

To Live is Christ

21 For to me, to live is Christ.

Philippians 1:21 NKJV

FCI Faith Group Program

July 2, 2023

BOOK OF PETER

- Peter, whose name was Simon which means “the one who hears the Word of God”.
- Peter or *Petros* means a rock/stone, to be more accurate “a small pebble.”
- Simon Peter – one who hears the Word of God and became a spiritual stone.
- Peter was known for a lot of things and for his faults as being real. *Totoong tao lang si Peter*. And the Bible did not sugar coat him. The Bible showed his human flaws: Embarrassing ones.
- He represented a side of all of us – human flaws, frailty. And we can see how gracious the Lord Jesus responded to the weaknesses of Peter which we all have.
- When we learn to come to Jesus and depend on Him by trusting in Him, we are totally made new, regardless of our human frailty.
- God turns our mess into a message.
- God does not want us to depend on self-improvement, *babalik lang yan sa dati*. Instead, we are to totally depend on God who has made us new. In all your weaknesses, depend on God. Be open to God with them. *Magpakatotoo ka at matututo ka*.
- We are so sincere when making promises and yet we fail. So our total dependency should not be on ourselves but on God alone. *Dumepende ka kay Kristo Hesus*.
- Christian living is total dependence on Christ and not on ourselves to change.
- Be aware how God sees you, He has good opinion of you. Change your narrative based on His good opinion of you. Come from a godly perspective.
- Our old self is crucified and buried with Christ and God gave us a new heart and a new spirit. Behold, the old is gone, the new has come! *Bago ka na!*
- Stop saying your old narrative and start speaking God's good narrative of you.
- The new self is in union with Christ. *Ang buhay mo ay si Kristo na*. We move and live and have our being now in Christ.
- It would be foolish, *kahangalan na ang mabuhay* apart from Christ. *Yung hindi ka nagtitiwala kay Kristo, ngayon na bagong nilalang ka? Ay kahangalan!* Because that is what this new life is. It is life in Christ.
- Trust in Christ alone. The only way to succeed in this new life is to trust in Christ alone.
- In Christ alone we put our trust, and everything will be all right!
- Going back to Peter, he was a fisherman, a big man. He depended on himself. He was always corrected by Jesus.
- Jesus responded with grace to Peter's mistakes.
- **1 Peter 1:1** – Peter was assigned to the Jews who turned to Jesus (Proselytes).
- He was not merely an apostle, but he was the leader of the apostolic group. Peter was an important and influential man in the early church.
- Peter's name is mentioned in the gospels more than anyone except the name of Jesus. No one speaks in the gospels as often as Peter did, and Jesus spoke more to Peter than to any other individual.
- Some facts: Jesus rebuked Peter more than any other disciple. Lesson: Less talk, less mistakes. In the multitude of words, sin is not absent.
- Peter was the only disciple who dared to rebuke Jesus.
- Peter confessed Jesus more boldly and accurately than any other disciple.
- Peter denied Jesus more forcefully and publicly than any other disciple.

- Jesus praised Peter more than any other disciple.g
- Jesus addressed Peter as Jesus rebuked Satan.
- We can see Peter was a real person. And Peter was real with Jesus.
- We can be real with Jesus as well.
- Sometimes, we also rebuke the Lord. (Ex. “*Bakit ako, Lord?*” “*Lord, bakit ang tagal naman? Don't you care, Lord?*”)
- But we can see that even Peter’s grave mistakes were met with the grace of our Lord Jesus.
- Peter was the original Bryan Adams: “Oh, I would fight for you, yeah, I'd lie for you. Walk the wire for you, yeah, I'd die for you. You know it's true. Everything I do. I do it for you.” (Then the rooster crow, He denied Jesus thrice.)
- Lesson: *Wag ka ng mangako*. There is no scripture telling us to make promises to God.
- *Magfocus ka sa mga pangako ng Diyos na tapat at hindi nagbabago*.
- The Lord is the one who gives us His promises. Relish and enjoy the promises of God to you!
- **Matthew 14:24-33** – Peter stepped out of the boat during a raging storm and walked on the water with Jesus.
- So do not focus on the problems like what Peter did and he began to sink slowly. *Kay Jesus lang ang tingin natin*.
- Don’t you worry, immediately, when we call on the Lord, *Hindi ka Niya tatalikuran*. The Lord will immediately help you.
- *Kahit tayo ay may kahinaan*, the Lord does not turn His back on us but helps us.
- Peter saw Jesus transfigured in glory, together with Moses and Elijah (**Matthew 17:1-9**).
- And Peter said it is good to build a monument for them. Sabi ni Father God: Hear my son! They were afraid but look at the response of Jesus in **Matthew 17:3-7** – Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.””
- In our fears, *lagi tayong sinasalubong ng biyaya ng Diyos*.
- Even in your mistakes, never run away from our Lord Jesus. Instead, run towards Him.
- Because He is our good Shepherd. (**Psalm 23:1-6**; Read also in Tagalog version)
- Declare: “My Lord Jesus, is my good Shepherd.”
- *Hindi nagbabago ang ating mabuting Pastol*.

*Peter was not merely an apostle,
 but he was the leader of the apostolic group.
 Yet, he still made a lot of mistakes.
 He had his flaws and frailty,
 but Jesus responded graciously to his weaknesses.
 Even his grave mistakes were met by Jesus’ grace.
 This is why we are to trust in Christ alone.
 We do not depend on ourselves to change,
 we depend on the grace of God to change us.
 Let us not focus on our promises to God
 but on God’s faithful and unchanging promises to us.
 Because the Lord Jesus is our Good Shepherd.
 Siya ang ating Mabuting Pastol
 na kailanman ay hindi nagbabago.
 In Christ alone we put our trust,
 and everything will be all right!*