

Resolved: Common People/Uncommon Courage

Peter

We all stumble in many ways. (James 3:2)

Peter: the courage to start over...

Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus...As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it saying, "I am not." One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with Him in the olive grove?" Again, Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow. (John 18:15, 25-27)

● **The pre-cursor to failure: underestimating our spiritual weakness** – "'You will all fall away,' Jesus told them...Peter declared, 'Even if all fall away, I will not.'...Peter insisted emphatically, 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.'" (Mark 14:27, 29, 31)

- **Love: in the moment of failure, God is still present** – "Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: 'Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly." (Luke 22:60b-62)

But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers. (Luke 22:32)

- **Courage: after the failure, you're still present** – "So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first." (John 20:3-4)
- **Grace: God's there to help you start again** – "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' (John 21:15)
- **Encouragement: God wants to use you again** – "Feed my lambs...Take care of my sheep...Feed my sheep." (John 21:15, 16, 17)

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:18-20)

With Jesus, we go from starting over to finishing well...

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Pet. 3:18)