

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

The Making of an Apostle - Part 2 A Life Shaped by Prayer

TIM PIESSE

Introduction

This week we look at the Apostle Peter's development as a man of prayer. In Matthew 14:22-30, Peter walked on water towards Jesus, showing his faith. Moments later, he was intimidated by the wind and waves, crying out to the Lord in fear. Jesus often withdrew to pray, and prayer is essential in shaping our lives, too. Peter learned to pray earnestly. If we want to learn how to pray, we need to pray in the storm. We may experience silence, disappointments, and setbacks; we will also develop discipline, experience wonder, and strengthen our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Read

Matthew 14:22-33, Matthew 11:28-30, Psalm 69:1-2

Discuss

1. Read Matthew 14:22-23. How does Jesus' habit of withdrawing to pray inspire your personal prayer life? What helps you connect with our Father?
2. Read Matthew 14:18-30. What does Peter's experience of walking on water teach us about faith and fear? Can you share a personal experience where fear caused you to doubt? How did you respond?
3. Describe a time when you felt like Peter, that is, when you stepped out in faith but then became overwhelmed by fear. How does recognizing 'I Am' as God's almighty name (Matthew 14:27) influence our understanding of God's power in our life? How might this change our perspective on our challenges?
4. Discuss Matthew 11:28-29. How does this passage speak to those who are weary and burdened? In what practical ways can we find rest in Jesus in our busy daily lives?

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5. What does Psalm 69:1-2 teach us about praying during times of distress?
6. What can we learn about God's presence and provision during the storms of life?
7. Have you ever experienced a miracle in your prayer life? Share this with the group.
8. How can we support each other in becoming more dedicated to prayer, especially in challenging times?

Respond

From Jesus' example, we see the impact, love and necessity of connecting with our Heavenly Father in prayer. Take a step of faith like Peter this week. Commit to setting aside daily time for prayer, focusing on trusting God in your challenges. Share your experiences with the group next week to encourage and hold each other accountable.