

Four Portraits, One *Savior*



That you may
have *life*

Allowing Failure to Teach About Grace

John 13:8-11; 33, 36-38

1. Simon Peter had history with Jesus.

A. 15+ separate events that Jesus initiated with Peter.

- *Name change. John 1:42, Matt 16:18*
- *Walks on water. Matt 14:28*
- *“Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God.” Mat 16:16*
- *Individually “blessed.” Matt 16:17*
- *“Rock” upon which the church will be built. Mt 16:18*
- *Given the “keys” of the kingdom of heaven. Matt 16:19*
- *Chosen preacher - anointed preaching at Pentecost. Acts 2*

B. Jesus knows the end from the beginning. Isa 46:10

- *3 denials were coming.*
- *Yet Peter was still chosen!*



God takes the initiative. Everything given to Peter was God-revealed. It is the same for you and me.



- All four gospels describe what appears to be “spiritual pride” developing in Peter, reaching its apex just prior to Peter’s **stumble**.
- Matt 26:33-34; Mark 14:29-30. “Even though **all may fall away**... I will **never** fall away.”
- Luke 22:33. “... Lord, with you I am ready to go **both to prison and to death**.”
- John 13:37. “... I will **lay down my life** for you...”³⁸ **Will you, Simon?** ...
- **Can you relate to Peter? He thinks he knows better.**
 - Cross is not the way. Matt 16:22
 - The foot washing. Jn 13:9
 - Follow now. “Why can’t I come?” Jn 13:37
 - Cuts off the ear of Malchus. Jn 18:10



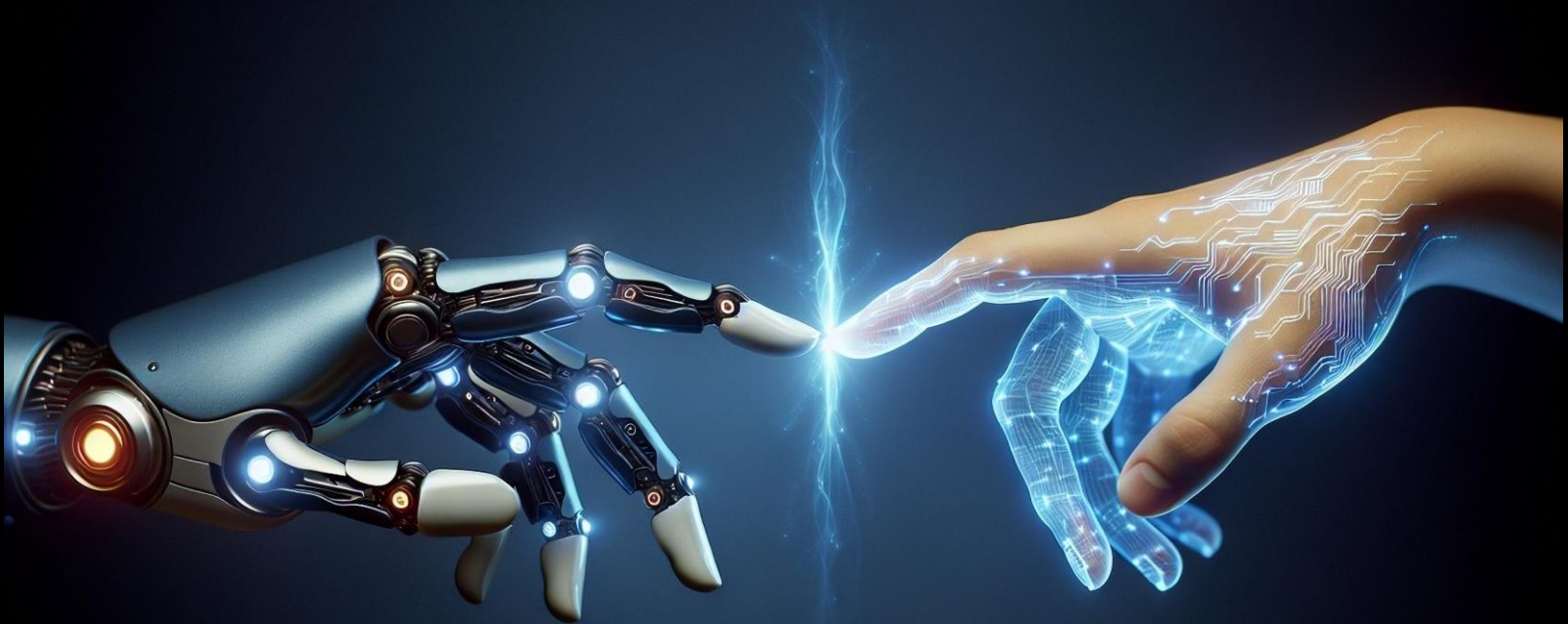
Pride of any kind finds self-worth independent of God, and often from the opinions of others.



- *Do you think “pride” can keep us from hearing God’s voice in our lives? Is that what Peter’s problem was?*
- *Jn. 5:44 "How can you believe, when you receive **glory from one another** and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?*
- *James 4:6 – "**God opposes the proud** but gives grace to the humble.”*
- ***What if Peter had used the antidote to pride? What if he had picked up the basin and began to wash the feet of Jesus instead of telling Jesus how to wash his feet?***



Is it possible that Pope Leo's first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas ("The Greatness of Humanity") is on to something relative to AI becoming the next Tower of Babel for humanity?



2. *Simon Peter lacked spiritual awareness.*

A. *Prior rebuke and warning.*

- *Matt. 16:21-23 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things... and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. ²² Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's." (NAU)*

B. *In 13:38 Before the rooster crows, you will deny me 3x.*

C. *Peter could not "connect the dots."*



*"Simon, Simon,
behold, Satan
has demanded
permission to
sift you like
wheat;" Luke
22:31*



- ***Ezek. 33:11*** "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord GOD, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. **Turn back, turn back from your evil ways!** ..."



3. *Grace revealed through failure.*

A. *Jesus' response to Simon's fall:*

1. *He gave him over to the choice He already knew Peter was going to make.*
 - *Jn. 13:38 Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times. (NAU)*
2. *Sovereignty of God vs free will – we are morally accountable, responsible for our choices.*
 - *Jesus spoke truth.*
 - *Simon rejected truth.*
 - *Simon experienced the consequence.*
 - *Jesus redeems Peter's fall.*



³² ***but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.***" (Lk. 22:31-32)



Calls to Action

- A. What have you stopped bringing to God bc you think you can handle it yourself? Spiritual awareness tells us to bring everything to God –do you need a restart here?*
- B. Have you had a recent disappointment in your life? In your work, home, or friend-life? **Don't struggle alone.** Through Jesus' prayer, Peter was able to overcome his failure, and get back to living for Christ again. Approach a fellow believer in Christ and ask them to join you in prayer. Do a restart here!*
- C. Are you blessed with too much success? Why not do what Peter did not do – “pick up the basin and wash someone's feet.” That is, use your success, your influence, to bless those around you who are less fortunate. Make generosity the means to keep your heart healthy and free of pride.*

