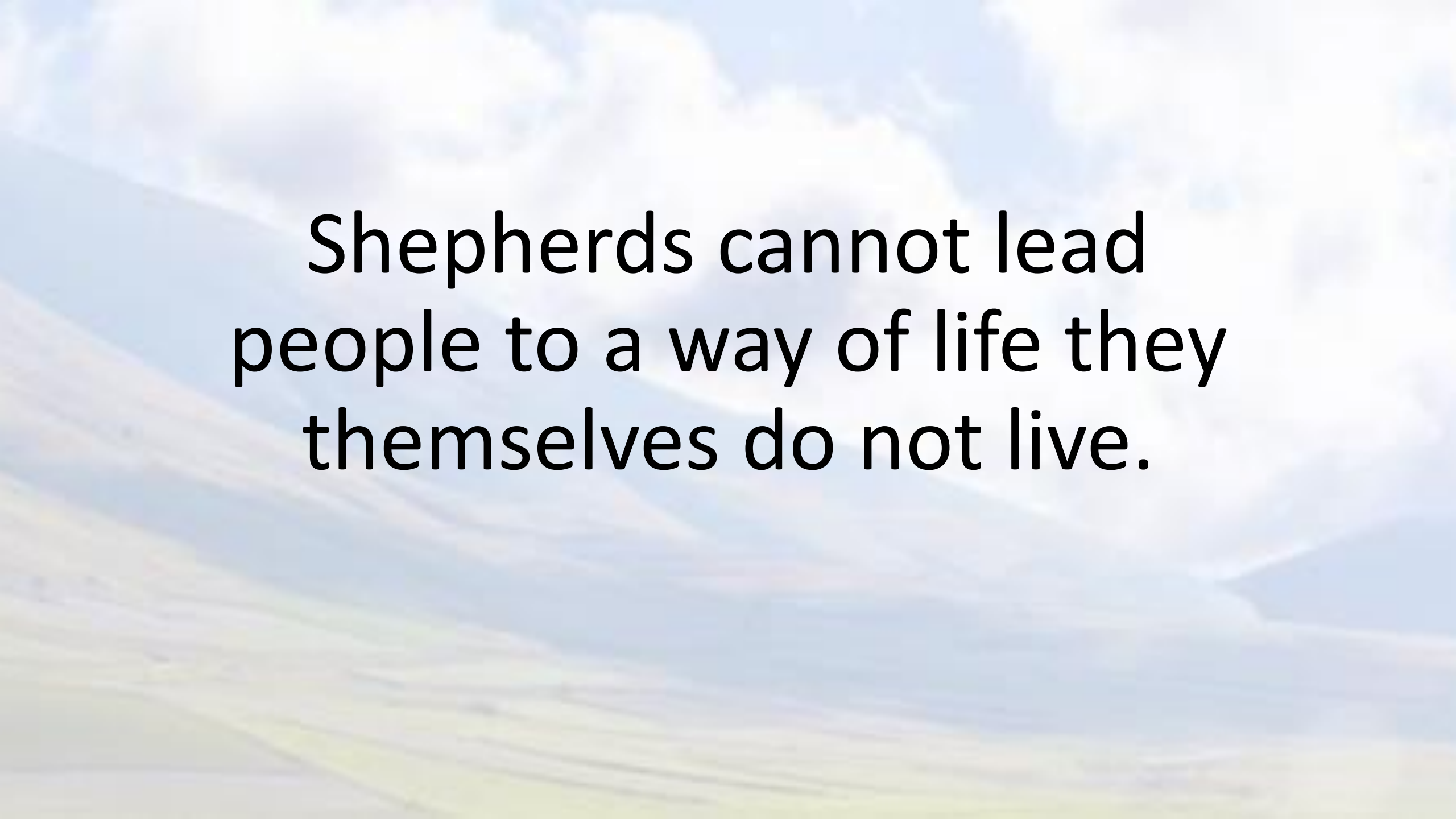
**1 Timothy 3:2-7**

An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money.

# Character Qualifications

## 1 Timothy 3:2-7

He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.



Shepherds cannot lead  
people to a way of life they  
themselves do not live.



