

## "Overcoming Failure," Part 1 - Simon Peter Steps Up

### John 6:60-69

The Apostle Peter came to know Christ when his brother Andrew heard about Jesus, **"he first went and found his own brother and brought him to Christ."** The very next day Jesus finds Phillip and said to him, **"Follow me."** Phillip was from Bethsaida, the same city that Andrew and Peter were from, and no sooner had he been invited to follow Jesus that he finds Nathanael and brings him to Jesus just like Andrew did the day before.

Several days later (**John 2:1-12**) we read of the first miracle of Jesus where He and His disciples are at a wedding in Cana where He turns the water into wine. After that they stayed several days in Capernaum and then went to Jerusalem for the Passover. We read (**John 2:13-22**) that Jesus and His disciples went to the Temple where Jesus found the Temple being used for business and His righteous indignation was revealed by Him turning over the tables and driving the people out of the Temple. During that time Jesus spoke about the temple of His body and that it would be raised up in three days after His death. His disciples hearing this remembered He had said this to them and again we see that they believed what they learned in the Scriptures which confirmed what Jesus said (**verse 22**).

Not long after that they saw Jesus having a dialogue with a Samaritan woman at a well (**John 4:1-26**) when they had returned from the city to buy food. They knew that the Jews and Samaritans had no dealings with one another and yet they see that Jesus was more concerned with the lost condition of people than He was with the religious racism of the day. His acceptance of her as a person led to her accepting Him as her Savior and by her invitation **"Many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him because of the word of the woman who testified, He told me all that I ever did"** (**John 4:39**).

They came back to Cana where He performed His second recorded miracle when he healed the nobleman's son. Following this we read of Him healing the man at the Pool of Bethesda (**John 5:1-12**). We read that soon after He would feed the 5,000 with just five loaves of bread and two fish from the sack lunch of a young boy (**John 6:1-14**). That same day when Jesus perceived that some of the people were about to take Him by force, He departed alone to the mountain. He instructed His disciples to get in a boat and meet Him on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. While in the boat they encountered a storm; Jesus came walking on the sea and calmed their fears by calming the storm (**John 6:15-21**).

The events that lead up to our text help us to see that His disciples were not just casual believers who were following Jesus out of mere curiosity or what they could get out of Him. These were the men who walked with Jesus, who saw Him live what He taught if for only for a short period of time. Peter and the other disciples had to make a conscious but personal decision as to whether they would follow Christ and each of us must do the same. We can be confident that these disciples did not foresee the events of this day. They did not know that they would once again be given the choice as to whether they would

continue to follow Jesus or turn back like so many others would do that day. When we learn how **“Simon Peter Steps Up”** we will learn what it takes to continue to follow Christ knowing that we too will be tempted to desert Him.

**John 6:60-69 - Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? 61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? 62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. 66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

**1. Vs. 60 - A difficult subject and stubborn listeners. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?**

Before we comment on the stubbornness of the listeners we must sympathize with them first. When we read of the things that Jesus was communicating in verses 32 through 58, we can see where these people may have been a bit confused about His teaching. When He spoke to them about the eating of flesh and drinking of blood some may have taken this as some sort of cannibalism. Obviously, that was not the case, but their confusion caused them to be close-minded rather than teachable.

This thinking also caused them to assume that everyone else would have the same reaction that they did. When they said, **“This is a hard saying, who can hear it?”** They were assuming that just because they could not understand it, no one else will be able to understand either. In other words, they were saying, “this thing that Jesus is talking about is way too difficult for us to understand, no one could ever understand what He is saying”.

It is not uncommon in the Christian life for us to struggle with understanding certain things that we learn in the Bible. However, it is not uncommon either to begin to gain a better understanding on a subject when we have further teaching upon that subject. The mistake made here in this story is that the people immediately closed their minds because of their ignorance rather than opening their minds to a better understanding of the subject. Finding the right answers to difficult questions will always help us to learn, but if we surrender to confusion, we will always lack understanding.

**2. Vs. 61 - Jesus responds. When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?**

There complaints (murmuring) were secret to others in their silence or because they shared them with one another in a corner, but they were not secret to Jesus. Jesus knew them, He saw them, and He heard them. Notice the verse says that **"He knew in himself"**. It wasn't by any information that anyone had given Him neither was it because of any indication of their body language; it was instead because of His own omniscience....He knows everything. **John 1:1&14** says that **"Jesus is the Word made flesh and dwelt among us"**. In **Hebrews 5:12,13** the Bible says that the **"word discerns the thoughts of the heart"**. There is no such thing as a secret kept from Jesus and there is no such thing as a thought that He does not know.

