



Peter

1 Peter 1:13 *“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.”*

Peter is you and me. He thinks he knows stuff; then confident Peter finds out he does not. Peter believes that he is important, but discovers that he is not. The bumbling Peter puts his foot in his mouth by interjecting on the Lord’s plan. Yet, there is more. Peter writes a few great epistle letters. He will be the beginning of the church, or is he? The assumption has always been that Peter (the rock) is the rock that the church will be built on. But I wonder if Jesus was talking about foundations and not a person. But we assume. Did Peter assume too?

I am continuing the Hebrews series about faith. I know Paul is talking in Hebrews 11 about saints of old. Yet, he met Peter and watched him grow in faith. Did Paul hear the stories of Peter’s mistakes? They spent time together. A lot of time. The saints of old have something in common. Mistakes! Unbelief! Yet, they are unified in a faith that would grow. Just like Paul and Peter. I contend that the rock of the church is faith. For without it all else is meaningless. If Peter declared himself leader and Pope then who is considered the head of the church? It would be Peter and not Christ Jesus. Isn’t that Catholic 101? If Paul had decided it was him then he would have boasted about all he did. Instead, he gave himself to suffering for Christ Jesus. Both men could look each other in the eyes and see faith coming alive.

1 Peter (above) is not written by chance. He meant it. The sober minds of Peter and Paul saw Jesus. Yet, they saw the church too. They laid their faith in the real cornerstone: Christ Jesus. I get to see the growth in Peter. Matthew 16:22 *“Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. “Far be it from You, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to You!”* This is the brash man that thought he was the rock. Then we have the other side of this man. Acts 3:6 *“But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”* There is Peter claiming to have nothing but Jesus. A stark contrast to a beautiful faith.

The difference great faith makes. God opens our eyes and we see the Lord. For the longest time I did not believe that men dropped their nets and followed Jesus. What about work, family, and food. I’m being honest here; I did not see it. One day recently I suddenly saw it. My conversion went from unbelief to knowing in the blink of an eye while being all alone. *“Once I was blind but now, I see.”* I didn’t have to consider God. He let me know. The Bible always says that God will reveal Himself. The most amazing part is understanding. God does not give us something to consider or understand. No, he reveals it and now we just know. Bumbling Peter knew but his own strong belief needed to turn into strong faith.

That is why I say he is like us. It is faith 101. God allows us to see him. To feel his presence, pass by. A surge of excitement and desire to know God more. Yet, we will recede. We will gain doubts. There will be mistakes made. A belief will be tested. That is how great faith is grown. I know because God let me know. Yet, now I know I know. My faith is stronger today. Yet, my brain still wants to question. Read all the stories of Peter. That is him in a nut shell. I can walk on water! Yet, I looked away and began to sink. I will die with Christ! Then we run away in shame by rejecting parts of Jesus. Peter is all of us.

Paul may have not been talking about Peter in Hebrews 11. Yet, by Faith, Peter walked out of prison unharmed. The believers had prayed for him. He had prayed for them. The whole scene in Acts 12 is amazing. Almost unbelievable. Do we really believe it? What if our unbelief is what is holding us back. Keeping us in prison? Look at part of Peters speech in Acts 2 below.

“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”

Does this sound like the man who rebuked Jesus? Who cut off the ear of a soldier? Who fled and denounced Jesus? This sounds like a man who can see now. His faith has grown. He believes it whole heartedly now. I realized that God let me know in his way and in his time. He also had the patience to let me know a little more as time has passed. Yet, I know I am still blind. There is more to be revealed to me. I know so very little. By faith that was Peter. Inch by inch God let him know just a little more. I think Paul saw faith in Peter too. Maybe even in Hebrews 11.