

Peter: The Rock That Sank

by A.W. Tozer

Peter's life was marked by contradictions, but God worked to unify his nature and bring growth after Pentecost.

Scripture: Matthew 14:29, Matthew 16:18

Topics: "Spiritual Growth", "Faith and Doubt"

Description

A.W. Tozer explores the complex character of Peter, illustrating his contradictions of courage and cowardice, devotion and self-love. Peter's journey reflects the struggle between faith and fear, as he boldly declares his loyalty to Christ yet falters in moments of pressure. Tozer emphasizes that Peter's wavering nature serves as a reminder of the human condition, where faith can be strong one moment and weak the next. Ultimately, Peter's transformation required divine intervention to unify his conflicting nature, highlighting the ongoing process of spiritual growth even after significant experiences like Pentecost.

Transcript

Peter contained or has been accidentally associated with more contradictions than almost any other Bible character. He appeared to be a combination of courage and cowardice, reverence and disrespect, selfless devotion and dangerous self-love. Only Peter could solemnly swear that he would never desert Christ and then turn around and deny Him the first time he got in a tight place. Only Peter could fall at Jesus' feet and acknowledge his own sinfulness and then rebuke his Lord for suggesting something with which he did not agree. The two natures that strove within him made him say and do things that appeared to be in direct contradiction to each other--and all within a matter of hours.

Peter was a "rock," yet he wavered, and so, I suppose, managed to become the only wavering rock in history. And he surely was the only man in the world who had faith enough to walk on water but not enough faith to continue to do so when the wind blew.

For better or for worse, that was Peter, and it took God a long time to unify his nature so that the strife within him ceased. And he had to learn some things the hard way even after Pentecost.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/aw-tozer/peter-the-rock-that-sank/>

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