

## Daily Devotional, February 3, 2021 Transformed by the Word

***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)***

The Apostle, Peter is a most interesting character. He is an example of the truth Paul wrote about in [2 Corinthians 5:17](#). Peter was very human, yet at times he seemed to almost rise above his humanity. Like all of us, he had both positive and negative character traits. There is also a *before* and *after* side of Peter. The *before* side of Peter was often impulsive, rash, cowardly, self-seeking, reckless, opinionated, and inconsistent. At times he could also be unstable, aggressive, and full of pride. It is also quite evident that Peter had developed a foot-shaped mouth because he often put his own foot in it. His mouth would often race ahead out of the gates while his brain was still in neutral. As you look at those traits, does that look like anyone you know? We may recognize some of these same characteristics in our own lives.

After the resurrection of Jesus, we see a different Peter. He was a changed man. He was still aggressive, but for a different cause. He was an eager, and energetic follower of Christ. Because of what he had witnessed in his time of discipleship following Jesus, he became a confident, bold, and courageous leader of the future church who fearlessly preached to the crowd assembled in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost and due to his witness, three thousand were saved.

The old cowardly Peter, who three times denied Christ saying he did not know Him, became a brave, strong, selfless, and loyal proclaimer of the Christ he once denied. The old Peter who sometimes had a problem with submission, was now a submissive, humble, committed servant of Christ. Does that sound like anyone you know? Hopefully, we can see some of those positive characteristics of Peter as well, in our own lives.

It is amazing that Peter did not have a doctorate or even rabbinical training. [Acts 4:13](#) tells us the religious leaders were amazed at the boldness of Peter and John because they were “unschooled and ordinary men.” That does not mean they were thoughtless and stupid. It simply means they did not have formal schooling in the rabbinical traditions and teachings. The religious scholars marveled that Peter had such a grasp of the Scriptures. Peter had gained the education all Jewish boys received, but he had something else, something much more. He had been close with Jesus and studied continuously under the Master Teacher for three years. He also had the privilege to see God’s Word lived out before his very eyes!

It is amazing how spending time in the Word with Jesus changes *our* lives. Maybe you have not ever attended Bible college or seminary. You may never achieve the knowledge of a Peter or a Paul, but that is okay. God did not intend for you to be another Peter or Paul. God wants each of us to be who God created us to be; a transformed sinner living a committed life for Christ. It is never too late to become more knowledgeable in God’s Word. I urge you to take 15-20 minutes each day and dedicate that time to read scripture and to pray over it. Start with one book that interests you, maybe the Psalms, or one of the Gospels. Mark passages that speak to you or that you need to investigate more. Let God’s Holy Spirit direct you, and as you learn may your faith grow, and may you be emboldened to share your gained insight with others who need to know God as well. May this simple fisherman named Peter be your inspiration. *The new is here!*

***Prayer: Lord, please open my eyes to the truth of Your word. I pray for the motivation to approach Your Word with the desire of an open mind and open heart. I pray for wisdom as I prepare to read Your word, clarity in what I read, and discernment as I apply Your word to my heart. Let Your word change my thoughts and actions. I pray the truth I find here will transform my heart and mind to follow You more closely each day. Through the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit I pray, Amen.***