



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

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### **Peter's Confession and Denial!**

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 16; Luke 22; John 21

**Focus Verses:** Matthew 16:13-16 - <sup>13</sup>When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? <sup>14</sup>And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. <sup>15</sup>He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? <sup>16</sup>And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

**Truth About Covenant:** God's covenant is based on His faithfulness, not our faithlessness.

**Covenant Context:** Much like the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, God's people in the New Testament broke covenant with God. Even after all the miracles Simon Peter had witnessed, and even worked when Jesus sent him out, he broke covenant when he forsook Jesus and denied knowing Him. But the mercy of God still reached for him to repent so God could forgive and restore him. Mercy is still part of covenant relationship with Jesus.

In Matthew 16, Luke 22, and John 21, through the myriad of scenes we encounter, one truth is certain: Peter was in Jesus' presence. Even when Peter removed himself from Jesus' presence, Jesus found a way to invite Peter back into His presence. From these stories we glean that wherever Jesus is present, revelation, transformation, and empowerment are all possible.

Jesus asked His disciples about His identity (Matthew 16:15). Peter declared Jesus is the Christ (Matthew 16:16-17). Peter's faithlessness was shown when he abandoned Jesus in the garden and denied knowing Him three times (Luke 22:56-60). In just seventy-two hours, Peter underwent a profound transformation. Initially, he had been one of Jesus' most ardent supporters, ready to defend Him even to the death. However, the weight of recent events—Judas's betrayal, Jesus' trial, and the Crucifixion—shattered Peter's resolve. But when John and Peter received news that Jesus was risen from the grave, driven by a mix of urgency and disbelief, they raced to the tomb to see for themselves (John 20:5-8). Jesus' deep concern for Peter vividly symbolizes how God consistently seeks to transform us. However, Jesus empowered Peter to preach on the Day of Pentecost, igniting a flame of conviction in countless hearts, just as he himself had experienced.

Peter's life is a reminder that God does not require perfection. He is looking for our willingness to be available for His work. Throughout Peter's journey, although we see his many failures and missteps, he remained open to God's calling. This openness is crucial because when we demonstrate our reliability and commitment to God's purpose, He responds by expanding our abilities and influencing our capacity to serve.

The fundamental key to this transformation lies in our submission to the Holy Spirit. This process involves willingly allowing the Spirit to renew our minds. A mind transformed by the Holy Spirit is less likely to be deceived by misunderstandings or overwhelmed by past mistakes. Instead, we learn to embrace God's grace as a powerful resource to fulfill His divine will in our lives, and when necessary, the grace to forgive ourselves as He has forgiven us.

Spiritual transformation can take a life like Peter's—filled with mistakes—and make something powerful and useful out of it. Transformation is the progression of a covenantal relationship. A life in covenant is a life that is progressing and becoming more like Jesus Christ, moving beyond experience into the heights of what He offers—right relationship in the middle of the will of God.

Even if you have fallen in your walk with Jesus, take Jesus' hand and let Him help you stand again. Spend some time in repentance. If He asks you if you love Him, tell Him. You will find what Simon Peter found. You too will find His nail-scarred hand outstretched to give you the power and grace to get back up and keep following Him.