**Psalm 69:5 - O God, you know my foolishness; and my sins are not hidden from you.**

**Psalm 139:4 - For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold O LORD, you know it altogether.**

**The Application:**

- Coming to terms with the truth that God knows everything can be alarming, but it really should be more comforting than it is alarming.
- If God knows my thoughts of confusion and uncertainties, He also knows the way to help me to overcome them.
- Never be discouraged by confusion when you KNOW that God has all the answers.

*Think of some things in your life right now that you do not have answers for and write them out. After you write them out take a few moments and pray and ask the Lord to help you with those things.*

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**Psalm 119:104 - Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.**

Jesus responds to their murmuring with the question, **"Does this offend you?"** Things are today much like they were in the days of Christ in terms of offences. Throughout the Gospels (**Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**) we read of people being offended by the teachings of Christ for so little reason if any at all. The only legitimate reason for one being offended initially might be ignorance and when their ignorance is exchanged for a truthful explanation there is nothing at all offensive in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The problem lies not in the teaching but in the listener. We can be offended when we are confronted with our personal lives when they do not line up with the teaching of the Bible. Our response to the

teaching is sometimes to be offended by the message rather than make the necessary changes in our lives in order that our lives might line up with God's word.

The truth of God's word is what it is. Anytime we find ourselves trying to line up God's word with our lives rather than line our lives up with God's word we are going to experience defeat. This is what lies at the root of much of the "self-inflicted" discouragement that we experience.

**The Application:**

- When we see something in our lives that does not measure up to God's word, we need to ask God for the strength and wisdom to help us to overcome it and/or correct it; not be offended by the teaching and stay in the sin.
- These listeners were more stuck on rejecting Jesus than they were open to considering what He said.

*Describe the difference between Bible verses that encourage you and Bible verses that correct the way that you think or live and how each of them makes you feel.*

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**3. Vs. 62 - A recent reminder. - What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?**

Jesus gives them a glimpse of His ascension to heaven which would give much evidence of the truth of His teaching. In other words, He is saying, "If I tell you about that there is no doubt that it would be offensive to you, if this is a hard saying and you can't understand this than how will you understand if I tell you of my returning to heaven? Jesus referred to their struggle in believing Him concerning His resurrection (**verse 42**).

We learn the Bible much like we learn in other areas of our lives, in bits and pieces. Never be discouraged by thinking that you only know part of a thing and that you will not know more. As you stay faithful to learning God will stay faithful to revealing what you need to learn. However, we should never expect to know more if we are not doing what we already know.

**4. Vs. 63 - An enlightening comparison. It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

Many times, the reason that people dislike and reject the teachings of Jesus is because they mistake them or misunderstand them. The literal sense of this parable will do us no good. It would be absurd to think of the eating of flesh and drinking of blood. But the spiritual meaning is instructive and meant to be understood by the spiritual mind.

**1 Corinthians 2:14 - But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know (to learn to know or come to know) them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

The Bible can at times be a difficult book to understand partly because it came from an infinite God to finite man; from the unlimited, all-powerful God to limited man. If the Bible could be understood by natural man, it would be a natural book and not the Word of God. Since the Bible came from God, and is therefore spiritual, before we can understand its teachings we must be born of the Spirit (**John 3:6**).

**Romans 8:9 - But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

**5. Vs. 64 - An accurate observation. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.**

It appears that we have somewhat of a mixed group here in the presence of Jesus. There were obviously some that are described as His disciples and there were apparently some that were not. Pretenders are in the clear view of Jesus Christ. Though we may think that we can fool some people with our pretentious ways, we can never fool the Lord. We would all do well to not fall into the temptation of trying to convince everyone that we are more spiritual than we might really be. The best approach that we can have would be to humbly come to terms with our lack of spiritual growth and ask the Lord for help to do something about it.

This goes right back to the spiritual truth that God knows everything. According to **verse 64** He knows when we have great faith and when we have no faith at all. To pretend we have faith when we have none will only keep us from experiencing the change that the Lord desires us to experience. **"Faith, we know, comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17)

**6. Vs. 65 - God drawing us to Himself. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.**

In **verse 44** Jesus said, "No man can come to me except the Father which has sent me *draw* (pull, persuade) him". In this verse (**verse 65**) He reiterates what He has already stated. Perhaps you remember the way that God used what may have been a very confusing and perhaps distressing time in

your life to bring you to Himself. When you look back at that time you can now see the Hand of God in your situation gently drawing you to Him.....that is in reality the truth of this text.

