

WORD

¹³When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

Acts 4:13,14

WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

Discipleship is about being with Jesus—having a real, growing relationship with Him. Before Peter met Jesus, he was an ordinary fisherman. But after being with Him for some years, Peter's life began to change in purpose and meaning. He was never the same and became one of Jesus' first apostles to advance His kingdom among the nations. What does Peter's example of following Christ tell us?

- **Following Christ gives us courage.**

When they saw the courage of Peter and John . . .

Acts 4:13

Peter had a major failure when he denied Jesus three times before the people (Matthew 26:69-75) out of fear. Yet Jesus restored him (John 21:15-17) and as a result, he became a courageous speaker who boldly proclaimed the gospel and who was not afraid to stand before crowds. When you started following Jesus, what fears were pacified in you? What things did you have courage to do now that you live for God?

- **Following Christ empowers us to do extraordinary things for God.**

⁶Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

Acts 3:6-8

Peter was not rich nor did he have any formal education on preaching God's Word. However, these limitations did not stop him from fulfilling God's purposes and plans in his life. On top of that, following Jesus enabled him to perform extraordinary things to serve the people during that time. What things have you done so far that you know you could not have done apart from God?

- **Following Christ allows us to experience everything we need for life and godliness.**

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:3

As Peter grew in his relationship with God, he experienced His goodness and provision and was even able to impart these to others through writing. In His Word, God promised that as we follow Christ wholeheartedly, we would enjoy His blessing, favor, and provision. How is this promise true in your life right now?

SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- Have you seriously considered being a follower of Christ? For what reason do you follow Him?
- What fears do you think you need to overcome? What does the Bible say about these fears?
- In what ways can you experience Jesus more today? What do you do to give time for these?

NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- How often do you read your Bible? When and where do you do this?
- Who in your church or group can stand with you in prayer for some things you may be fearful about?
- What practical ways can help you grow in your relationship with Jesus? Who are those you can help to start or grow in their walk with God?