



# Peter – The Impetuous

Adapted from “12 Disciples” series by Dennis Marquardt.

When you think about the apostles you probably imagine great men of God who (in the power of the Holy Spirit) healed the sick, raised the dead, did other great miracles everywhere they went, and displayed unshakable and perfect faith. If you do, you aren't thinking about the real original 12 disciples whom Jesus called.

Jesus' disciples were very much like you me. You could even call them a motley crew. Studying them will help you appreciate the love God has in calling you to be one of His followers.

Believer's today have many of the same weaknesses these "giants of the faith" had, and also some of their strengths. The great preacher Charles Spurgeon once

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said, "I am sure He chose me before I was born, or else He never would have chosen me afterwards!"<sup>1</sup>

If you think that you have problems with doubts, or struggle with being obedient, you are in good company. Not only with Christians sitting around you right now, but also those who walked with Jesus in His own day. While Peter was quite impetuous, God saw potential in the man who would one day provide significant leadership in the early church. Weaknesses on your part do not disqualify you from being loved by God and used by Him. We have hope.

Peter is easy to understand. Like so many of us, we go from hot to cold in our walk with God. We are often afraid, yet God loves us deeply. Like with Peter, the Lord is patient and keeps working with us. In the end, Peter became a great disciple of Jesus, and so can you.

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<sup>1</sup> "Puritan Quotes," Wordpress, May 8, 2011, <https://puritanquoter.wordpress.com/tag/charles-spurgeon/page/2/> (accessed July 24, 2017).

## “COURAGE” Level Questions

**Exercise #1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

Matthew 14:26–31 (ESV) But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Matthew 17:1–4 (ESV) And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we

are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

John 6:66–69 (ESV) After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

John 21:7 (ESV) That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.

Luke 5:4–11 (ESV) And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other

boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Luke 22:55–62 (ESV) And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had

said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

**C1:** When you think about the apostles whom Jesus called, what kind of person comes to mind?

**C2:** If you lived back then, encountered Jesus, and heard Him call you to follow, how do you think you would have responded?

**C3:** Peter could be called *impetuous* (moving quickly without thought or care). What does that mean to you?

**C4:** After reading some of the above scriptures, what are some examples of Peter being *impetuous*?

**C5:** Have you ever been impetuous? If so, what were some factors that contributed to that behavior?

**Exercise #2:** In Peter's case, fear and confusion often caused him to react quickly without thinking. Discuss why this might not be a good way to live?

**C6:** Have you ever been inspired by a sermon or a move of the Holy Spirit and leapt into action, only to find yourself confused or embarrassed a few days later? What caused the confusion?

**C7:** Jesus kept Peter close to help discipline his impetuosity. Being quick to act without proper guidance can lead to mistakes. What sources of godly guidance do you have in your life?

**Exercise #3:** In the next 30 days, seek godly counsel on how to move forward in your walk with Christ without being *impetuous*.

## “STRENGTH” Level Questions

**Exercise #1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

Matthew 14:26–31 (ESV)

Matthew 17:1–4 (ESV)

John 6:66–69 (ESV)

John 21:7 (ESV)

Luke 5:4–11 (ESV)

Luke 22:55–62 (ESV)

**S1:** Thinking about the men Jesus called to be His disciples. How are you like or unlike them?

**S2:** How much courage do you think it took for Peter to jump out of the boat?

**Exercise #2:** On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being *very high* and 4 being *not very high*, rate how much courage you display in your spiritual life. Write out a plan to improve.

**Exercise #3:** Peter was impetuous at times, jumping in without thought. Discuss or write down the positives and negatives of being wired towards impetuosity.

**S3:** Even though Peter had some bad qualities, Jesus still chose him to lead. What does this speak to you about leadership?

**S4:** Peter was often led by his emotions. Fear and confusion being two of them. When have you let fear and/or confusion keep you from moving forward in your walk with Christ and other men?

**S5:** If you talked with another man about the life of Peter, which qualities about his life would you highlight? Why?

**S6:** If Jesus called you to step out of a boat into stormy seas, would you be like Peter or the other eleven disciples? (Be honest) Why?

**Exercise #4:** For the next 30 days reflect on the times when you have allowed fear or confusion to move you into making a decision. Write down how you might remember or understand the Lord's strength and guidance with you during those times?

## “ENDURANCE” Level Questions

**Exercise #1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

Matthew 14:26–31 (ESV)

Matthew 17:1–4 (ESV)

John 6:66–69 (ESV)

John 21:7 (ESV)

Luke 5:4–11 (ESV)

Luke 22:55–62 (ESV)

**E1:** After attending a men's conference, you may become impassioned to do the work Christ has called believers to. Often, wives or others say that the passion will not last. Why do you think that is the case?

**E2:** Peter, being impetuous, acted out of fear and/or confusion. How has fear or confusion affected your decisions in following Christ? Are those good or bad reasons to act?

**E3:** Jesus saw past the impetuous nature of Peter and kept him close to disciple him, using that nature to build him as a minister and leader. How have you stayed close to Jesus in the ways you live and the decisions you make?

**E4:** There were times in Peter's life that he was afraid. Are there times when you have felt afraid in doing what Christ is calling you to do?

**E5:** Peter led the charge on the day of Pentecost, after the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit. Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? If not, are you earnestly seeking Him?

**STOP RIGHT HERE. We've got to do something!**

**Exercise #2:** If you have not been baptized in the Holy Spirit, read Acts 1-2. Next, take a moment to pray and ask Jesus to baptize you in His Spirit like He did back then. You can ask other men to pray with you for this!

**E6:** Did you know that Ray Bradbury, who wrote an award-winning article about space exploration, was afraid to fly. Have you and I, knowing all we know about Jesus Christ, ever been afraid to step out in faith?

**E7:** How does the strength of being filled with the Holy Spirit help you not be impetuous in serving Christ?

**E8:** Jesus kept Peter close so he could disciple Peter to use his impetuous nature to further the Kingdom of God. Are you being disciplined, and are you discipling others? Why or why not?

**Exercise #3:** Discuss how you react to the following situations:

- You are in the grocery store and you feel the Holy Spirit leading you to pray for someone.

Your reaction:

- After a long day at work, you get home and finally relax on the couch when the phone rings and it's a neighbor who needs some help.

Your reaction:

- Your pastor calls and asks you to lead a group of men on a short mission's trip.

Your reaction:

- Jesus calls you to step out of your comfort zone and “walk on water” by doing something totally strange or out of character to you.

Your reaction:

**Exercise #4:** Over the next few months, practice listening to and following where the Holy Spirit is leading you regardless of how you may feel about it.