# **Biblical Qualification**

*Godly Character*

*Sufficient Knowledge*

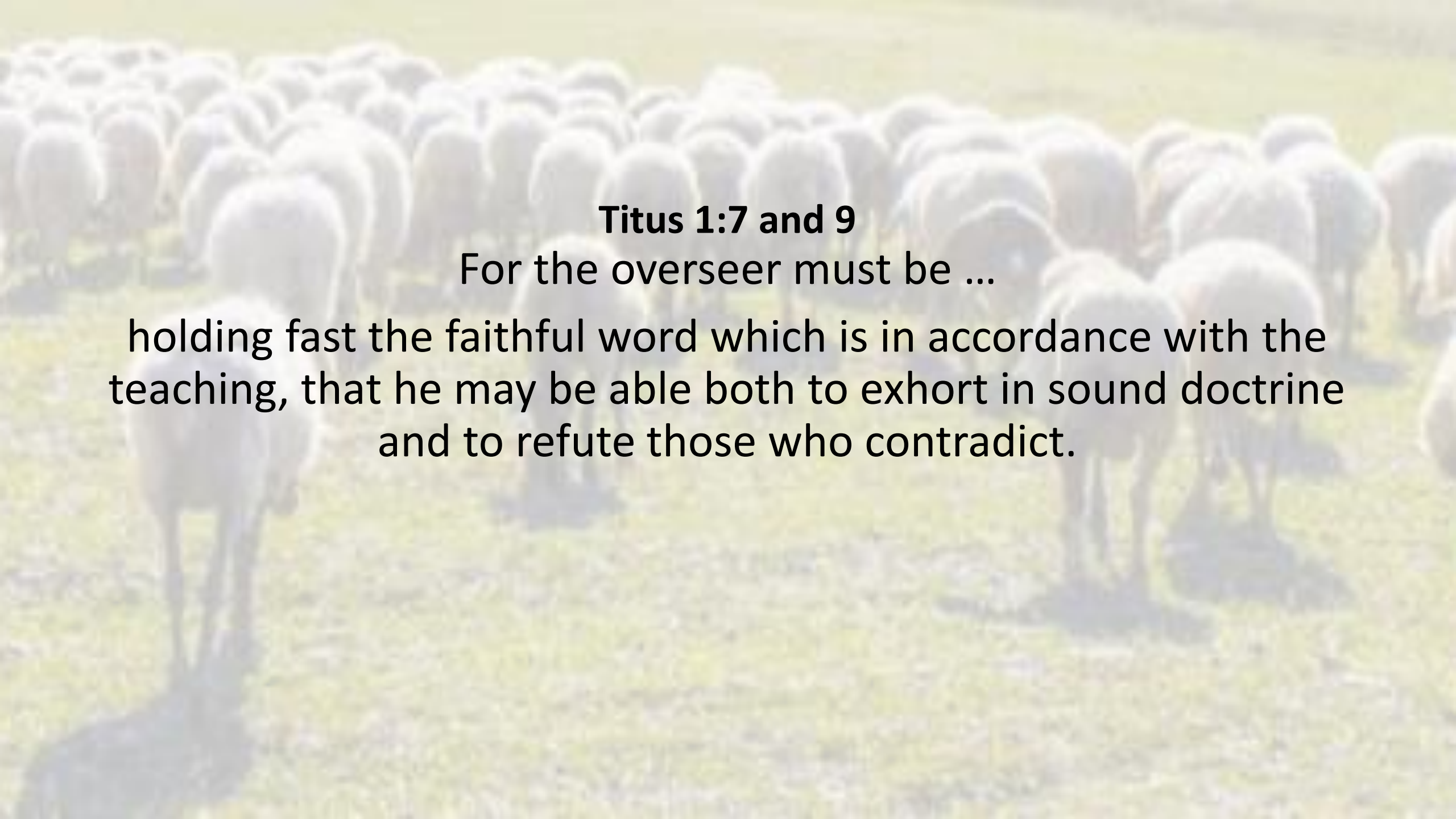


## 1 Timothy 3:2-7

An overseer, then, must be above reproach,  
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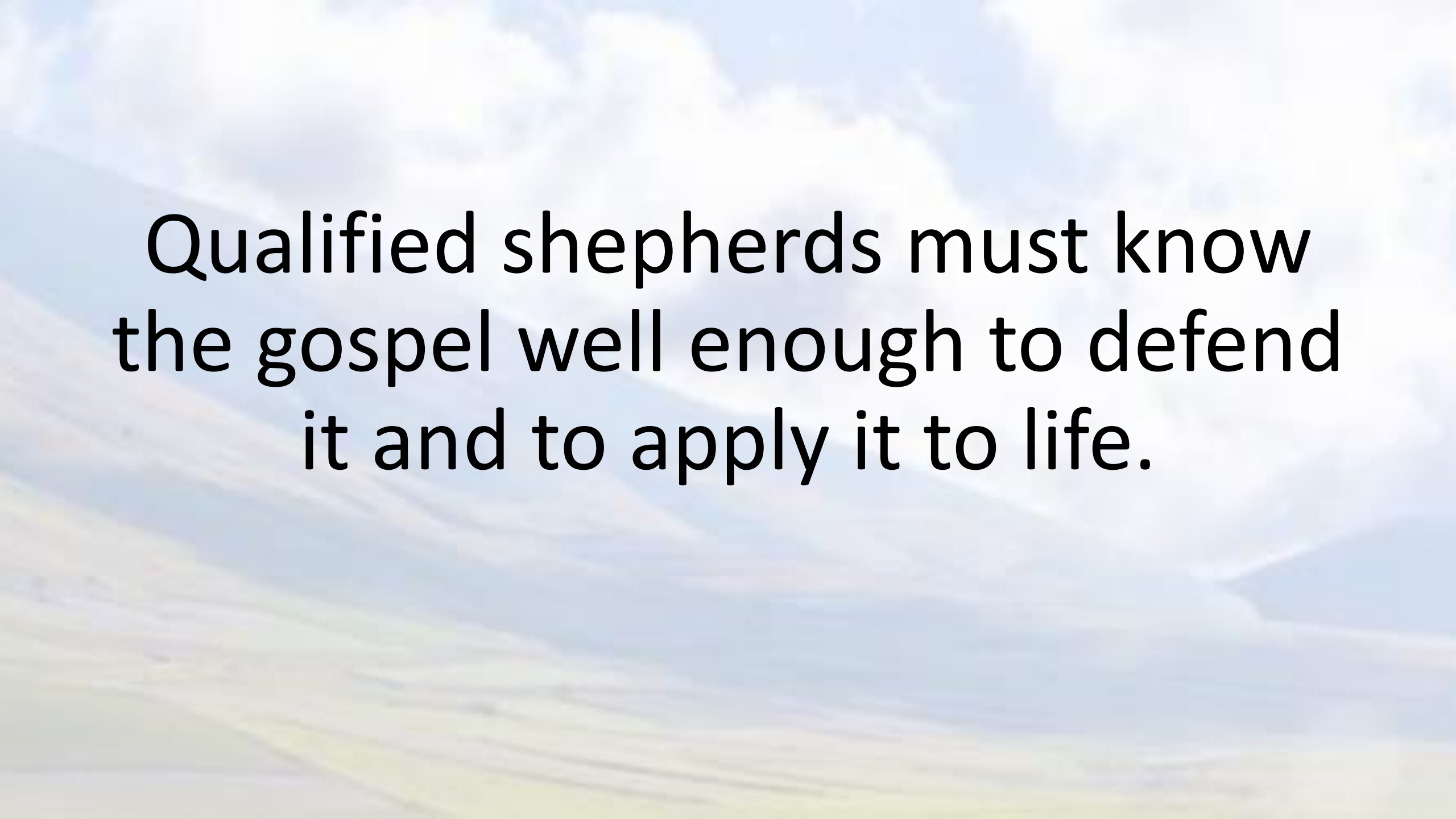


**Titus 1:7 and 9**

For the overseer must be ...

holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.





Qualified shepherds must know  
the gospel well enough to defend  
it and to apply it to life.

# Biblical Qualification

*Godly Character*

*Sufficient Knowledge*

*Spiritual Wisdom*



**Proverbs 1:5**

A wise man will hear and increase in learning,  
And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel

**Proverbs 12:18**

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword,  
But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

**Proverbs 13:14**

The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life,  
To turn aside from the snares of death.



