



The Epistles of Peter
1st Peter Introduction
From Sermon 9.7.25

Read *1 Peter 1:1 & John 1:40-42*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: We finally arrive at our return to verse-by-verse expository preaching and teaching. Following our extensive study in John, this is the perfect place to continue—the letters to the Church from the lead Apostle, Peter. The words God the Holy Spirit gave him are timeless/transcendent. We're going to taste and see just how practical and relevant Peter's words are to us today. That's because three things never change: God, our enemy, and human nature. The warnings and admonitions that Peter gives not only blessed the early church, but they are just what we all need in this hostile world.

1. Peter is the man with many names. Review and discuss each.

- Simon = The Old Testament name Simeon. (This is his given birth name, which means "heard")
- Peter = The name given to him by Jesus. It is the Greek translation for "stone".
- Cephas = The Hebrew/Aramaic translation of the word "stone".

2. Read Peter's famous confession and the affirmation of his early name change in *Matthew 16:13-18*. As in all parts of Scripture, words matter. Discuss: The name, the difference between "Petra" vs. "Petros" and the office of the Pope & the Reformation. Jesus said to him "...you are Petros (small stone). And upon this Petra (giant stone) I will build My Church. It was Peter's statement of Christ's deity that the church would be built upon, not Peter the person and a succession of lead Apostles or Popes. The Reformers saw this difference and no longer pledged allegiance to a single head of the church.

3. What do we know about Peter's personal life?

- Occupation: Fisherman. Family had a fishing business. James and John also worked with him.
- Parents: Simon Peter was the son of a man named Jonah. [Simon Bar-Jonah]
- Brother: The Apostle Andrew. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist and brought Peter to Christ.
- Spouse: Peter was married. See *Matthew 8:14-15 & 1 Corinthians 9:5*. We do not know Peter's wife's name.

4. Peter's life and ministry were marked by highs and lows. List several incidents in his recorded life and whether that event was a high or a low point. Great Confession: high. Tried to dissuade Jesus from going to Jerusalem: low. Walked on water: high. Took eyes off of Jesus and sank: low. Witness to transfiguration: high. Impulsive reactions: low. Vowed to go with Christ even to death: high. Denied even knowing Jesus at His trial: low. Preached boldly in the book of Acts: high. Avoided the Gentiles in Antioch: low....

5. What if this study was about you and your highs and lows as a believer? What would be the stories and actions in your life, and would they be marked as highs or lows? Various Personal Answers.

[Note: The point of the previous question is to get us ready for Peter's letters of truth and instruction. We can see Peter's victories and failures and hear how his spiritual life matured and grew.]

6. Some have wondered: Why would the lead Apostle not be chosen to write one of the Gospels? How come there isn't a "Gospel According to Peter"? Interestingly, there is. It's the Gospel of Mark. Multiple early Church fathers tell us Mark got his Gospel account from Peter. See also 1 Peter 5:13.