

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**John 21:15-23**  
**Lesson #1**  
**Peter the person**  
**08/09/2020**

Am I called to walk by faith,  
through sight – or walk by  
sight through faith?

How can I know myself,  
accept myself, forget myself,  
and give myself?

What does it mean to  
take my water baptism  
seriously?



1

**We are called to walk by faith, through  
sight not by sight through faith.**

*2 Corinthians 4*

“<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart, but though **our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.** <sup>17</sup> For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> while **we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen;** for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

*2 Corinthians 5:7*

“for we **walk by faith, not by sight.**”

2

- Some people **walk by sight (through faith)**

They trust God (**faith**) to alter the “outer man”, what they see (circumstances, health, wealth, etc.) (**sight**).

- We are called to **walk by faith (through insight)**

We are enlightened to what we have “in Christ” – (through the “inner man”) and walk by it.

*Ephesians 1:18*

“I pray that **the eyes of your heart** may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of **His inheritance in the saints,**”

3

*Romans 12*

“<sup>1</sup> I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a **living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

**We are challenged to renew our mind  
not reform our circumstances.**

*2 Corinthians 5*

“<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; <sup>15</sup> and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. <sup>16</sup> Therefore from now on **we recognize no man according to the flesh;** even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man is in Christ, **he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.**” 4

“<sup>18</sup> Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; **we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.** <sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

**Accept yourself**  
(apply grace to yourself)

5

## Steps in spiritual development

### The Root

**Know yourself**  
(get in touch with your heart)

**Accept yourself**  
(apply grace to yourself)

**Shame**

**Insight  
& Faith**

### The Fruit

**Forget yourself**  
(remove defensive strategies)

**Give yourself**  
(be salt & light to the world)

6



## The nature of Jesus' suffering

Injustice  
- Legal

Scourging

Crucifixion

- Physical, psychological, and social torture.

**Shame for sin**

- Bearing the sin of the world.

**Isolation from God** - Hell.

"No man can bear this!"

7

Satan inspires reform

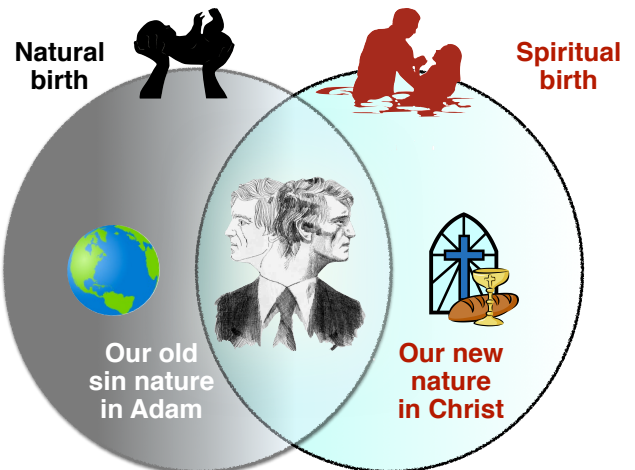
**Shame is God's tool before salvation and Satan's tool after.**

so long as it retains shame and bitterness.

8



We are to put off the old self **and** put on the new self



9

"Shame is the most powerful, master emotion. It's the fear that we're not good enough"

Brene Brown



10

**Take your water baptism seriously, because God will.**

- Water Baptism is like a **spiritual marriage ceremony**.
  - a sign of a covenant commitment and identity
  - a new relational domain and responsibility
- A new IDENTITY - **We are united with Christ**.
  - in his death we die to our self (old man)
  - in his resurrection we share his life (new man)

*Romans 6*

"<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been **baptized into His death**? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **so we too might walk in newness of life.**"

11



**A daily **QT** is a renewal of the rules of spiritual engagement.**

(Take control of how you listen to yourself and **how you talk to yourself**.)

*The ministry of the Spirit is to "lead us into all the truth" of the grace of God in Christ Jesus.*



*The ministry of Satan is to peddle shame and blame, distortion and destruction.*

12

"Three things I cannot change are the **past**, the **truth**, and **you**."

Anne Lamott



13

I am called to **leave** the past, **seek** the truth, and **love** you.



14

The Holy Spirit's ministry is not to **Draw** our attention but to **Direct** our attention.



