**LESSON TEN**

**A Lesson on Self-Reliance**

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

1. Understand that we should have noble aspirations.

2. Realize that it is a grave mistake to boast of ourselves.

3. Choose to humbly ask the Lord to help us stand for Him at all times.

**Teaching Outline**

**1. Peter's Willing Boastfulness**

A. He would stand with Christ.

B. He would die with Christ.

**2. Peter's Wavering Boldness**

A. His departure

B. His decision

C. His denial

**3. Peter's Weeping Bitterness**

A. His remembrance

B. His remorse

**MATTHEW 26:31-35**

**31**Then Jesus \*said to them, “You will all [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+26%3A31-35&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24086a)]fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, ‘I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.’**32**But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” **33**But Peter said to Him, “*Even* though all may [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+26%3A31-35&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24088b)]fall away because of You, I will never fall away.” **34**Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you that this *very* night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” **35**Peter \*said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You.” All the disciples said the same thing too.

**MATTHEW 26:56-58**

**56**But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets.” Then all the disciples left Him and fled. **57**Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together. **58**But Peter was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, and sat down with the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+26%3A56-58&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24113a)]officers to see the outcome.

**MATTHEW 26:69-75**

**69**Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came to him and said, “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.” **70**But he denied *it* before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” **71**When he had gone out to the gateway, another *servant-girl* saw him and \*said to those who were there, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” **72**And again he denied *it* with an oath, “I do not know the man.” **73**A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Surely you too are *one* of them; for even the way you talk [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+26%3A69-75&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24128a)]gives you away.” **74**Then he began to curse and swear, “I do not know the man!” And immediately a rooster crowed. **75**And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, “Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

**MARK 14:27-31,**

**27**And Jesus \*said to them, “You will all [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A27-31&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24782a)]fall away, because it is written, ‘I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.’ **28**But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” **29**But Peter said to Him, “*Even* though all may [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A27-31&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24784b)]fall away, yet I will not.” **30**And Jesus \*said to him, “Truly I say to you, that [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A27-31&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24785c)]this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times.” **31**But *Peter* kept saying insistently, “*Even* if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all were saying the same thing also.

**MARK 14:50 -** And they all left Him and fled.

**MARK 14:54 -** Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A54&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24809a)]officers and warming himself at the [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A54&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24809b)]fire.

**MARK 14:66-72 - 66**As Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest \*came,**67**and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and \*said, “You also were with Jesus the Nazarene.” **68**But he denied *it*, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you are talking about.” And he went out onto the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A66-72&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24823a)]porch.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A66-72&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24823b)] **69**The servant-girl saw him, and began once more to say to the bystanders, “This is *one* of them!” **70**But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders were again saying to Peter, “Surely you are *one* of them, for you are a Galilean too.” **71**But he began to [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A66-72&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24826c)]curse and swear, “I do not know this man you are talking about!” **72**Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, “Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A66-72&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24827d)]And he began to weep.

**LUKE 22:31-34 - 31**“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=LUKE+22%3A31-34&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-25896a)]demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; **32**but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” **33**But he said to Him, “Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!” **34**And He said, “I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.”

**LUKE 22:54-62 - 54**Having arrested Him, they led Him *away* and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance. **55**After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them. **56**And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, “This man was with Him too.” **57**But he denied *it*, saying, “Woman, I do not know Him.” **58**A little later, another saw him and said, “You are *one* of them too!” But Peter said, “Man, I am not!”**59**After about an hour had passed, another man *began* to insist, saying, “Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too.” **60**But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. **61**The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, “Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.” **62**And he went out and wept bitterly.

**JOHN 13:36-38 - 36**Simon Peter \*said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.” **37**Peter \*said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You.” **38**Jesus \*answered, “Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

**JOHN 18:10-11 - 10**Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave’s name was Malchus. **11**So Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?”

**JOHN 18:15-18 - 15**Simon Peter was following Jesus, and *so was* another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, **16**but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in. **17**Then the slave-girl who kept the door \*said to Peter, “You are not also *one* of this man’s disciples, are you?” He \*said, “I am not.” **18**Now the slaves and the officers were standing *there*, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.

**JOHN 18:25-27 - 25**Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You are not also *one* of His disciples, are you?” He denied *it*, and said, “I am not.” **26**One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, \*said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” **27**Peter then denied *it* again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

**2 CORINTHIANS 10:12 - 12**For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+CORINTHIANS+10%3A12&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28984a)]some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

**LUKE 18:11 -** The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

**MARK 14:29 - 29**But Peter said to Him, “*Even* though all may [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A29&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24784a)]fall away, yet I will not.”

**EPHESIANS 6:13-14 - 13**Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **14**Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

**PROVERBS 27:1 -** Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

**JAMES 4:13-16 - 13**Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” **14**[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+4%3A13-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30352a)]Yet you do not know [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+4%3A13-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30352b)]what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. **15**[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+4%3A13-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30353c)]Instead, *you ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” **16**But as it is, you boast in your [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+4%3A13-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30354d)]arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

**MATTHEW 26:41 - 41**Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

**MARK14:50 -**And they all left Him and fled.

**MATTHEW 16:24 - 24**Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

**1 PETER 2:21 - 21**For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

**MATTHEW 26:58 - 58**But Peter was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, and sat down with the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+26%3A58&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24113a)]officers to see the outcome.

