

CONTINUALLY CHANGED | 2-14-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

When we were kids, we couldn't help but change. Our minds expanded, our bodies grew, our friendships developed, and our families changed with us through it all. How do we feel about change now? Do most people like change? Why/why not? Why is change sometimes seen as a bad thing? What are the benefits of change? Is it possible to mature as a Christian and stay the same?

CONTEXT

Peter was an unlikely saint. He was a brash, rough-neck fisherman who followed Jesus, led the other disciples, denied Christ three times, and became the Rock on which Christ built His church. How could someone with such cloudy judgment and a sporadic personality ever be the "Rock" of the church? At first glance, Peter would have qualified for the "Most UNlikely to Succeed" list, but he opened his life to allow the Holy Spirit to continually change him, and he became a leader worth following. How did that transformation happen in his life? One unlikely story shows us a glimpse into Peter's journey of being continually changed. Watch this: www.tinyurl.com/uspeter

READ: *Matthew 14:24-28*

If you were in the boat with the disciples soaked, cold, and terrified, what thoughts would have gone through your mind? Why would it be hard to believe the person they thought was a ghost was Jesus? If you were Peter, would you try to walk on the water? Why/why not? In this moment, what is Jesus awakening in the disciples? How is He building their faith, trust, and courage in Him? What is Jesus trying to awaken in you?

READ: *Matthew 14:29-30*

In these verses, Peter attempted the impossible. He took his next step toward Jesus. Did he fail? Why/why not? Why do we hesitate to take our next step toward Jesus? What holds us back from moving forward?

READ: *Matthew 14:31-33*

This almost seemed like an intentional test. Like Jesus created the storm and put His disciples right in the middle of it to see what they would do. Do you ever feel like Jesus does this in your life? What is He trying to teach you in these moments? In what two specific areas does Jesus want Peter to grow (*ans: faith & trust*)? In what specific areas does Jesus want you to grow? More than our successes and failures, why is verse 33 so important for us to focus on?

CHALLENGE

Identify two specific areas the Holy Spirit wants you to grow in your life. Ask someone to help you grow.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, it is only by Your power that I can be continually changed. I don't want to get stuck. Transform me!