

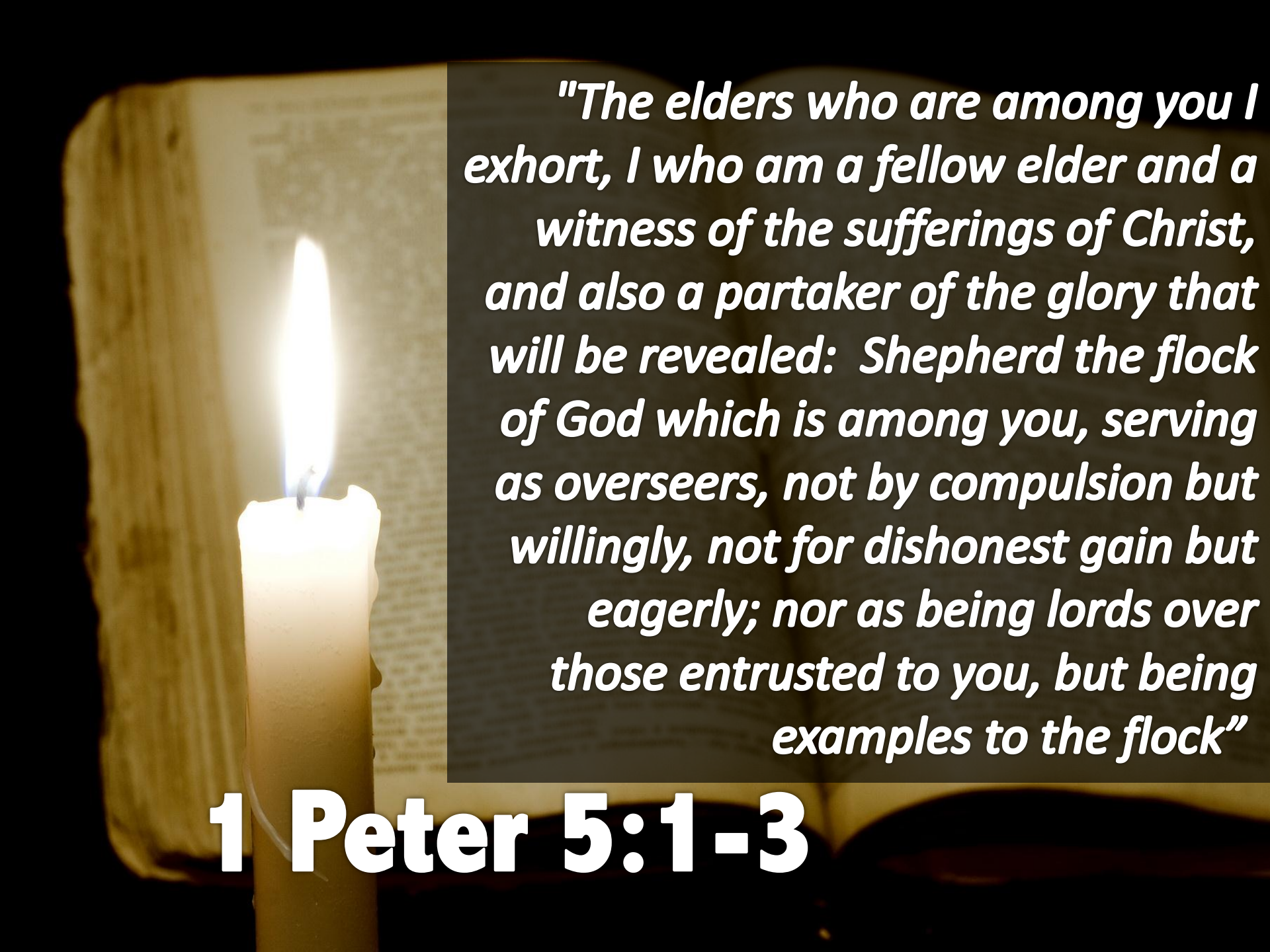
A lit candle is positioned in the foreground on the left, casting a warm glow. Behind it, an open book is visible, its pages filled with text. The word "Autonomy" is superimposed in large, white, bold letters across the center of the book's pages.

# Autonomy

# Autonomy Starts With The Individual



- Galatians 3:27, Romans 12:4-5, Ephesians 5:30, 1 Corinthians 12:27
- How exactly am I added to the Lord's church? Is it based on denominational affiliation?
- A denomination requires acceptance of and submission to the group's creeds and rules.

A lit candle is positioned in the foreground on the left side of the image, casting a warm glow. Behind it, an open book is visible, with its pages slightly blurred. The background is dark, making the candle and the text stand out.

*"The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock"*

**1 Peter 5:1-3**

***“Any boards, conventions, or even outside elders to which a congregation submits, either willingly or otherwise, is a violation of these teachings. Such additions place the congregational rule under someone or something beside the elders “among” them, and it will violate the autonomy that is to be enjoyed by “every church.” Since each congregation should be under the oversight and rule of its own elders, then each church must consequently, be absolutely independent of any other church or organizations” (“Autonomy Of The Local Church”, Trevor Bowen, [insearchoftruth.org](http://insearchoftruth.org)).***

# Christ Among Individual Lampstands

- Revelation 1:12-13, 16, 20, 2:1
- The various sins and successes of one congregation did not taint or credit the other congregations.
- So should churches have *nothing* to do with each other? Of course not, as long as total autonomy is maintained.

