

**duplicating  
discipleship**

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● **lessonsix**

the transformation of peter

## Lesson 6: The Transformation of Peter

The Bible was written not to satisfy your curiosity but to help you conform to Christ's image. Not to make you a smarter sinner but to make you like the Savior. Not to fill your head with a collection of biblical facts but to transform your life.

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**Background** – (John 1:35-44) Peter was from Bethsaida, a fisherman, brother of Andrew (who brought him to Jesus). **His Call** - (Matthew 4:18-20), “And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fisherman, then said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him.”

What was their response to this call? Is it just a figure of speech?

**First, look at some of the characteristics of Peter while he was still a “self-made man.”**

1. He rebuked Jesus – Matthew 16:21-23. This seems to be in love, but what does it really indicate?
2. Does Jesus need Peter’s advice?
3. What might demonstrate that pride and arrogance are involved?

4. Have some of the previous events possibly led to this?
  
5. Peter walked on water but allowed his doubts to take over – Matthew 14:28-30.  
How does doubt tend to overtake our efforts of faith?
  
6. Where have you started in faith, but finished in doubt?
  
7. How about pledges of faith? Commitments to witness? Promises to love?
  
8. Does walking on water indicate faith?
  
9. Why did the other disciples not try to walk on the water too?

**It was predicted about Peter to personally deny Christ not once, not twice, but three times –**  
Luke 22:31-34, Mark 14:28-31, Matthew 26:31-35, John 13:36-38

1. Would this prophecy be a source of great pride?



3. What was Peter's response? Did he quit?
  
4. What should be our response?
  
5. Do you conclude that Peter started as “much less than” qualified?

**Next, let's look at his potential.**

1. Jesus renamed him – Luke 6:14, Mark 3:16, John 1:40-44. What was the significance of this?

\*Did this happen with any others?

\*What name do you think you deserve and what name would you like to aspire to?

2. Jesus spoke mainly to Peter about how His church would be built - Luke 9:18-20, Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 8:27-30.

Jesus conferred a great honor and responsibility upon Peter. To the casual observer, was Peter worthy of either the honor or the responsibility? What did Jesus see in Peter that others did not? What did Jesus “overlook” in so designating Peter?

**Now, let's look at the highlights of Peter's life.**

1. Peter had personal “one on one” conversations with the Lord – Luke 12:41, Mark 11:21, Matthew 18:21.

Why or why would you not be comfortable in a “give and take” session with the maker of the universe?

Do you feel invited to have such a conversation with your Maker?

How does this relate to Moses being told to take off his sandals because he was on holy ground? (Exodus 3:1-5)

2. Peter was one of three to witness the Transfiguration – (Luke 9:28-31, Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-10, 2 Peter 1:16-18). Can you think of anything more marvelous? How can you be so privileged and then not feel or be perceived as arrogant when you return to the others?

3. Peter testified of Jesus as the Christ – Matthew 16:16. He successfully summed up what was the crux of our entire faith.
  
4. Peter was one of three to share in the Garden of Gethsemane experience – Matthew 26:37. Who would you want to share your own “death bed experience”?
  
5. Peter had the great “resurrection conversations” with the Lord – John 21:15-23. Intimacy was essential for these conversations to take place. Do you feel like your prayer life is one of intimacy or one of formality?

How “personally” do you take scripture commands?

**Next, look at how easy it is for the mighty to fall**

Matthew 26:35 and 26:69-75 - What do you feel are the greatest provisions God has made for sinners?

Do you think it is wise or foolish to make professions of what we intend to do for the Lord?

After a failed attempt to do something great it is easy to fall into depression and discouragement.

John 20:19 - Fear became a controlling factor in Peter's life and he ran and hid. What specific fears are keeping us from exercising our faith more strongly?

How can we conquer our fears?

In John 21:15-18, where does Jesus find Peter?

What had Peter returned to doing? John 21:3?

Might we be tempted to return to our old lives after failure?

### **Conclude with Peter's return**

Do we mature in our walk by forgetting failures? Keep in mind how wisdom, discernment, and judgement are developed.

\*Sometimes we learn what to do by knowing what not to do. Did this work with Peter?

*<sup>5b</sup> "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>6</sup> For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." Hebrews 12:5b-6 (NKJV)*

### **Peter "The Rock"**

Peter saw 3,000 come to Christ after his sermon at Pentecost.

His shame after the denial could have ended Peter as we knew him. But through the help of the Holy Spirit and remembering the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, Peter did not deny his calling and Christ never denied him.

*Peter said, <sup>3</sup> "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, <sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:3-9 (NKJV)*

Modern Day example of transformation: Guadalupe "Cowboy" Garces

After living a life of crime in gang activity and addicted to drugs, Cowboy became a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Having been shot several times and on his death bed, God has radically changed this man to be a gentle sober servant of the Lord. His life is a constant witness to the power of the gospel to change lives radically.

