

Sermon Wesley Box Hill 14 Jun 2026

Peter was changed. You can be too. – Matthew 9: 35 -10: 8

Greetings once again in the precious name of our Lord Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is intriguing to see the change in Peter after the power of the Holy Spirit came upon him. He was a different person. Peter went from being a fisherman to become a fisher of men.

He went from being a coward to courageously proclaiming the gospel in power without fear of the consequences. There was such a change that rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law saw the courage of both Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, and they were astonished, noting that these men had been with Jesus.

Before Pentecost, Peter was very enthusiastic and committed but something was missing. Many Christians are like Peter. They listened to the teaching. Peter sat at the feet of Jesus himself but yet there was still something missing in his life. Peter was always out front in following and in speaking.

Peter tried to walk on water. In Matthew 14:28-31, Peter replied, “Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” Then in Matthew 16:21-23,

Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Then the biggest test of his life happened. Matthew 26:31 “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.

Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you. And all the other disciples said the same.”

Matthew 26:73 “After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then Peter began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the rooster crowed.

Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.”

After Jesus’ resurrection, Peter went fishing and there Jesus presented himself to them, still teaching them how to fish. In John 21:5 Jesus called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you caught any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.”

When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.” Jesus said to Peter, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”

Peter who was extremely committed and dedicated was still missing something. He has denied Jesus even though he said he would die for him and now here was Jesus reminding him once again that he would fish for men.

So, we have this great man Peter who really wanted to serve the Lord. Peter was dedicated and willing to literally step out of the boat to follow Jesus and willing to leave everything but was still missing something.

How many people have been with Jesus but are still missing his Spirit? They do and say all the right things, but because they have not been tested, they too may deny Jesus, just like Peter did when tested.

It is easy to follow when everything is running smoothly but what happens when things do not go as you planned?

How many have denied Jesus because they are angry with him?

How many have denied Jesus because they refuse to listen to his word?

How many have denied Jesus because they do not know the word of God?

How many have denied Jesus because they do not believe His power is available today?

But something amazing happened to Peter and this is what is missing in much of the church today. What Jesus had promised happened, the filling of the Holy Spirit that resulted in power and change.

We read in Acts 2 that “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” This was not a one-time event but the beginning of many events under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. What we see here is not new as the Old Testament showed us all about the power that would be available to all who believe.

In Acts 2:17 Peter in great boldness said, “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.”

The promise is that the Holy Spirit will be poured out on you and me! It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will come powerfully upon us and we too will be changed into different people just like Peter.

In today's gospel reading, we are called to be the body of Christ at work in this world for him. Let's think about the church today.

Ask the questions from the video clip by Casting Crowns "If we are the body" that we heard earlier this morning. The questions posed in this song are: if we are the body, why aren't his arms reaching? Why aren't his hands healing? Why aren't his words teaching? Why aren't his feet going? Why is his love not showing them there is a way?

This isn't just about being nice to people so they can come to church, this is about having our hearts changed. We must believe that the Holy Spirit will be poured out once again on us. When someone says God does not do that anymore, they are denying Jesus Christ.

So, what changed Peter? The power of the Holy Spirit came on him. Remember that this promise is for us too. Here is an example of how this changed Peter's ministry that displayed Jesus hands' healing after Pentecost.

Acts 3:1-10 tells us, one day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

All the people saw him walking and leaping and praising God. They recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. They were filled with wonder and astonishment at what had happened to him.

Power changes everything. I firmly believe that Jesus still heals today! During my own journey of faith, I myself have experienced Jesus' anointing by the Holy Spirit and the power of Jesus' healing hands.

On one occasion, Ted, one of the men from my church said he had to go home because he was experiencing yet another migraine. I prayed for him in the name of Jesus that he would be healed. He later gave testimony that he never had a migraine since. Jesus had healed him.

I have felt that the healing ministry and our invitational ministry are missing in parts of the church today. We are not seeing people's lives changed in the way that they should and that means that many are staying the same, and not experiencing this power.

We are now going to sing the hymn “Breathe on me breath of God”. Please remain standing at the end of the hymn, when I will pray for everyone, inviting the Holy Spirit to come.