

Self Revelations
&
Lifting the Heart's Veil

The Story of Conversion



Peter's Story

Peter's Conversion Begins

Matthew 4:18-20

“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. ²⁰ And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.”

Looking to self

Matthew 16:21-24

“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. ²² Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. ²³ But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. ²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Looking to self

Mark 8:32

“And he spake that saying **openly**. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.”

Learning to look unto Jesus

John 13:4-8

“He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. ⁵ After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. ⁶ Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? ⁷ Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. ⁸ Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.”

Learning to look unto Jesus

Luke 22:61

“And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, . . .”

Learning to look unto Jesus

Mark 14:72b

“... And when he thought thereon, he wept.”

The Look of Jesus

Early Writings, pp. 169-70

Then the disciple remembered the words which Jesus had spoken to him in the upper chamber, and also his own zealous assertion, “Though all men shall be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended.” He had denied his Lord, even with cursing and swearing; but **that look of Jesus’ melted Peter’s heart and saved him**. He wept bitterly and **repented** of his great sin, and was **converted**, and then was prepared to strengthen his brethren.

“He understood himself”

The Youth's Instructor, June 5, 1902

When the crowing of the cock reminded him of the words of Christ, surprised and shocked at what he had just done, **he turned and looked at his Master**. At this moment, Christ looked upon Peter; and beneath that grieved look, in which **compassion and love were blended, Peter understood himself**. He went out, and wept bitterly.

“He understood himself”

Romans 2:4b

... knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Reversion

John 21:20, 21

“Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; . . . ²¹ Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?”

A Busy-body

“Busy-body”

allotriepískopos

=

one who looks upon others (in a meddling way)

The Danger of Looking to Others

The Desire of Ages, p. 816

How many today are like Peter! They are interested in the affairs of others, and anxious to know their duty, while they are in danger of neglecting their own. It is our work to look to Christ and follow Him. We shall see mistakes in the lives of others, and defects in their character. Humanity is encompassed with infirmity. But in Christ we shall find perfection. Beholding Him, we shall become transformed.

Another Reversion

Galatians 2:11, 12

“But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. ¹² For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.”

A Happy Ending

1 Peter 2:1-3

“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, ² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: ³ If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”

A Happy Ending

Acts of the Apostles, pp. 515-16

Christ had said to Peter, before his denial of Him, “When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” Luke 22:32. These words were significant of the wide and effectual work which this apostle was to do in the future for those who should come to the faith. For this work, Peter's own experience of sin and suffering and repentance had prepared him. Not until he had learned his weakness, could he know the believer's need of dependence on Christ. Amid the storm of temptation he had come to understand that man can walk safely only as in utter self-distrust he relies upon the Saviour.

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A Happy Ending

The Saviour's manner of dealing with Peter had a lesson for him and his brethren. Although Peter had denied his Lord, the love which Jesus bore him had never faltered. And as the apostle should take up the work of ministering the word to others, he was to meet the transgressor with patience, sympathy, and forgiving love. Remembering his own weakness and failure, he was to deal with the sheep and lambs committed to his care as tenderly as Christ had dealt with him.

Human beings, themselves given to evil, are prone to deal untenderly with the tempted and the erring. They cannot read the heart; they know not its struggle and its pain. Of the rebuke that is love, of the blow that wounds to heal, of the warning that speaks hope, they have need to learn.

A Happy Ending

Acts of the Apostles, pp. 537-38

Peter, as a Jew and a foreigner, was condemned to be scourged and crucified. In prospect of this fearful death, the apostle remembered his great sin in denying Jesus in the hour of His trial. Once so unready to acknowledge the cross, he now counted it a joy to yield up his life for the gospel, feeling only that, for him who had denied his Lord, to die in the same manner as his Master died was too great an honor. Peter had sincerely repented of that sin and had been forgiven by Christ, as is shown by the high commission given him to feed the sheep and lambs of the flock.

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A Happy Ending

But he could never forgive himself. Not even the thought of the agonies of the last terrible scene could lessen the bitterness of his sorrow and repentance. As a last favor he entreated his executioners that he might be nailed to the cross with his head downward. The request was granted, and in this manner died the great apostle Peter.

The End