

PETER

His Journey from a “Reed” to a “Rock”

Introduction:

Who Was Peter?

Married – homeowner – Matt. 8:114, 15

Brother to Andrew who introduces Peter to Jesus – John 1:40-42

First, “Simon” – then, Jesus promised a name change from
“Simon, *a reed*, to Cephas, *a stone*. – John 1:42

Called by Jesus to follow Him and be a fisher of men – Mark 1:17

A fisherman by trade – Matt. 4:18

A believer – John 2:11

Named one of the twelve apostles – Matt. 10:2

Naturally impulsive – Matt. 14:28; John 13:9; 21:15-17

Tenderhearted and Loving – John 21:15-17; 13:9; Matt. 26:75

1. Peter the “Reed” – Full of Contradictions

- a. At times, *presumptuous* – Matt. 16:22; John 13:8; 18:10
At times, *fearful and cowardly* – Matt. 14:30; 26:69-72
- b. At times, *self-sacrificing* – Mark 1:18
At times, *self-seeking* – Matt. 19:27
- c. *Understanding in regard to spiritual truth* – John 6:68
Lack of understanding in regard to spiritual truth –
Matt. 15:15-16
- d. *Makes two great confessions of faith in Christ* –
John 6:69; Matt. 16:16
Guilty of the most cowardly denial of Christ – Mark 14:67-71

2. Peter the “Rock” – Full of the Holy Spirit Our Example for “The Christian Life on Display”

- a. A witness for Christ – Acts 1:8
 - b. Fearless before the religious council – Acts 4:19-21
 - c. Bold before the council – Acts 5:29, 32
 - d. Obedient to God – Acts 5:29, 32
 - e. Submissive to suffering – Acts 5:40, 41
 - f. Rejoicing in suffering – Acts 5:40, 41
 - g. Steadfast in teaching and preaching Christ – Acts 5:42
 - h. Confirmed an effective apostle to the circumcision –
Galatians 2:7-9
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Like Peter, our Journey with Jesus covers many a mile and takes up a great deal of our time and efforts. At first we might find ourselves like Peter – a “reed” (Simon) blown to and fro with the wind.

But, like Peter, we too need to forsake all, so that the Spirit of God can completely control our lives and use us in whatever way He desires, that we may be that “Rock” – a solid, consistent witness for Him.