



## **HOW PETER BECAME GOD'S MAN**

**Matthew 16:18 (NLT2)** *Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.*

1. Peter was listed **first** in the list of disciples in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
2. Peter is one of the principal characters in the gospels and early church.
3. Peter faced many **decisive** moments in his life and **failed frequently**.
4. There were a couple of **events** that established his future.
5. Peter was faithful to the end and **grew** in grace and knowledge his entire life.

**2 Peter 3:18 (NLT2)** *Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.*

### **I. Peter is marked by inconsistency in the gospels**

1. Peter had some great moments in the gospels.
  - a. **chosen** by Jesus
  - b. Peter had forsaken **all** to follow Jesus. Mt 19:27
  - c. Peter was a fully devoted follower of Jesus John 6:66-69
  - d. Peter made some **brilliant** statements regarding Jesus
  - e. Peter was one of the three inner circle for Jesus
  - f. Peter had many **natural** giftings
2. Yet in the gospels Peter was prone to lean on **human ability** and **understanding**.
3. His **strengths** got in the way of his spiritual development and actually worked against him.
4. Peter was **impulsive**.
5. Peter **crumbled** at the most critical moment that Jesus needed his support.  
(All four gospels record his denial in detailed description)
6. Peter was **quick** to speak; sometimes **great**, sometimes **not so great**. Mt 16:16, 17:21-23
7. Peter was **arrogant**. Mt 26:33
8. Peter was **presumptuous** and **compulsive**. Mt. 17:1-13 Mk 9:2-8 Lk 9:28-33
9. Peter was **sorrowful**. Lk 22:62

### **II. Peter is transformed by two life altering events**

1. Peter was **forgiven**, **restored**, and **commissioned** by the RISEN Jesus. John 21:15-19; 1 Pet 1:3
2. Peter had a new level of **consistency** from that moment forward.
3. Peter was **obedient** to the command of Jesus, Luke 24:44-50, and was **waiting** (a new concept for him) for promised power from the Father.

4. His **obedience** caused him to be in the right place at the right time and Peter was there when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the 120 in the upper room.

### **III. Peter is marked by steady growth and development in Acts and the rest of the New Testament**

1. Peter uses his strength under the **influence** of the Holy Spirit for good.
2. Peter is **anointed** by the Holy Spirit to speak words that convict and transform about 3000 people in one setting. Acts 2:14-41
3. Peter **naturally** helped a lame man in Acts 3:1 and showed a willingness to share his faith.
4. Peter and John were **inspired**, **anointed**, and **fearless** after being arrested in Acts 4 **BECAUSE** they were **filled with the Holy Spirit** and were visibly bold.
5. Peter's **faith**, **courage** and **wisdom** is seen in the book of Acts.
6. Peter's **pride** in the gospels **is replaced by humility** in his letters both by example and exhortation. 2Peter 1:1, Peter 5:5-6
7. Peter's **humility**, **love**, and **kindness** are evident in his writings.
8. His spiritual humility is demonstrated by his **reliance** and **devotion** to **prayer**. Acts 3:1; 4:31; 6:4; 10:9
9. His two letters are filled with beautiful instruction on how to live **the Spirit filled life**.
10. His first letter has a theme of **hope**.
11. He calls us to be **grateful** at all times with **joy** that is inexpressible and full of glory.
12. His letters issue a call to **submission** to authority. 1 Pet 2:13-14 and continues in 2:18-25; 3:1,2; 3:7-12; 5:5-6
13. The maturation of Peter results in **love**, **hope**, **humility**, and **respect**.

We **DESPARATELY** NEED the **POWER** OF THE HOLY SPIRIT to enable us to serve our generation.

Our world is **shattered** and **hopeless**. We **CANNOT FIX IT** with human ability, effort, or wisdom.

We need the Holy Spirit to fill our lives so we can bring **life where there is death**, **light where there is darkness**, and **love where there is apathy**.