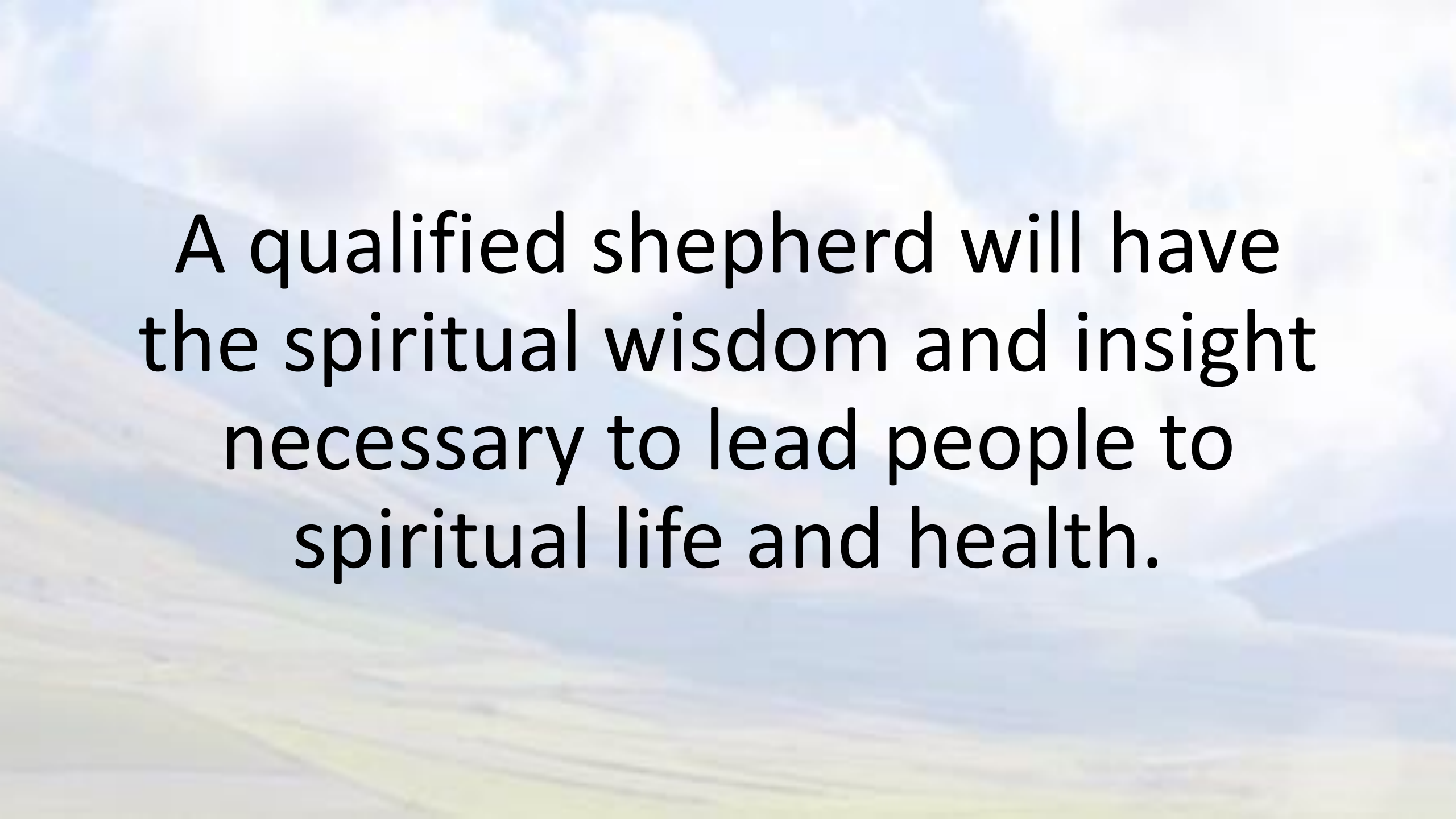


**Proverbs 15:7**

The lips of the wise spread knowledge,  
But the hearts of fools are not so.

**Proverbs 21:22**

A wise man scales the city of the mighty,  
And brings down the stronghold in which they trust.



A qualified shepherd will have the spiritual wisdom and insight necessary to lead people to spiritual life and health.



**Colossians 1:9-10**

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it,  
we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask  
that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will  
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,  
so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,  
to please Him in all respects,  
bearing fruit in every good work  
and increasing in the knowledge of God.