It is the sovereignty of God that orchestrates the circumstances in our lives in order that we might be enlightened by His truth and have an opportunity to respond. Many times we overlook these times by focusing too much on our trouble in order to get out of it. Instead, we would be better off focusing our attention on the Lord in order that He might walk us through it.

*Describe the circumstances that God used to bring you to Himself and thank Him.*

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**7. Vs. 66 - A sad departure. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.**

The defectors of the faith; they did run but were hindered in the journey perhaps by their pride, but most certainly by their unbelief. Notice that **verse 66** says that "**from that time many of his disciples went back**". It was not just a few of them but many of them. One of the great lessons that we can learn from this is that a lack of faith appears to be contagious. An important question that we might ask ourselves now before we are confronted with this kind of experience is, "Will I be faithful if all others are faithless?"

There is no sense in us dropping our jaws in astonishment at the departure of so many people from the very presence of Jesus when too often our faith can be and may have been as frail and fickle as theirs was. The truth of this story bears witness to the very possibility of us being capable of doing the same thing.

**The Application:**

- There is always the possibility of our faith growing weak when spiritual famine and trials meet on the same day.
- When a person has experienced great leaps and strides in their Christian journey it does not exempt them from falling down and falling back because of careless living.
- Whatever any man has done, every other man is capable of doing himself. - Charles Spurgeon

Write down some of the things that you can do to help you avoid falling back into old behaviors?

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All these people had to do one thing before they walked away from Jesus. They had to be convinced of the possibility that the words that Jesus spoke were too difficult to understand and receive. Once that begins to take root in a person's thoughts than believing the works that He does might become difficult to accept as well. Following this line of thought can also lead to a willingness to hear insinuations that some or all the word of God has little or no truth within its pages. When we allow ourselves to drift in a direction of doubt and unbelief, we will soon experience the entrance of temptation simply because the enemy has other motives for attacking us in this area. The most tragic news in **verse 66** is not that they went back, that was bad enough, but that they walked with Him no more.

**The Application:**

- Be careful of the possibility of "stepping back" from what you have believed.
- Do not allow anyone or anything to prevent you from your privilege of the discovery of more truth.
- The truths of God's word are the steppingstones to great faith in our lives.
- When we struggle with a spiritual truth always set out to overcome the struggle with more truth.

This was indeed a great departure, and we might add a sad one as well. As great and as sad as it was it really was not a strange thing that happened that day. In fact, it was then, and it is still today, a common thing that we should be concerned about but not surprised by. It is described that **many** went back and only a few in comparison stayed which reminds us of another truth that we can apply to our lives. It is far too often when some go back that more go back with them, ***the spiritual disease of the backslider is infectious and contagious.***

**8. Vs. 67 - A question of commitment. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?**

Yes, many went back, but thank God not all of them did. Though the faith of most was overthrown by doubt and unbelief there was still enough faith left in a few to stick around to experience Christ to the fullest. The example of those that remained should be an encouragement to us that following the crowd does not always mean we going in the right direction.

**Matthew 7:13,14 - Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in by it: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it.**

One thing that I have learned in reading the *Gospels* is that wherever Jesus went He always attracted a crowd, but it was not uncommon for the crowd to downsize the longer they were around Him. Friends, Jesus did not come to win a popularity contest, and neither will we when we follow Him; He came to seek and save that which was lost. Following Jesus takes more than words and the appearance of religiousness. It is the intentional energy and attention that we place upon applying truth from the word of God. It is the constant reminder of knowing that we cannot do this without the help of God, the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the surrender of our will to God's will for our lives. The narrow road is for the few that never consider themselves as being any better or any smarter than anyone else on any other road. They realize this road may be hard and bumpy at times, but it is a road that can be navigated with God's help and it is also a road that cautions any attraction to the broad road. Our attraction to Christ is a result of His attraction and unconditional love for us.

**1 John 4:19 - We love him, because he first loved us.**

**The Application:**

- Never allow yourself to be tempted by the thought of others who refuse to follow Christ as having any advantage in life that you do not have.
- It is true that all that glitters is not gold and in many cases those who appear to be living large without Jesus Christ will sadly experience the fall on a much larger scale.

We cannot be certain that the remaining twelve had not at least considered the thought of walking away from Jesus. Perhaps one or more of them were thinking this is do or die and if we stay at times, it may not be as easy as it might be for the ones that walked away a few moments before. Temptation produced by the observation of others is a very real thing and should be dealt with in a very honest and intentional way. There will be times when we are intrigued and sometimes discouraged by the success of others that do not know God. Before we focus on the response of the Apostle Peter to the question raised by Jesus, we should consider at least one place the Bible addresses this temptation.

