

STUDY ON PETER

Unlikely

April 16, 2023

OPENING QUESTION

Over your lifetime, who is someone who has shaped you by the *time* they spent with you and the model or example they provided?

- Who is someone who has instead provided encouragement and growth through the *words* they spoke to you?

Peter has shown us the ups and downs of life a lived in his own power. Even as he followed Jesus in ministry for three years, he still struggled to grasp the mission and purpose, continuing to stumble in his faith. He desired the new ways of the Kingdom that Jesus taught, but seemed unable to live them out in his own strength. Sometimes we think that if we could just meet Jesus and hear from Him directly that we would be able to change our actions, attitudes and habits. Our story this week shows us that the power to live a life that glorifies God comes not from our own effort, but from the Holy Spirit.

READ John 21:1-9

What do you notice about Jesus in this story? What do Peter's actions and words in the story show you?

- What else does this story remind you of? Any other stories in the Bible?

After three exciting, worldview transforming years with Jesus, and the universe shaking miracle of His resurrection, we find Peter right where he was at the beginning of the story.

- When have you had a meaningful faith experience that you thought had changed you fully and forever... until you found yourself right back in the same place you began? How did that feel?

READ Mark 14:66-72 & Acts 2:22-40

Compare and contrast Peter in these two stories.

- In the time between these two stories, Peter experienced the resurrected Jesus, and the events of Acts 2:1-4. How might he have been changed through these?

Discuss your background with and understanding of (and comfort with?!) the Holy Spirit.

- How do the following verses add to or deepen your understanding: Genesis 1:2, John 16:8,13, John 14:26, Titus 3:5, Romans 8:26, Ephesians 4:30, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 2 Peter 1:20-21 (This is a survey, not an exhaustive list of verses about the Holy Spirit!)
- Which of these provide understanding or context for the change in Peter we see in Acts 2:22-40?
- Have you experienced the Holy Spirit's work in any of these ways in your life?

FROM THE MESSAGE

Today we looked at what happened in the lives of believers after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, from Acts 1-2. As the apostles received the Holy Spirit, and then Peter boldly proclaimed the good news of Jesus to the people gathered in Jerusalem, we can see the Spirit's power. Having the Spirit within us is better than having Jesus beside us. If you could walk beside Jesus like Peter did, what do you imagine you would like, enjoy or benefit from that experience?

DAILY TIME

Hebrews 11:1-16
Genesis 15:1-6, Romans 4:1-5
Romans 10:8-15
John 20:24-31
John 1:1-18
Mark 9:14-27

As you read each day, consider:

- What do these passages show me about God and His character?
- What do they highlight about what it means to **believe**?
- How can I ask God for help based on these verses?

[PARTNERSHIP CLASS](#)

May 7 at Kentwood, 11:45 am
Encounterchurch.org/events

NOTES AND QUOTES

Throughout the Bible, we see the Holy Spirit's activity can be described in four broad categories:

- Regeneration – The Spirit transforms our hearts from stone to flesh and indwells us.
- Inspiration/Illumination – The Spirit inspires the Word of God and gives us understanding of God's nature and will through that Word.
- Sanctification – The Spirit is our Helper as we grow in holiness through obedience to God's commands.
- Empowering – The Spirit empowers particular people for particular service.

Borrowed from the [Knowing Faith podcast, November 27, 2019](#)

7Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...
13When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. John 16:7-8,

- What makes it hard to believe that having the Holy Spirit is better than having Jesus beside you?

Dirk asked, “The Spirit is alive inside of you right now; what is He asking you to do?”
What do you sense the Spirit asking you to do in His power?

- How can we know what He’s asking you to do? In other words, how do you experience or hear the Holy Spirit?

EXTRA Read Acts 4:1-12

Compared with his denials on the night Jesus was arrested, how complete is Peter’s transformation?

- Do you know and experience this power of the Holy Spirit in your own life?
- How can you grow in your knowledge and awareness of the Holy Spirit’s work and your experience of His power in you?

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Spend time in prayer for one another, about the needs in your lives, asking God to be at work forming you into an unlikely follower, transformed by Christ.

PRAYER AND CARE

Reminders for the week ahead:

*John 21:1*After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. *2*Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. *3*Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. *4*Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. *5*Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” *6*He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. *7*That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. *8*The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. *9*When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.

Mark 14:66 And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, *67*and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” *68*But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. *69*And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” *70*But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” *71*But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” *72*And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

Acts 2:22“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— *23*this Jesus, delivered

As we reach the end of our study on Peter, what has most stuck with you from this series?

- How have you seen God (Father, Jesus the Son, or Holy Spirit!) in a new light?
- How have you been changed?

*up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24*God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. *25*For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; *26*therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. *27*For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. *28*You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ *29*“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. *30*Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, *31*he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. *32*This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. *33*Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. *34*For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, “‘Sit at my right hand, *35*until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ *36*Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” *37*Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” *38*And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. *39*For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” *40*And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.