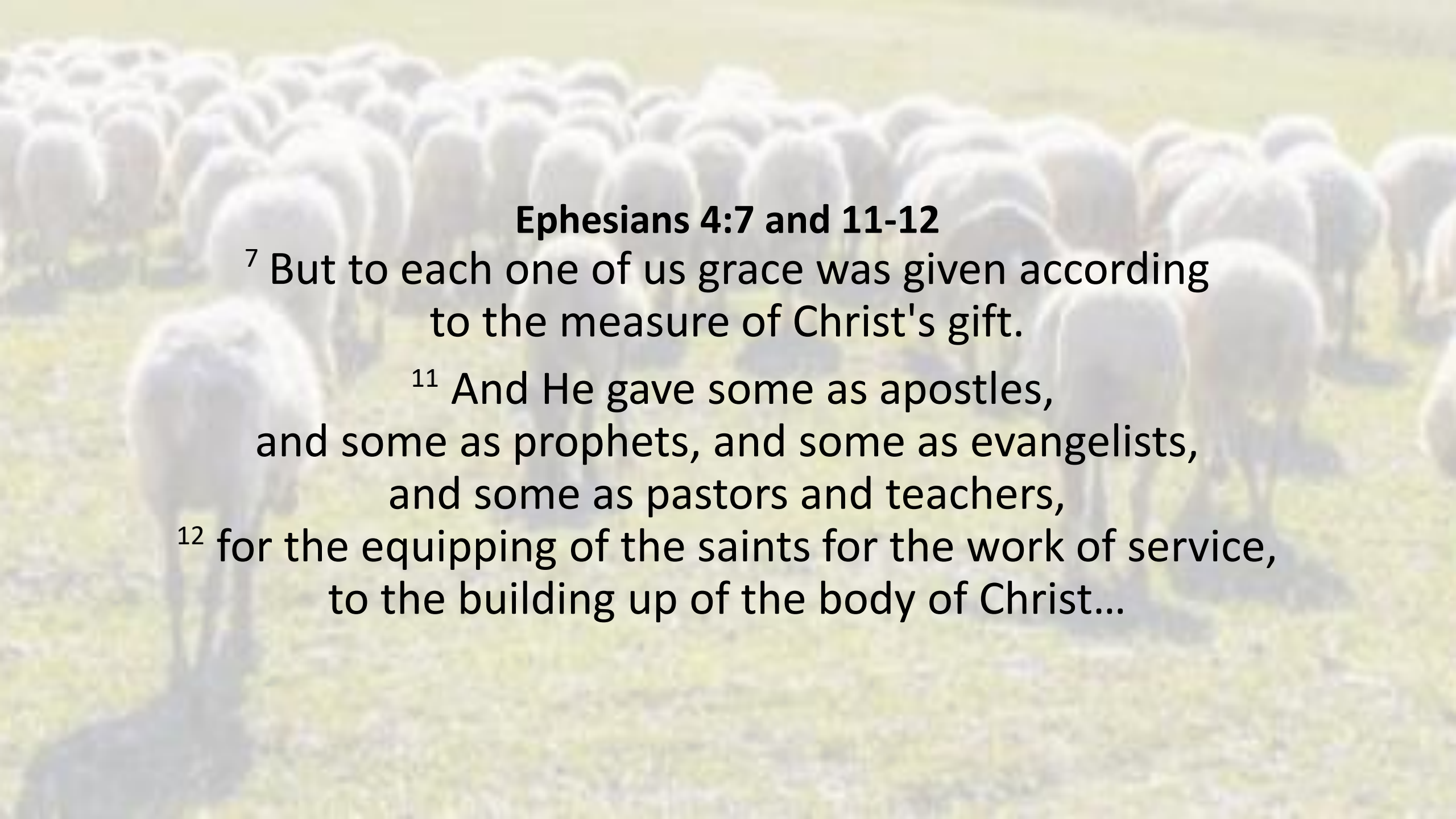
# Biblical Qualification

*Godly Character*

*Sufficient Knowledge*

*Spiritual Wisdom*

*Suitable Gifting*

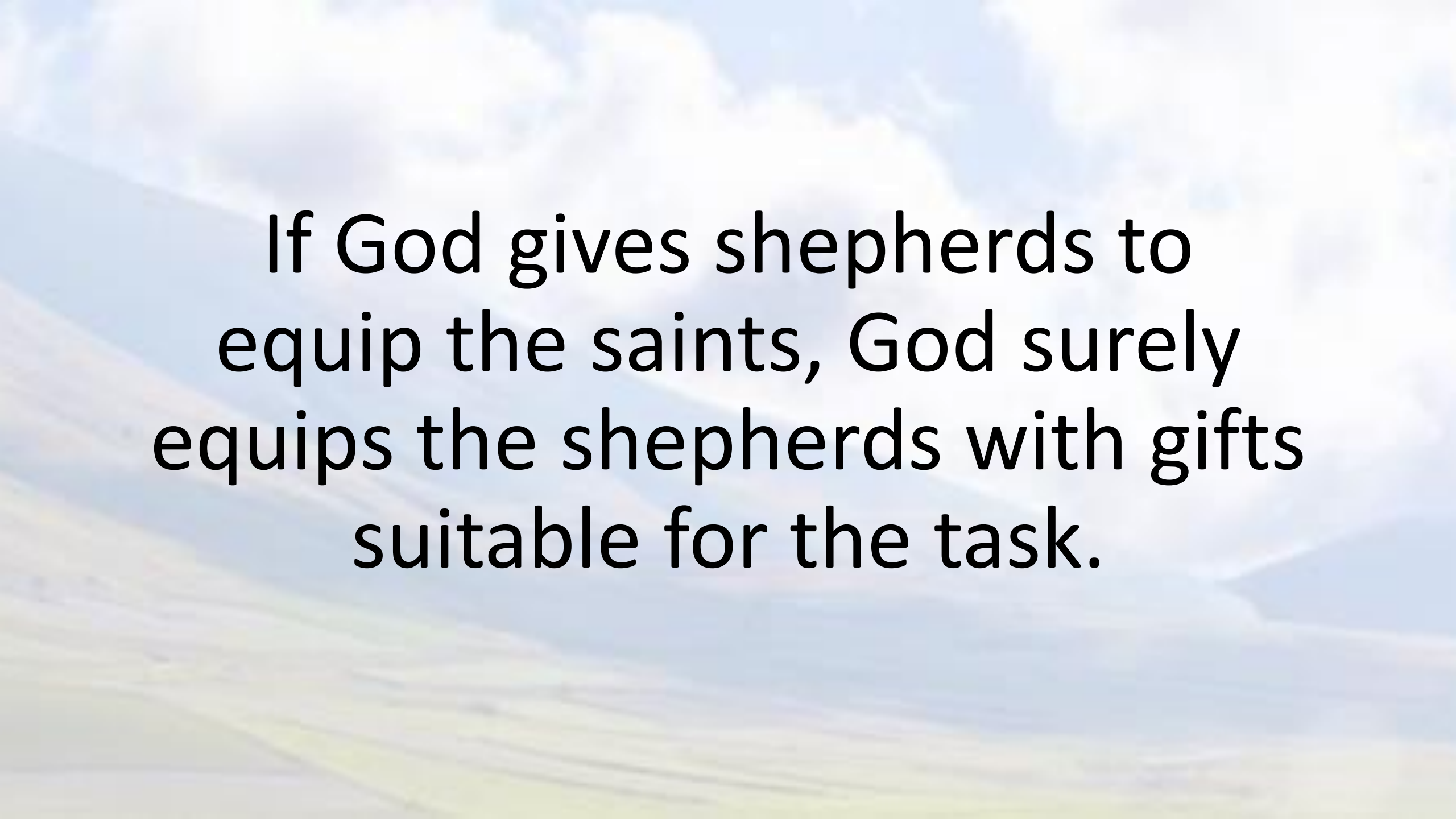


**Ephesians 4:7 and 11-12**

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

<sup>11</sup> And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

<sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...



If God gives shepherds to  
equip the saints, God surely  
