

Date: July 13, 2025
Title: Peter, The Faith to Persevere

And without faith it is impossible to please God... Hebrews 11:6

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). 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).” John 1:40-42

- **An encounter with Jesus changes everything.**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matthew 16:13-18

- **Belief yields eternal blessing.**

Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same. Matthew 26:31-35

- **God remains faithful to the faithless.**

And he [Peter] went outside and wept bitterly. Matthew 26:75

Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Luke 24:12

What does Peter's story mean for you?

- When you meet Christ, He gives you a new identity.
- Blessing comes from believing, not performing.
- Jesus is not shaken by your shortcomings.
- We can either run to or run away from Christ.

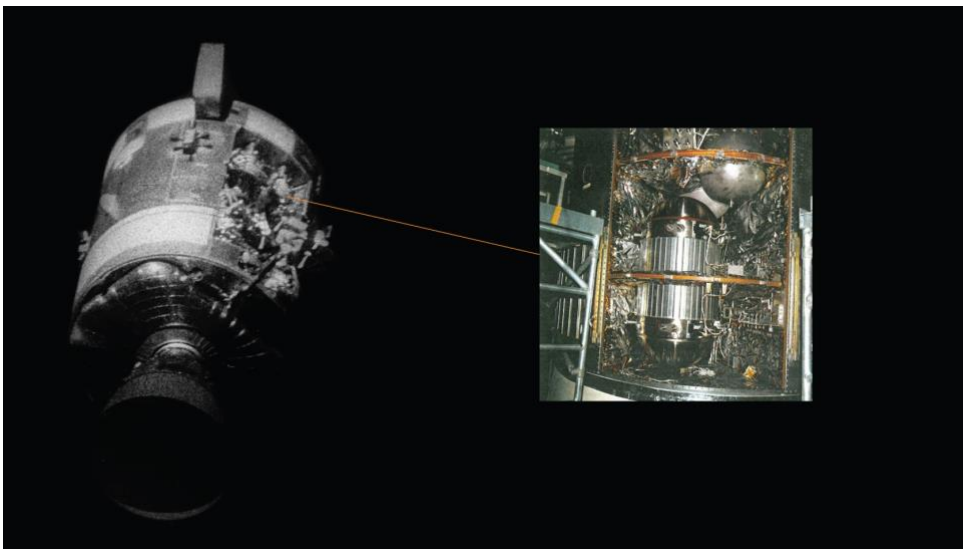


Image of Apollo 13 explosion