**Psalms 37:1,2 - Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious (jealous) against the workers of iniquity. 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.**

These words were penned by King David for anyone that might experience the temptation of seeing others appearing to fare sumptuously on the fruit of evil doings. We do not need to look far to realize everyone does not always pay for their evil deeds as soon or as often as we might think that they would.



But before we get too presumptuous about others, we need to remind ourselves that God withheld His discipline in our lives far longer than any of us deserved or maybe even expected Him to. David wrote these words undoubtedly by his experience and like his other writings he wanted others to glean from what he learned. As it was in David's time, it still is today; some of those that do evil increase and prosper and have what they want and do what they will. They live in ease with the power in their hands to do more mischief to those around them. But we need not think that it is some strange thing now since it obviously was no strange thing then.

*Write down some of the ways that you can relate to not having all you would like to have while you are trying to live right while watching others have these things while they are not living right.*

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To fret is to become anxious, irritated, or worried by something or someone which, if we are not careful, can produce anger and resentment toward God. Our resentment toward God can stem from the thought of God being unkind to us by permitting ungodly people to live and prosper as they do while we still struggle with the things of day-to-day life. We are tempted to envy their prosperity by ungodly means which can produce the desire to shake off the restraints in our lives to participate in the same behavior.

Fretfulness and envy are sins that are their own punishment. They produce uneasiness in our spirit which will always rob us of our peace. This, like all other sins, is something that we can avoid and in kindness to ourselves it would do us well to heed the warning of falling into them. The truth of the matter is that outward prosperity is a superficial thing and so is the life to which it is bound. Someone once said, "it is sad that all some poor people have is money."

The beauty of this scripture is not necessarily found in the warning, the beauty is found in the following verses where David gives us the scriptural prescription for the prevention of fretting "**because of evil doers.**"

**Psalms 37:3-5 - Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. 4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.**

In Psalm 37:1 we learn what we are not supposed to do, "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious (jealous) against the workers of iniquity". In verses 3-5 David gives us an amazingly simple strategy that will enable us to successfully accomplish the instruction.

- **Trusting and doing. Trust in the LORD, and do good;**

The life of the Christian will always be a contented life when it is lived on a believing dependence upon God. It is our dependence upon Him and His provision in our lives that will not only help enable us to avoid becoming anxious and irritated by the prosperity of evil doers, but it will also enable us to do good. In other words, our trust in God will help prevent us from giving into the temptation of prospering by wrongdoing instead of right doing.

Notice that our strategy implies that trusting and doing good are going on simultaneously. While we trust we do not just sit around and do nothing. We become actively involved in our overcoming of this temptation, which leads me to believe that dwelling on the prosperity of evil doers without the activity of trusting and doing good might be the reason why many people cannot seem to remove themselves from this trap.

I have witnessed in the lives of many people, and I have experienced it myself; the temptation of quick gain by wrong doing. Addictive behavior creates an appetite for immediate gratification. When we see people getting things by doing wrong, while we are in need of things and doing right, it can sometimes be confusing and downright discouraging.

#### **The Application:**

- Desiring what we want before God gives us what we need can sometimes initiate temptation.
- Trusting in God leaves our needs to His provision in His time.
- **Our delight and our heart's desire. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.**

Delight ourselves in the Lord. We would not be doing the text an injustice by saying that we should "be happy about" the Lord. Happy that He has revealed Himself to us, that He has given us the invitation to know Him and that He is our comfort and strength. If you have found Him, you have found Him to be the provider of all that you will ever need, and our delight is an expression of the contentment of our heart.

Never will we read that God will simply give us the desires of our hearts, but He will do so when we meet the condition of the promise by delighting ourselves in Him. He has not promised to satisfy all the appetites of our body, but to grant the "desires of our heart," as it pertains to our renewed heart. A heart that wants what God wants will receive what God desires for it to have.

This instruction is not accomplished in a person's life often because of a lack of desire to follow it. Sometimes the case might be because of spiritual ignorance in not knowing how to carry it out. it would do us well to answer the question.....What is the desire of the heart of a good man or lady? A question when answered will help us to begin to be that person. In practical terms it might be that it is to know God, to love God, to live for God, to please God and to be pleased in God. This we can all accomplish with God's help.