John 15:26

15

**Take your water baptism seriously, because God will.**

- A new **PURPOSE** - **We are alien ambassadors.**
  - asked to do things & go places not as we would like
  - bear his cross (pain, shame, injustice)
- A new **EXPECTATION** - **Our hope is not in this life.**
  - this material body is not fit for heaven
  - our glory is that which awaited the crucified Christ

*1 Corinthians 15*

"<sup>49</sup>And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. <sup>50</sup>Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.** . . . <sup>53</sup>For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality."

16

**Agenda for a daily "Quiet Time" with God**

1. **Renew my mind.** Present my body as a living sacrifice to walk in my "new Man" in Christ.  
**Read Rom.12 and 2 Cor.5**
2. **Renew my plan.** Pledge myself to: learn something new, be thankful for something real, and give something to help others.



3. **Build my resources.**  
Pray for insight, wisdom, and courage.  
Read Scripture with a purpose or goal in mind.

17

# 1 Peter

## Operations Manual for Alien Ambassadors in a broken world

18

### Did Peter write this letter?

1 Peter 1

“**Peter**, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (modern day Turkey)” who are chosen.

- **Petrine authorship was not questioned until the late 18th cent.**
- **Pseudepigrapha was common in the 2nd cent.**  
-Acts of Peter, Gospel of Peter, Preaching of Peter, Apocalypse of Peter, Judgment of Peter.
- The **sophisticated use of Greek and the LXX** in 1 Peter is unlikely from a fisherman from Galilee.
- We are not certain but **assume that it represents the authentic message of Peter.**

19

### Peter's profile

- **Culturally** - Uneducated, Galilean fisherman
- **Temperamentally** - Impulsive / activist.
- **Positionally** - Recognized as one of the three closest to Jesus - **Peter** (son of John), **James & John** (sons of Zebedee) (Note Mk.3:17 “sons of thunder” - ambitious, insensitive, bombastic.)
- **Theologically** - Jewish – Initially resisted Paul's emphasis on Gentile inclusion in the church. Acts 10 (Note Matt.16:16 “Peter son of Jonah”) Like Jonah, Peter was zealous for God but reluctant to extend grace to Gentiles.

20

1 Corinthians 1

“<sup>10</sup> Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. <sup>11</sup> For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. <sup>12</sup> Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of **Cephas (Peter)**,” and “I of Christ.” <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

Emphasized Law

**Peter &  
Christ**

Emphasized Grace

**Paul &  
Apollos**

21

In Act 10 we read that Peter had a vision that would change his theology -

Acts 10

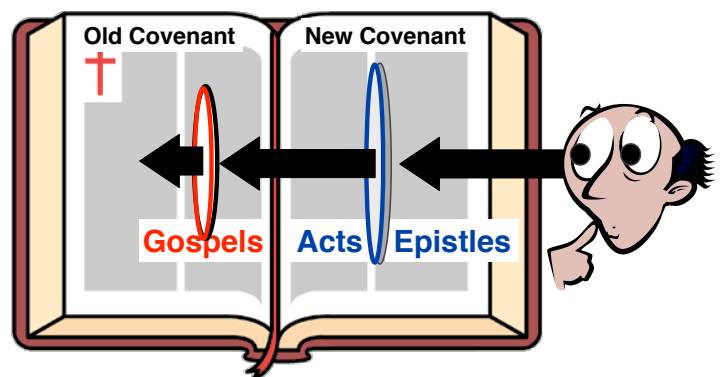
“<sup>13</sup> And a voice came to him, “Arise, Peter, kill and eat!” <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, “**By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.**” <sup>15</sup> And again a voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.” <sup>16</sup> And this happened three times; and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.”

- from O.C. to N.C.,  
from Law to Grace toward Gentiles.

“<sup>34</sup> And opening his mouth, Peter said: “**I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,** <sup>35</sup> but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.”

22

We interpret the Scriptures through lenses.



Peter's transformation was to accept the full implications of the N.C. (Acts 10).

23

### John 21

"15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Tend My lambs.**" 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Shepherd My sheep.**" 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**" 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself, and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will gird you, and **bring you where you do not wish to go.**" 19 Now this He said, signifying by **what kind of death he would glorify God.** And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "**Follow Me!**" "

24

"20 Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" 21 Peter therefore seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him, "**If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!**"

After receiving Peter's restored affirmation, Jesus asks him to go back and **face the fear that led to his three denials.**

- **Callings** to go where he would not choose.
- **Courage** to face suffering, even death.
- **Contentment** with not sharing the blessings of others.

**1 Peter is an inside look at Peter's response to Jesus' challenges.**

25