equips the shepherds with gifts  
suitable for the task.





**2 Corinthians 3:5-6**

Not that we are adequate in ourselves  
to consider anything as coming from ourselves,  
but our adequacy is from God,  
who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant,  
not of the letter, but of the Spirit;  
for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

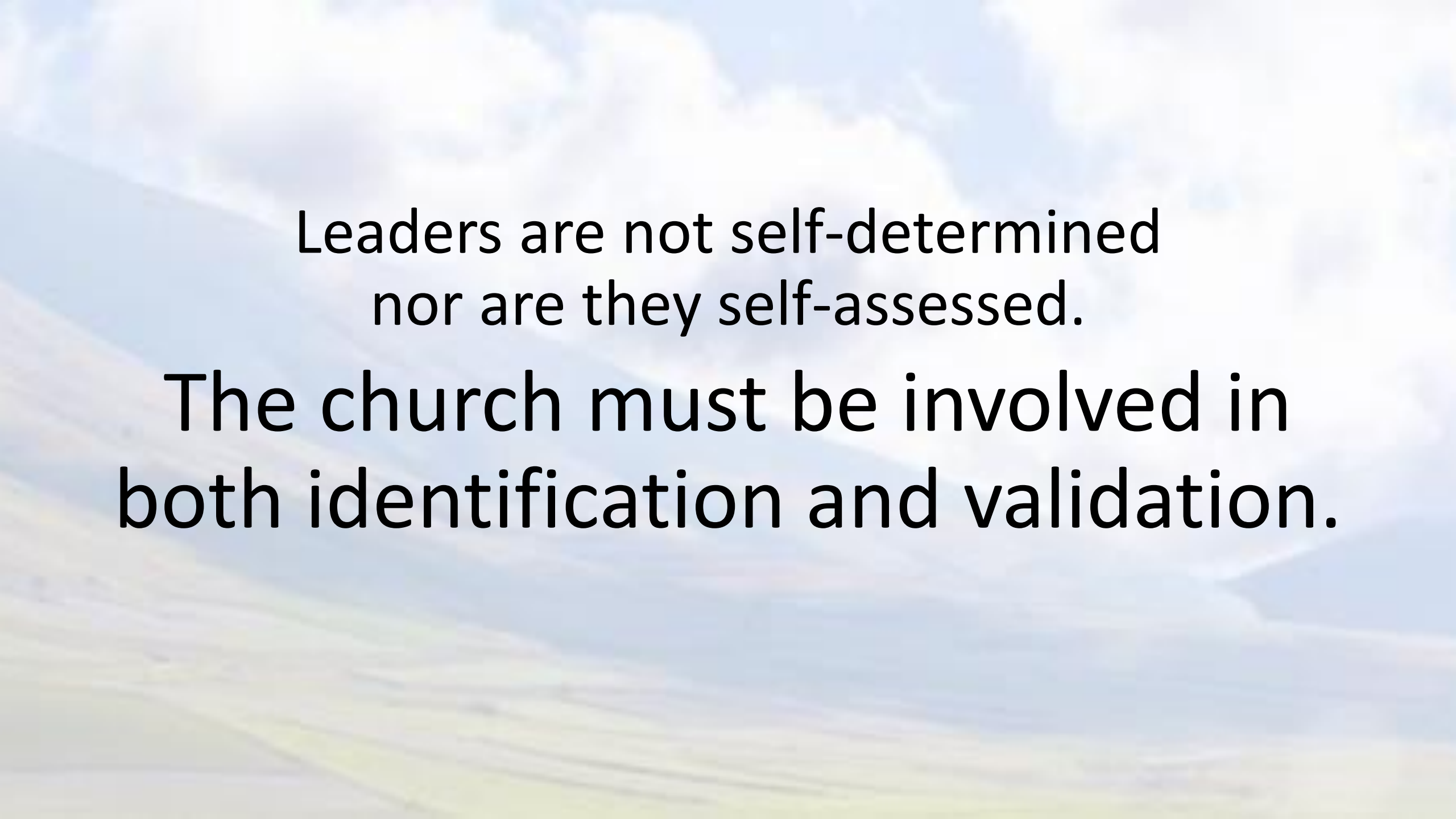
# Discerning the Call to Leadership

Is there godly aspiration?

