

## Hope that is Greater than Your Failures

**READ:** 1 Peter 1:1-7

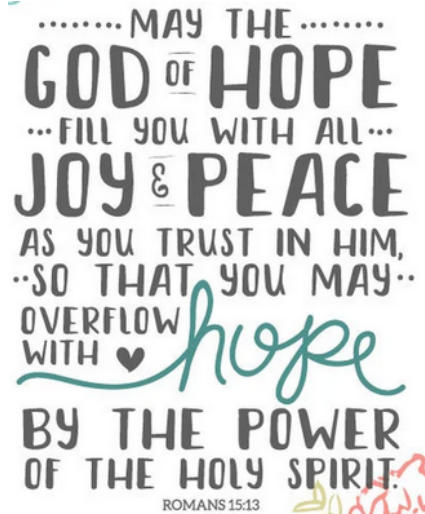
This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ.

I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. <sup>2</sup> God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

May God give you more and more grace and peace.

<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, <sup>4</sup> and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. <sup>5</sup> And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

<sup>6</sup> So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. <sup>7</sup> These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.



### **REFLECT: Who was Simon Peter?**

Simon was originally from Bethsaida (John 1:44) and lived in Capernaum (Mark 1:29), both cities on the coast of the Sea of Galilee.

... He was married (1 Corinthians 9:5)

... James and John were partners in a profitable fishing business (Luke 5:10).

... Simon met Jesus through his brother Andrew, who had followed Jesus after hearing John the Baptist proclaim that Jesus was the Lamb of God (John 1:35-36). Andrew immediately went to find his brother to bring him to Jesus.

... Upon meeting Simon, Jesus gave him a new name: Cephas (Aramaic) or Peter (Greek: Petros), which means "little rock" (John 1:40-42).

... Jesus officially called Peter to follow Him, producing a miraculous catch of fish (Luke 5:1-7). Immediately, Peter left everything behind to follow the Lord (verse 11).

### **What can we learn from Simon Peter's experiences and relationship with Jesus?**

Peter: Bold or impulsive? Self-confident or prideful? Risk-taker or rash?

...it was Peter who left the boat to walk on the water to Jesus and promptly took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink ((Matthew 14:28-30)

.. It was Peter who took Jesus aside to rebuke Him for speaking of His death—and was swiftly corrected by the Lord (Matthew 16:22-23).

...It was Peter who suggested erecting three tabernacles to honor Moses, Elijah, and Jesus (and fell to the ground in fearful silence at God's glory (Matthew 17:4-6).

... It was Peter who drew his sword and attacked the servant of the high priest and was immediately told to sheath his weapon (John 18:10-11)

... It was Peter who initially refused to have Jesus wash his feet when Jesus was showing the attitude in serving others. (John 13:6-10)



What action words would you use to describe yourself?

What are the positive & negative sides of those traits?

What is the significance of Peter's eye-opening experience from Matthew 16:13-18?

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

<sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter (*Petros*) and on this rock (*Petra*) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matthew 16:13-18

Why was it necessary for Peter to go through failure in order to become who Jesus would help him to be? (note verses below)

<sup>31</sup> On the way to the mount of Olives, Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

<sup>32</sup> But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there."

<sup>33</sup> Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you." (Matthew 26:31-33)

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

<sup>33</sup> Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you."

<sup>34</sup> But Jesus said, "Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me." (Luke 22:31-34)

(third denial moment when someone insisted Peter must have known Jesus)

But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me." And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly. Luke 22:60-62 (NLT)

**Respond & Apply:** Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

Jesus did not leave Peter in his brokenness and failure. He met with him after he rose from the dead! Read John 21 and discuss the following questions:

Jesus came to where the disciples were at (John 21:1). How does this help you to know that Jesus is ALWAYS seeking to connect with you?

Jesus challenges Peter to look at his failure through the question of: "Do you love me?" IN ORDER for Peter to realize Jesus was showing his faith in Peter to live out his call to "feed my sheep".

Why is that question and response so important in giving Peter hope for his future?

How has (and is) God giving you hope through your struggles?

*When people fail, we are inclined to find fault with them, but if you look more closely, you will find that God had some particular truth for them to learn, which the trouble they are in is to teach them. G.V. Wigram*

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**3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**

**4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

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