

# The Crash of Confident Commitment

John 13:36-38

When Jesus spoke of his impending death and glorification (13:31-33), Peter jumped in and impulsively declared his allegiance and willingness to die for Jesus. When Jesus announced that Peter would deny Jesus, it was a chilling pronouncement, like getting hit in the face with a snowball. Peter's intentions and self-assessment vastly outstrip his strength. He also did not know the satanic power at work against him.

## ☐ Profile of an Impetuous Disciple

- **Peter had spiritual insight**

- Peter had a sense of his own sinfulness (Luke 5:8)
- Peter had insight into Jesus' identity (Matthew 16:13-16)
- Jesus had great plans for Peter (Matthew 16:17-19)
- When other disciples deserted Jesus and walked away, Peter recognized the truth of what Jesus taught (John 6:67-69)

- **Peter was impulsive**

- Peter resisted the idea of Jesus dying (Matthew 16:21-23)
- Peter wanted to walk on the water with Jesus, but took his eyes off Jesus (Matthew 14:28-31)
- Peter blurted out a preposterous suggestion during Jesus' transfiguration (Matthew 17:4)

- **Peter was committed to Jesus**

- Peter declared his devotion to die for Jesus (John 13:36-37)
- Peter declared his love for Jesus (John 21:17)

- **Peter's pride led to his defeat** (Proverbs 16:18)
  - Peter was unaware of the spiritual battle raging around him (Luke 22:31)
  - Peter resisted Jesus washing his feet (John 13:8)
  - Peter tried to defend Jesus (John 18:10-11)
  - Peter denied Jesus three times (John 18:15-18, 25-27)
  - Peter was heartbroken after his failure (Mark 14:72)
  - Peter gave up and went back to his old life (John 21:3)
  
- **Peter was transformed by Jesus' love**
  - Jesus prayed for Peter (Luke 22:32)
  - Jesus restored Peter (John 21:15-19)
  - Peter became the leader of the early church (Acts 1-12; 1 & 2 Peter)

#### ☐ **Principles to Practice**

Good intentions are not enough

Failure is not fatal

God's power can work through our weaknesses (2 Corinthians 4:7)