



2,000 years ago, out of fire and blood, arose the most diverse and dynamic family that the world has ever seen. Originally known as "The Way", this band of brothers and sisters discovered their true identity in their leader, Jesus of Nazareth. After his death and resurrection, their movement multiplied as they welcomed people of every nation and race. Amidst this explosion, men like Peter wrote letters to encourage other believers who faced hostility from all sides. Two millennia later, these letters continue to inspire Christians in every corner of the world. For 10 weeks (Aug 18-Oct 20) at The Story we'll explore the letter known as *1 Peter* to discover our true identity and purpose together.

Part 1 - August 18, 2024 - Christ Our Living Hope

- **1 Peter 1:1** - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ...

What do we know about Simon Peter's life before meeting Jesus? (see: Mark 1:16-18 and Mark 1:29-31)

- **Matthew 16:15-18** - "But what about you?" [Jesus] asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

What did the name "Simon" mean?

What did "Peter" mean?

Why do you think Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter?

- **John 18:15-18** - Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus... "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire (*ANTHRAKIA*) they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

What happened as Peter warmed himself by the "anthrakia" (charcoal fire)?

- **John 21:9** - When [Simon Peter and the other disciples] landed, they saw a fire of burning coals (*ANTHRAKIA*) there with fish on it, and some bread.

What was the significance of the charcoal fire that Jesus built? What was he communicating to Simon Peter by setting the scene this way?

- **John 21:15-19** - When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep..."

What was the *subtext* of this conversation that most English-speaking readers miss today?

What did it mean to Peter that Jesus would accept his imperfect love?

What does it mean to you that He will accept yours?

- 1 Peter 1:1-5 To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Based on these words that Simon Peter wrote, how was he transformed by Jesus?

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