Is there biblical qualification?

Is there corporate confirmation?





Leaders are not self-determined  
nor are they self-assessed.

The church must be involved in  
both identification and validation.



# **Corporate Confirmation**

*A congregation should be able  
to confirm character.*

# Confirmation of Character

## 1 Peter 5:1-3

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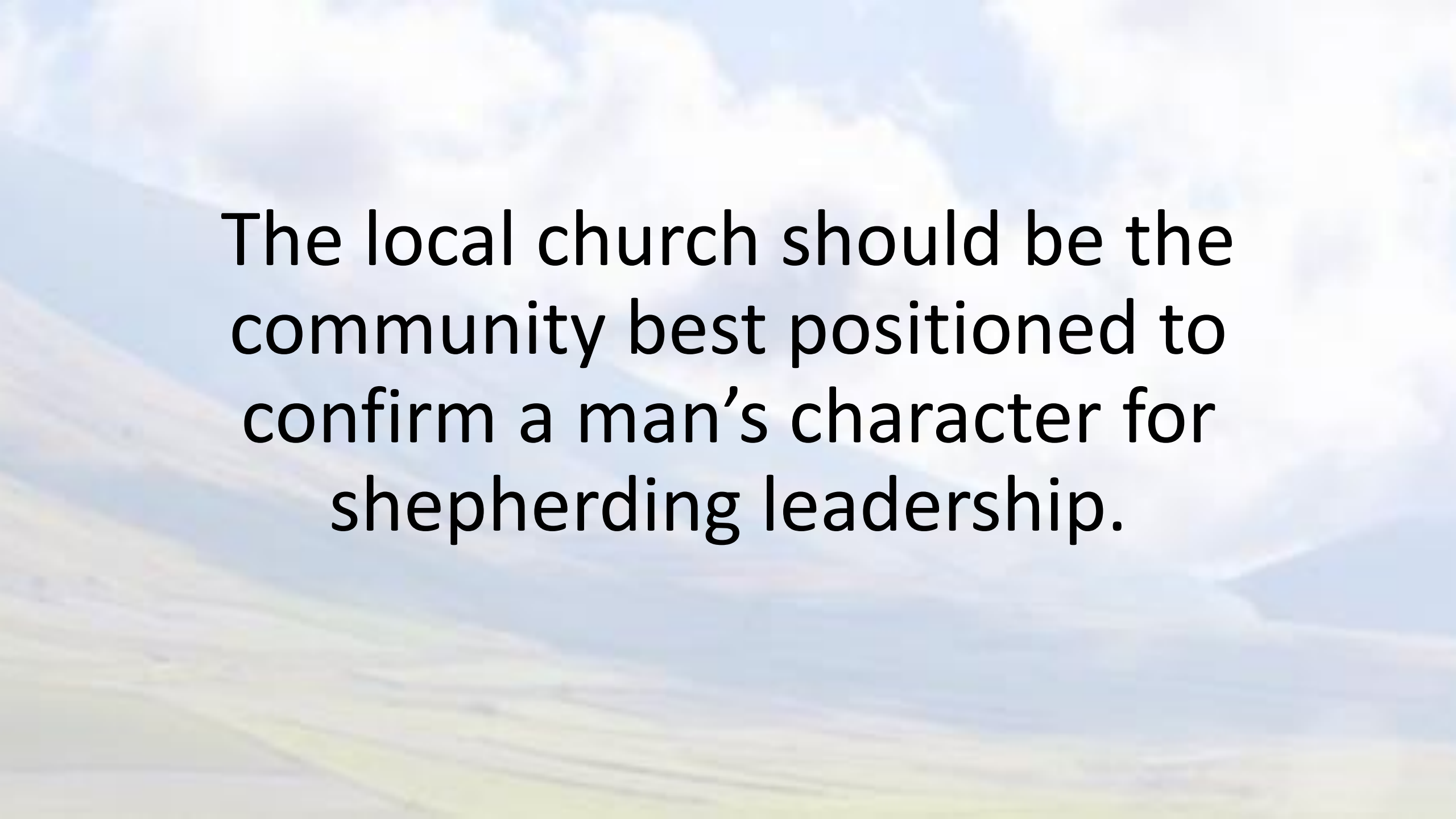
# Confirmation of Character

1 Timothy 3:1-2

It is a trustworthy statement:  
if any man aspires to the office of overseer,  
it is a fine work he desires.

