

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

The Making of an Apostle - Part 6

TIM PIESSE

Introduction

The Apostle Peter was a person of integrity. This developed throughout his journey of faith in simple, incremental steps. He chose courage over comfort, right over what was easy, and practice over profession. Peter's life was grounded in prayer and the teachings of Jesus. In prayer, he learnt that surrender to God is followed by submission to God. Let's look at three things God did repeatedly in Peter's life, and does in ours, that can lead to a life of integrity.

Read

Acts 10:9-48

Discuss

Disrupting the Status Quo

1. In Acts 10:11-16, Peter is confronted with a situation that is contradictory to long-held Jewish religious law regarding clean and unclean food. Read Leviticus 11:1-3, 46-47 (Jewish law regarding clean and unclean foods). How does Peter react to the Lord's command for him to break Jewish law? How does his reaction grow his integrity?
2. Read Matthew 9:10-17. Jesus mixed with those whom religious people of the time refused to associate. How do you react when the Lord brings people into your life that others look down upon? How does your response grow your integrity?

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Shaping Your Character

3. Peter was also challenged with another situation that was against the Jewish tradition of not associating with Gentiles (non-Jews). Read Exodus 12:48-49 (Jewish law regarding eating a Passover meal with Gentiles). How did Peter behave towards the Gentiles that the Lord sent to him? How did this situation shape Peter's character and integrity?
4. Read Micah 6:8. What characteristics did the Lord tell the prophet Micah He required of His people? Read Matthew 11:29. What are the key characteristics of Jesus? How has the Lord shaped your character? Have you experienced surrender by submission in a journey of faith?

Empowering Every Area of Your Life

5. In Acts 10:44-48, we again see Peter in an uncomfortable situation, entering the home of Cornelius, a Gentile. Despite his discomfort, Peter obeyed the Holy Spirit's leading. How were the Gentile's lives impacted by Peter's act of obedience? How did Peter demonstrate integrity in His response to the Holy Spirit coming upon the Gentiles?
6. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-10. The Apostle Paul encouraged his disciple Timothy to be empowered as a follower of Jesus. How did the Holy Spirit empower Timothy in his life and build his integrity? How might the Holy Spirit empower you to live with integrity in every aspect of your life?

Respond

"When you live with integrity, people start to trust you, and that changes everything. God loves you, but as God starts to trust you, it changes everything." — Pastor Tim Piesse

Step by step, Peter became a person of integrity by allowing God to make him the person he was created to be. By acting with integrity, Peter became someone people came to trust and, more importantly, someone God could trust. This changed everything! The world was never the same again after Peter brought the message of salvation to the Gentiles, even though it went against his Jewish traditions and beliefs.

Reflect on a time when you chose courage over comfort. Share how this developed integrity in your life. Pray together that we would grow as people of integrity. You can use the following as guidance:

- Holy Spirit Come.
- Not my will but Your will be done.
- God disrupt our status quo.