**JOHN 18:15-16 - 15**Simon Peter was following Jesus, and *so was* another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, **16**but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in.

 While we are often learning in this series from the things that Peter did wrong-and it is true that he did not stay close to Jesus during this event in his life-it is only fair to mention that he did make the right decision to follow, while others fled and continued to flee. Although he was too modest to refer to himself by name, John followed as well. When we make a decision that takes us out

of the company of Christ, we are often putting ourselves in the company of those who are not followers of Christ. The Bible tells us on many occasions how important it is that we surround ourselves with the right company.

**PROVERBS 1:10-19 - 10**My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. **11**If they say, “Come with us, Let us lie in wait for blood,

Let us ambush the innocent without cause; **12**Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, Even whole, as those who go down to the pit;

**13**We will find all *kinds* of precious wealth, We will fill our houses with spoil; **14**Throw in your lot [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+1%3A10-19&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-16415a)]with us, We shall all have one purse,” **15**My son, do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path, **16**For their feet run to evil And they hasten to shed blood. **17**Indeed, it is [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+1%3A10-19&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-16418b)]useless to spread the *baited* net In the sight of any [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+1%3A10-19&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-16418c)]bird; **18**But they lie in wait for their own blood;

They ambush their own lives. **19**So are the ways of everyone who gains by violence; It takes away the life of its possessors.

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:33 - 33**Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

**2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18 - 14**Do not be [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+CORINTHIANS+6%3A14-18&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28913a)]bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15**Or what harmony has Christ with [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+CORINTHIANS+6%3A14-18&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28914b)]Belial, or [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+CORINTHIANS+6%3A14-18&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28914c)]what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? **16**Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **17**“Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,” says the Lord. “And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. **18**“And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.

**GENESIS 13:12-13 - 12**Abram [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS+13%3A12-13&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-331a)]settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS+13%3A12-13&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-331b)]settled in the cities of the [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS+13%3A12-13&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-331c)]valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. **13**Now the men of Sodom were wicked [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS+13%3A12-13&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-332d)]exceedingly and sinners against the Lord.

**GENESIS 19:15-16, 24-25 - 15**When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS+19%3A15-16%2C+24-25&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-473a)]punishment of the city.” **16**But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS+19%3A15-16%2C+24-25&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-474b)]hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the Lord *was* upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.

**GENESIS 19:24-25 - 24**Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven, **25**and He overthrew those cities, and all the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS+19%3A24-25&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-483a)]valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

**MATTHEW 26:69-74 - 69**Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came to him and said, “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.” **70**But he denied *it* before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” **71**When he had gone out to the gateway, another *servant-girl* saw him and \*said to those who were there, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” **72**And again he denied *it* with an oath, “I do not know the man.” **73**A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Surely you too are *one* of them; for even the way you talk [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+26%3A69-74&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24128a)]gives you away.” **74**Then he began to curse and swear, “I do not know the man!” And immediately a rooster crowed.

**Acts 4:13 -**Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began* to recognize them [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+4%3A13&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27036a)]as having been with Jesus."

**EXODUS 34:28-30 - 28**So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EXODUS+34%3A28-30&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-2525a)]he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EXODUS+34%3A28-30&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-2525b)]Commandments. **29**It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony *were* in Moses’ hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him. **30**So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

**1 PETER3:15 - 15**but [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+PETER3%3A15&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30440a)]sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+PETER3%3A15&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30440b)]defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+PETER3%3A15&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30440c)]reverence;

**Matthew 26:75**And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, “Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

**MARK 14:72 -**Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, “Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+14%3A72&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24827a)]And he began to weep.

**LUKE 22:61 -** The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, “Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.”

**PSALM 119:104-105 -** From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. **105**Your word is a lamp to my feet

And a light to my path.

**PSALM 1:1-3 -** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+1%3A1-3&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-13941a)]path of sinners,

Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! **2**But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. **3**He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+1%3A1-3&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-13943b)]streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+1%3A1-3&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-13943c)]leaf does not wither; And [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+1%3A1-3&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-13943d)]in whatever he does, he prospers.

**JOSHUA 1:8 - 8**This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JOSHUA+1%3A8&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-5860a)]be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JOSHUA+1%3A8&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-5860b)]have success.

**ISAIAH 55:10-11 -** “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth

And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; **11**So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

**MATTHEW 6:24 - 24**“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+6%3A24&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23307a)]wealth.

**1 JOHN 2:15-17 - 15**Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16**For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **17**The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

**PSALM34:18 -** The Lord is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PsALM34%3A18&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-14407a)]crushed in spirit.

**PSALM 51:17 -** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise

**PSALM 147:3 -** He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+147%3A3&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-16355a)]wounds.

**1 JOHN 1:9 - 9**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**MEMORY VERSE**

He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm

PROVERBS 13:20

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Who accused Peter of being with Jesus? (2 servants and a bystander)

2. Finish this scripture The unfolding of Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gives light; it gives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_." (Psalm 119:130)

3. Give three biblical examples of redemption. (i.e. Jonah)

4. What was the progression of Lot's behavior that got him in so much trouble?

5. What are two things Peter did, that a believer should do also, when realizing distance between the Lord and believer?

6. What do you remember from your youth that made a difference in your adult life?

7. How does the world see that you've spent time with Jesus?

8. Would you be willing to give your life rather than deny Christ?