

## Peter...

Peter may be the guy in the Bible that none of us wants to admit we relate to but if we're honest, we all do... A lot!

I, like most people, have certainly poked fun at how ridiculous many of the things Peter says and does in the in scripture are. Yet, the older I get, the more I feel a genuine appreciation for how clearly God allows us to see His grace and unchanging love toward us all in the life of Peter. There is a clear picture of the transformative work of God here on display for our encouragement!

Peter.

The guy who one moment has the courage to step out onto a lake and after walking on water with Jesus still begins to fear the waves and sink.

The guy who receives revelation from the Father and boldly in front of everyone proclaims that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah of God. Then moments later as Jesus makes known His fate to be arrested and die, Peter pulls the son of God aside and rebukes him! (Can you imagine having the guts to rebuke the guy you just acknowledged as the savior of the world?!)

Peter, who watches Jesus heal sick people, cast out demons, feed thousands with a couple fish and loaves, sees Him get transfigured before his eyes and have a chat with Moses & Elijah who have both been dead for hundreds of years... the day Jesus is arrested this guy

feels the need to pull a sword out and cut a mans ear off  
in defense of the Prince Of Peace!

And of course we all remember Peter as the guy who so  
confidently declared that even if everyone fall away and  
abandoned Jesus, he would never do so... then we hear  
that rooster crow three times...

Yet, this is also the guy to whom Jesus says in Matthew  
16:18 *“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will  
build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against  
it”*.

When I think about church history and some of the crazy  
things that have been done in Jesus’ name it makes so  
much sense to me that Peter was the one Jesus said this  
too. Who Peter was and who he was to become, I believe  
is a prophetic picture of Jesus’ church. I find tremendous  
encouragement in the fact that as we continue to follow  
Peter’s life through the scriptures we see in Acts 2 the  
man who denied Christ 3 times was also the first to  
preach the gospel of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection to  
a crowd resulting in thousands of new believers, the  
explosive beginnings of the Christian Church!

Take a half hour and read through the epistles 1st & 2nd  
Peter. As you do, keep in mind those early stories of Peter  
where we first met him in the gospels. You’ll begin to see  
a powerful testimony of a life transformed by Jesus. Then  
realize He’s doing the same great work in you and I.

Acts 4:13

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*