



**Overcoming Courage, Acts 2:22-24, 36**

## Overcoming Courage



Simone Biles facing the vault for the first time after 732 intense training days following the “twisties”

## Overcoming Courage

- **Matthew 26:31-35 NIV**, 31 Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written:” ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’32 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”
  - 33 Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” 34 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” 35 But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

## Overcoming Courage

- **Matthew 26:65-79 NIV**, 69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said. 70 But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said.
  - 71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” 72 He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!”
  - 73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.” 74 Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”
  - Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

## Overcoming Courage

- So much for Simon becoming Peter, a rock
  - How do you come back from this epic type of failure?
  - How do you get the courage to overcome whatever is going on in your life?
  - How do get going forward again?
  - Can even God change the course of my life?
- The resurrection is so much more than just a story
  - It is so much more than a salvation story or even an eternity story
  - It is a message about Overcoming Courage

## Scripture

- **Acts 2:22-24, 36** NIV, 22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 36 Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”



## Overcoming Courage

- How did Peter go from abject failure living out of fear of servant to stand before thousands declaring the glory of Jesus Christ?

## He has had a vision of the glorified Jesus burned into his spiritual heart

- He didn't think Jesus was alive, he didn't hope Jesus was alive, he didn't wish Jesus was alive
  - He knew without any doubt that his Savior lived
  - He had seen his Savior nailed to a Roman cross
  - He had heard His Savior's voice plead with God the Father to forgive these men because they didn't realize what they were doing
  - He had heard Jesus say, "It is finished" as He breathed His last
  - He had seen where they laid the body of Jesus in the borrowed tomb
  - He didn't run away from the others but grieved with them
  - He signs of rejection even if there weren't any present because he rejected himself



## **He has had a vision of the glorified Jesus burned into his spiritual heart**

- He didn't think Jesus was alive, he didn't hope Jesus was alive, he didn't wish Jesus was alive
  - He ran to the tomb on Sunday not knowing what to expect yet finding it empty but not knowing why
  - Then Peter saw the risen Jesus in the upper room, in a personal meeting alone, along the side of the sea
  - He looked at Mary and the other women differently
  - He begin to see himself differently, through the eyes of Jesus

## **He has had a vision of the glorified Jesus burned into his spiritual heart**

- He has seen Jesus alive, and it changed him forever allowing Simon to become Peter
  - He knew that Jesus had forgiven Him of every single insignificant sin
  - He knew Jesus had forgiven Him of even the very large sins
  - He knew he was accepted and loved by Jesus in spite of who he was
  - And this burned an image of the risen Savior into his spiritual heart and mind
  - No long can Simon be the same
  - He was now free to develop into the Peter Jesus saw in him
- Do you have you an image of the risen Jesus burned into your spiritual heart

## Peter began seeing clearly through the eyes of Jesus

- He began seeing the whole death, burial and resurrection of Jesus through the eyes of God
  - Before the crucifixion, he was more concerned over who would sit in the seats of power than the price Jesus would need to pay
  - You can hear Peter say,
    - “Before the Jesus’ death I saw Him as only a King or maybe a great warrior”
    - “Before I saw Jesus as the Messiah for the Jewish nation

## Peter began seeing clearly through the eyes of Jesus

- He began seeing the whole death, burial and resurrection of Jesus through the eyes of God
  - You can hear Peter say,
    - “I now see this was all God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge”
    - “I now see it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him”
    - “I now see Jesus is both Lord and Messiah”
      - ❖ Lord – absolute authority and power
      - ❖ Messiah – absolute supplier of all the requirements of God for me
  - **Vs. 23-24**, You put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

## **Peter began seeing clearly through the eyes of Jesus**

- Do you really know this today?
- Have you fully accepted Jesus as your Lord and Master, Messiah and King?
- Is this knowledge guiding your daily lives filling you with courage to face the next day

## Peter was filled with power and strength through the presence of the Holy Spirit in his life

- Once again, we find the people asking the Spiritual Leaders, “What does this mean?”
  - **Acts 2:12-13 NIV** Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”
  - **Acts 2:14 NIV**, 14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.
    - **MSG**, That’s when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: “Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight.”

## **Peter was filled with power and strength through the presence of the Holy Spirit in his life**

- What can explain the difference in Peter after only 50 days?
  - Did he have time to take a self-help course?
  - Did he do a Google search looking for YouTube videos detailing how to change?
  - Maybe he just sucked it up within his own strength to do better?
- Peter knew without and doubt his Savior lived
  - Peter knew the Advocate promised by Jesus had arrived
  - And he knew he no longer was concerned about pleasing himself but his Lord and Master Jesus



## Peter was filled with power and strength through the presence of the Holy Spirit in his life

- The Holy Spirit did not make or force this version of Peter here
  - But it can provide clarity, strength, and courage to step into the next step our Savior has in front of us
  - **Philippians 4:13 NIV**, I can do all this (*all things willed by God for me*) through him who gives me strength.

## Overcoming Courage

- **Acts 2:37 NIV**, When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”
  - **Acts 2:38 AMP**, 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent [change your old way of thinking, turn from your sinful ways, accept and follow Jesus as the Messiah] and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ because of the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - Result – **Acts 2:41 NIV**, 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.



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