

# the Faithfulness of God in our Salvation

**LUKE 22:54-62**

## **HOW DID PETER GET HERE?**

Peter is the last guy we expect to fall.  
He's bold, loyal, outspoken, and deeply committed.  
Yet in the span of a few hours, he collapses spiritually.  
The question isn't "How could Peter do this?"  
The question is "How does this happen to any believer who stops abiding in Christ?"

**Peter didn't deny Jesus because he stopped loving Him.**

**He denied Jesus because he stopped abiding in Him.**

**Denial is the fruit; distance is the root.**

### **1. PETER'S DISTANCE — HE FOLLOWED FROM AFAR (V. 54-55)**

Before Peter denied Christ with his lips, he distanced himself with his life.

"Peter followed at a distance"— not just physically but spiritually.

Distance from Christ always come before defeat.

Abiding is replaced by self-confidence, comfort, and compromise.

Principle: Where you stand determines how you stand.

### **2. PETER'S DENIALS — HE FOLDED UNDER PRESSURE (V. 56-60)**

A heart no longer abiding in Christ cannot withstand the heat of the moment.

Denial #1 — Paranoia replaces character (v. 56-57)

Denial #2 — Pressure replaces conviction (v. 58-59)

Denial #3 — Protection replaces commitment (v. 60)

Principle: When we stop remaining in Christ, we start reacting like the culture.

### **3. PETER'S DESPAIR — HE FACED JESUS AND WEPT BITTERLY (V. 61-62)**

The look of Jesus breaks him, but it also begins to restore him.

Jesus' look is not condemnation but compassion.

Peter remembers the Word he ignored.

His bitter weeping is the doorway back to abiding.

Principle: Condemnation pushes us away from Christ; Conviction brings us back to Christ.

## **THIS ACT DOES NOT DEFINE PETER:**

Peter's failure didn't disqualify him—his repentance restored him.

Peter's story doesn't end in the courtyard.

Jesus restores him (John 21).

Peter preaches with power (Acts 2).

Peter writes about suffering with Christ (1 Peter).

The voice who denied Jesus becomes the voice who initiates and influences the church.

The man who denied Jesus will eventually die a martyr's death, faithful to the end.

## **WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

Do I feel that I have denied Jesus and I just feel stuck?

If so, what will I do? Will I look back at Jesus or look away?

Am I abiding in Jesus Christ?

If not, what will I do?

**JOHN 15:9-10**

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