

### Freedom Writers Part 3: Peter

(Romans 15:4 NIV) For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

#### Peter

(Matthew 16:13-19 NLT) "When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.""

(1 Peter 1:1 NLT) This letter is from Peter (not Simon), an apostle of Jesus Christ.

(1 Peter 2:9-10 NLT) "For you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy.""

#### **Peter: Let God define and direct you.**

✓ **Image is what you portray in life.**

✓ **Identity is who you really are.**

(Luke 22:31-34 NLT) ""Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers." Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you." But Jesus said, "Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.""

## Defining My Life

### 1. Identify with God's Word.

*(1 Peter 2:10 NLT) "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."*

### 2. Imitate His character.

*(1 Peter 2:21 NLT) "For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps."*

### 3. Invest in your gifts.

*(1 Peter 4:10-11 NLT) "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen."*

### 4. Initiate God's will.

*(1 Peter 4:1-2 NLT) "So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God."*

*(2 Peter 1:3-5, 8 NLT) "By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life... He has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises... The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*