An overseer, then, must be **above reproach**...





The local church should be the community best positioned to confirm a man's character for shepherding leadership.

# Corporate Confirmation

*A congregation should be able to confirm character.*

*A congregation should be able  
to confirm competence.*

# Competence is Expected

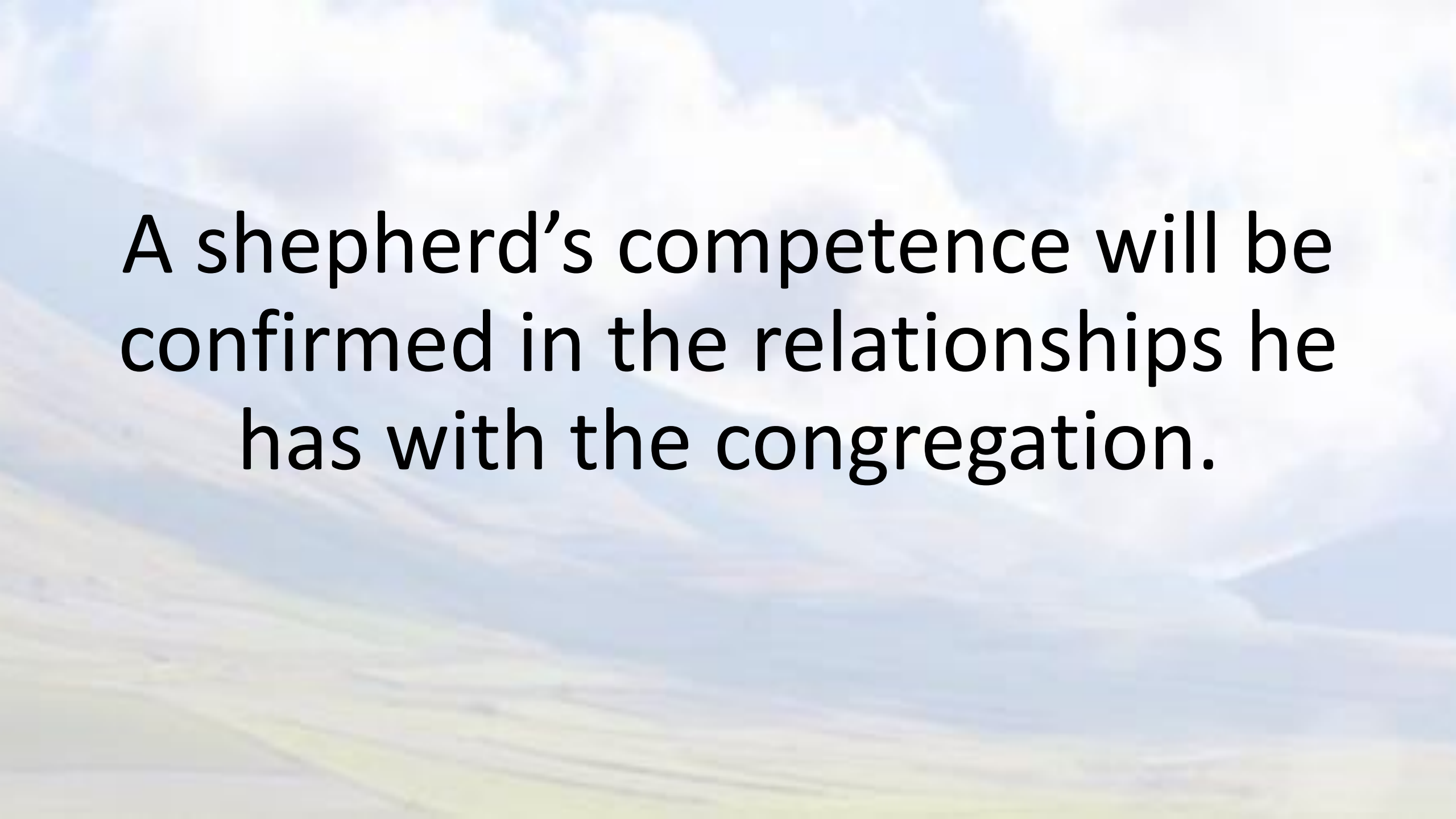
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A shepherd's competence will be confirmed in the relationships he has with the congregation.

# Confirmation

**John 10:2-5**

But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out.

When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. And a stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.

# Implications:

A leader will be a member of a local church.

A leader will be engaged in his community in ways that will allow them to know his character.

A leader will be serving his local church in ways that make confirmation of competency possible.

# **Conclusion:**

If the church is to preserve and protect the gospel, she should understand how to discern those whom God has called to lead her.