

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is for all who believe (Eph. 1:18-19). The power of the resurrection not only makes forgiveness of sin possible, it also enables us to break the habit of sin.

Having put off the old man and put on the new, we have a new mind. No longer do we have the mind of Satan. Now we have the mind of Christ. With this change, we said we were through with Satan and we now turn to God. That's an anchor that is set. No small print. No excuses. It's a mind that we continually renew. When we find ourselves away from it, we go back to our anchor.

Having the mind of Christ, the pursuit of sin is no longer appealing. Now our whole heart, soul, and mind is set on pleasing God always in all things. The mind of Christ, His character, His disposition, His teaching, and His nature becomes ours. So, it is no longer my will, but His will that is done in my life.

Satan, sin, and selfishness have been defeated. That's not to suggest we will never sin again, but it does say when we do sin, we are reminded of what we said when we put off the old man and put on the new. Our character is being transformed to be like His. We empty ourselves of our will and put on His will. His will enables us to defeat the practice of sin.

Superman? No. Kryptonite? No. Transformed into the image of Christ? Yes. Transformed into His image-- now able to break the habit and practice of sin? Yes. "Here in the power of Christ we will stand!"

Rickie Jenkins; Campbell Road church of Christ (Facebook Page)

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Study / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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Bold Statements of the Bible

Peter's Belief

The Bible is filled with accounts of normal people doing and saying extraordinary things. We can look to these people and their actions to build our faith and gain strength in the present age knowing they are just like us. Our third installment of "Bold Statements of the Bible" brings us to Peter's example of belief. In John 6.68-69, Peter says, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Before we get into what Peter said, let us first turn our attention to what is said in verse 60, "Many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, 'This is a hard saying; who can understand it?'" This statement is in response to a couple of different statements made by Jesus earlier in the chapter. In verse 51 Jesus says, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." Also, in verse 56 Jesus says, "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him." On the surface these are difficult statements, but they are not to be taken literally, but figuratively. What Jesus means is to abide in His teaching. Jesus is the "bread of life" in that He provides the spiritual sustenance all mankind needs. To obtain this bread, it requires us to believe for the right reasons and motives.

After Jesus said these things, many turned away and left. Why was this difficult to understand then, and now? Because people don't want to do what is necessary for proper belief. They are following from the wrong motivation. They like the easy parts of Jesus teaching, but not the things that challenge us as individuals. Read through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and you will find that kingdom citizens are called to live by a higher standard. Disciples of Christ are called to live in a manner that goes against human nature. Discipleship is something we must work at; it doesn't come naturally. Jesus requires of his followers, self-denial, humility, and servitude. Things that are difficult but not impossible.

In the second part of Peter's statement, he says in response to Jesus, "you are the Holy One of God" (v. 69, ESV). Peter acknowledges Jesus was sent by God. Earlier in John chapter 6 the people wanted to see a sign to prove that Jesus was sent by God. They thought their leader Moses was the one who provided the manna in the wilderness and wanted to see a similar sign from Jesus. But Jesus corrected them, it was God who sent the manna, just as it was God who sent Jesus. Jesus further proves His superiority to Moses. Those who ate the bread in the wilderness sent by God died. But those who partake of the living bread given by Jesus will never die. Jesus is greater than the physical bread. Peter recognizes Jesus was sent by God when others didn't. It was always and will always be God who provides for His creation. God always gives in the best way, we need to recognize all blessings come from Him, especially the gift of Jesus.

Peter's belief is shown in the first part of his reply to Jesus. After Jesus had finished speaking, the text tells us that "many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him" (v. 66). So, Jesus turns to the twelve apostles, His most loyal followers and asks, "Do you want to go away as well?" (v. 67). That's when Peter replies, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (v. 68). What a bold statement in a moment of heartache. It must have been difficult for Jesus to see so many turn away and now longer follow Him. Just like it must be difficult to see so many reject and turn away from Him today.

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But Peter's response shows His belief that his only hope for life was in Jesus, he wasn't going to find it anywhere else. We should start each day envisioning Jesus asking us the same question, "Do you want to go away as well?" and our belief should make us respond as Peter did, "Where else would I go?" Like in this passage many have turned away and are no longer following Jesus, so we must make the choice are we going to be like them, or are we going to stand with Jesus knowing He is the only way to inherit eternal life?

Written by; Derek Steen

Superman

When I was a kid, I loved watching Superman. "Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound!" "Up in the sky – Look! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Superman!"

Superman! A being no larger than an ordinary man but possessed of powers and abilities never before realized on earth. Able to leap into the air an eighth of a mile in a single jump, tremendous weights, and bend solid steel in his bare hands as though it was paper. Superman! Strange visitor from a distant planet. Champion of the oppressed! Physical marvel extraordinaire, who has sworn his existence on Earth to helping those in need.

Yet, with all his superhuman powers, there was still one weakness that could make him less than superman. It was kryptonite. To escape it he would have to accelerate to light-speed to prevent being exposed.

Consider, no matter how strong or powerful we may be, we too have one danger. Our kryptonite is sin. We are not strong enough to stand up to Satan and sin, but there is one who is stronger and mightier than Superman. He can and has defeated Satan. He has provided the strength for us to stand up to the devil (Eph. 6:10-19). He has empowered us to withstand the fiery darts of Satan. That one is Jesus Christ.

We cannot stand with our own power. We are weak. We stand with His power. "Finally, my brethren be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Eph. 2:10).