

Conversation Starters

- If you or a close friend were to pick a name for you based on who you are, what would it be?

Discuss

When we think of people who are “rock solid” in their faith, there are many people in recent history (Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, etc.) and Biblical history that are likely to immediately come to mind. We often do not think of ourselves. However, many of those people had to start somewhere, and often started with a new identity. Take a look at where Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, started:

- ❖ *Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”). (John 1:42 NLT emphasis added)*

From what we learn about Simon, now known as Peter, in the Bible, he was not always rock solid in his faith, but Jesus saw Peter for all that he could become and called him to more than he was.

- What would Jesus rename you?

The Bible give many different names for those who choose to follow Him. Here are just a few examples:

- ❖ *See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us **his children**, and that is what we are! (1 John 3:1 NLT)*
- ❖ *And since we are his children, we are **his heirs**. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. (Romans 8:17 NLT)*
- ❖ *I am writing to God’s church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you **holy** by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. (1 Corinthians 1:2 NLT)*

Peter didn’t own his name immediately. He actually asked Jesus to leave him (see Luke 5:8) because he did not feel worthy. But Jesus persisted. Jesus does not call us because we are worthy, but because he chooses to look past who we are and see us for all that we can become. Sometimes we have to get out of our own way from having a robust relationship with God and just trust in him for transforming us into people that reflect our new identity in him.

- Do you think of yourself when you hear names/descriptions like these? Why or why not?
- Do you share the same reaction as Peter when you hear these names for you?
- Do you let your own thoughts about what it means to be a Christian get in the way of a rock solid faith rather than trusting Jesus?

Peter’s transformation went a step further when he finally trusted Jesus and accepted his leadership:

- ❖ *Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus. (Luke 5:10b-11 NLT)*

Jesus didn't just call us to change our identity, but our calling. A call to trust him and follow him, giving over leadership of our life to Jesus. And doing this requires every day surrender to that leadership.

- Have you committed to daily leadership of your life to Jesus?
- What steps have you or can you take today to reflect that decision?

Next Steps

Commit to taking one step of trusting Jesus to lead your life to having a more rock solid faith. Give it a try for the next 4 weeks and then reflect on the impact that it has on your life. Here are some examples to choose from:

- Spend 7 minutes per day reading the Bible and praying
- Discover your [spiritual gifts](#), and cultivate them through [serving](#) in the church
- Reach out to the least and the lost with [Missions 2.0](#)

Pray

God, you are more faithful than we sometimes realize or give you credit. Forgive us for our lack of trust and failure to follow you when you ask. Thank you for Jesus and the relentless pursuit of a relationship with us. Thank you for Peter and the example that his life can be for us. As we study his life and the work Jesus did to transform his life, we ask that you help us to trust you to do the same for us. Help us to trust you with your next step for us, and give us the strength to follow through in obedience.