

Doing Life from Heaven's Resources

Life Lessons from The Writings of Peter

Week 1: Peter's Journey from Self-Reliance to Relying on Heaven's Resources



Photo by MI PHAM on Unsplash

Peter's Backstory

- A fisherman from Bethsaida
- A follower of John the Baptist - he was a spiritual seeker
- Jesus meets Peter and prophesies a new identity for him, but he does not become a follower yet

John 1:41-42

41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

- both Cephas (Aramaic) and Peter (Greek) mean "rock"

- Jesus later calls him to be a disciple; Peter leaves everything and follows him

Luke 5:4-11

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 **When Simon Peter saw this**, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

- Peter genuinely loves Jesus, but experiences significant failures
 - ◇ 1st to recognize Jesus is the promised Messiah, moments later is rebuked by Jesus (Matt 16:13-24)
 - ◇ Walks on water, but is overcome with fear and doubt (Matt 24:25-31)
 - ◇ Is quick to talk when it's not his place and doesn't know what to say (Mark 9:2-7)
 - ◇ Jesus urges him to pray, but he can't stay awake (Mark 14:32-42)
 - ◇ Sincerely says he will stand with Jesus to the death, but denies knowing Jesus 3 times (Mark 14:29-31, 66-72)
- After his biggest failure, Peter experiences the fullness of Jesus' Love and Grace

John 21:15-17

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

We must become humbled with reference to our own self-sufficiency in order that we can live in the continuous experience of Jesus' love and empowering Grace.

We can be humbled by trying to be self-reliant and failing, or we can humble ourselves. But be sure of this: we will not do life from heaven's resources until we are emptied of ourselves

Deuteronomy 8:3, 16

3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord...

16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

Isaiah 66:2

"This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

Matthew 23:11-12

11 The greatest among you will be your servant. 12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

1 Peter 5:5-6

5...All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

- **Receives the promised baptism of the Holy Spirit and becomes the Rock Jesus prophesied**
(See Acts 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 15)

The Beginning of Peter's 1st Letter

1 Peter 1:1-2 New American Standard

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who reside as **aliens**, **scattered** throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are **chosen** 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **by the sanctifying work of the Spirit**, to obey Jesus Christ and be **sprinkled with His blood**: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

Five Phrases That Describe Our Identity in Christ

- "**aliens**": We are NOT of this World, we are citizens of heaven, doing life from the resources of heaven
- "**scattered**": It is God's plan and purpose to scatter apprentices of Jesus into every sphere of life.
- "**chosen**": We are chosen by God, and He is the one who will see us through to the end of our journey
- "**sanctifying work of the Spirit**": The Holy Spirit is at work in us, setting us apart for God's special use
- "**sprinkled with blood**": Three Word Pictures
 - ◇ The cleansing of our sins
Hebrews 9:14, 22
14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!
22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
 - ◇ The sealing of God's covenant with us
Exodus 24:8
8 Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."
 - ◇ Ordained as priests of God
Exodus 29:19-21
19 "Take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on its head. 20 Slaughter it, take some of its blood and put it on the lobes of the right ears of Aaron and his sons, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. Then sprinkle blood against the altar on all sides. 21 And take some of the blood on the altar and some of the anointing oil and sprinkle it