- **Our commitment and God's direction. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.**

Committing our way to the Lord involves our submitting everything that we have and everything that we need to His guidance. **Proverbs 16:3** says that we are to **"Commit our ways to the Lord and our thoughts will be established."** **Psalm 55:22** says that we are to **"Cast thy burden upon the Lord and He shall sustain you."** **1 Peter 5:7** says that we are to **"cast all of our care upon the Lord, for he cares for you"**.

This committing and casting is the picture of our "rolling our cares and our way upon the Lord." It is rolling it off ourselves so that they do not trouble us, providing thoughts of future worry and fears. Our responsibility is to commit our way to God and then leave the rest up to Him.

**The Application:**

- How many times have we been guilty of bearing our own burdens when we should have committed them to the care of God?
- When we give all of these things to Him, He will provide us with peace and strength while He is orchestrating the measures for our provision.

*According to these verses what will our experience be if we allow God to help us apply them?*

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**9. Vs. 68 - Simon Peter steps up. Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

Simon Peter, as was his manner often times, stepped up and spoke for the entire group not knowing yet about Judas. His choice and the choice of the others were made in their hearts and now it is time to confess it with their mouths. We gather from his answer that although they may have been tempted to depart with many they had resolved to stay with the few. They were not even going to entertain the thought of such a decision, and if they had, they liked the choice of following Jesus too well to turn back now.

Notice what Simon Peter said that made all the difference in their decision; this will also make all the difference in our decision to follow as well. He said, **"To whom shall we go?"** We sometimes get this confused with, "where will we go or to what will we go?" We learn from his response that when we leave Christ for anything or anyone, we must first consider whether or not we can expect to find the rest, peace and contentment in anyone else but Him. Can we find what we have in Him by going back to that drink or drug of choice? No, it will certainly deceive us like it has done in the past. Can we return to sin and expect any difference now than before? No, it will again accomplish its objective to steal, kill and destroy.

The Christian life is not about the following of any kind of group or movement. It is not about a religious association that might provide for us the turning over of a new leaf or a new set of values that might help us to change the course of our lives and the error of our ways. It is a very real and a very life changing relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ. By this question when we do an honest examination of our hearts we will discover that walking away from Him would be treason of the very worst kind.

**Thou hast the words of eternal life.** What an amazing fact that these men had come to terms with, that Jesus Christ has the words of eternal life. They may not have fully comprehended the previous discourse concerning the Bread of Life, but they were confident that Jesus has the words of eternal life. Yes, He would tell them more, but what He had already told them, they embraced as truth. Just a short while prior to this teaching they heard Him say the following words.

**John 5:24,25 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. 25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.**

Total understanding was not a prerequisite to their believing. There were times when the disciples and others simply took Jesus at His word. However, we also know that some people would not take Him at His word unless they fully understood. Jesus said Himself, that **"there are some of you that believe not, For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not..."** (John 6:64).

Believing that Jesus has the words of eternal life opens the door to our understanding. As we place our trust in Jesus Christ and receive His gift of eternal life, we then become able to understand spiritual

things. We do not have to understand everything to believe it. Addiction caused many of us to believe something that ended up being a lie but sadly that did not always stop our pursuit for more even when we knew it could not deliver what it promised.

**10. Vs. 69 - A made up mind produces a changed life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

What they believed was the most important aspect of all. They believed that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God. They believed that Jesus was not just a mere man but that He was truly the God man. The level of their faith had already gone deeper than it had previously been. We know this because they did not just say that they believe but they also said that they **"were sure."** There was no more disputing whether Jesus was the Son of God, they were willing to stake their very soul upon it.

We can be sure that what they once believed by faith, they were now also believing by their own experience. When a person places their trust in Jesus Christ by faith and they receive His free gift of eternal life they begin to experience Him in a personal way. Our blind eyes are opened to His truth and our deaf ears can hear spiritual things clearly. He speaks peace to the fearful heart and gives strength to the weary soul. He gives us pep in our step, joy in our hearts and a confidence in our outlook on life. We have known it by our experience, and this is by far the best knowledge of all when our experience lines up with His promise that we are children of God.

When we exercise bold faith, the faith to stake our very souls upon; it is then that we will know that we have a faith that we can stake everything else upon. Friends, if Jesus Christ can fulfill His promise of eternal life, and He can, then addiction is no match for Him whatsoever!!

Simon Peter stepped up at the right time for the right reason. At this time in his life, he was "on the mountain" moving upward. Soon he would find that not every day is spent on the mountain; some indeed are spent in the valley. Here it appears that he could never fail, but he would soon experience failure as his opportunity to gain experience.

In Part 2 of our series, we will see where **"Simon Peter Gets Warned"**.