

ST. PETER

THE LESSON: 2 PETER 1

Simon Peter was once an ordinary fisherman. Then Jesus called him, and he answered the call. During the years of Jesus' ministry, St. Peter witnessed countless miracles and heard the scriptures explained – he was an “eyewitness of majesty” (2 Peter 1:16). Later on he himself would become instrumental in the building of the Church: preaching powerfully, healing the sick and even raising the dead. We remember St. Peter for his declaration of faith, which Jesus commended saying, “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). Tradition tells us that St. Peter was martyred in Rome by crucifixion, but that he asked to be crucified upside-down, because he did not feel worthy to be killed in the same way as Jesus.

But St. Peter's story was often one of big failings followed by gracious restorations. When Jesus was being tried and condemned, St. Peter denied ever having known him. In fact, he denied him three times, something Jesus had foretold would happen. But Jesus appeared to him after being raised from the dead and gave the saint the opportunity to reaffirm his devotion. Another time, when he saw Jesus walking on the water, St. Peter wanted to walk to him, but then became frightened, took his eyes off Jesus, and sank (Jesus rescued him). Christians throughout the ages have taken comfort from Peter's failings, knowing that if God could save and transform this error-prone fisherman, then there is hope for us too!

As a shepherd to believers, St. Peter understood in a very personal way how easily we can take our eyes off Jesus. He wanted to use every opportunity to build up the Church. The two epistles of St. Peter in the New Testament speak movingly of God's grace and encourage us to press on so that we may truly know him.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Begin your time of reflection by asking God to reveal to you any obstacle or pitfall that might be getting in the way of your relationship with him. Spend sometime quietly listening and examining yourself. If there are sins that you need to confess, take time to do that. Ask him to help you continue on the path of newness of life, showing you what he's already granted to you for “life and godliness”.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through the following collect.

O Almighty God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy Apostle Saint Peter many excellent gifts, and commandedst him earnestly to feed thy flock: Make, we beseech thee, all Bishops and Pastors diligently to preach thy holy Word, and the people obediently to follow the same, that they may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST. PETER, P. 283)

ST. PETER

2 PETER 1: **HOW TO KEEP FROM FALLING**

¹Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ: ²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so short-sighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practise these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

¹²Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. ¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

¹⁷For when he received honour and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”, ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.