

**Peter loved the Lord Jesus very much, but why did he deny the Lord three times?**

**→Need fresher and higher revelations to follow the Lord, Otherwise we will deny the Lord to some extent**

**In church life, we need to have fresh leading of the Lord, have an intimate relationship with the Lord, have fellowship with the saints, abide in the teachings and fellowship of the Lord 's servants. We avoid being alone and independent, and exercise diligently to have spiritual companions and small/large teams to pursue the Lord and serve the saints. It is also necessary for the church to have sweet fellowship with neighboring churches.**

## **Peter loved the Lord Jesus very much, and was not afraid to die with the Lord.**

**Matt 4:18** While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called **Peter**) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

**Matt 4:19** And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

**Matt 4:20** **Immediately they left their nets and followed him.**

**John 6:68** Simon **Peter** answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,

**Matt 19:27** Then **Peter** said in reply, “**See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?**”

**Matt 26:33** **Peter** answered him, “**Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.**”

**Luke 22:33** **Peter** said to him, “**Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.**”

**John 18:3** So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

**John 18:10** Then Simon **Peter**, having a sword, **drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (This is the proof of Luke 22:33)**

**Matt 26:58** And **Peter** was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end.

## Jesus loved Peter very much

**John 1:42** He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. **You shall be called Cephas**” (which means Peter).

**Mark 3:14** And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach

**Mark 3:16** He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter);

**Mark 5:36** But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”

**Mark 5:37** And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.

**Mark 9:2** And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,

**Mark 14:32** And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”

**Mark 14:33** And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled.

**Mark 16:7** But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

# Peter (we too) received some revelations

- Luke 5:8** But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”
- Matt 14:28** And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”
- Matt 14:29** He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.
- Matt 16:16** Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- Matt 16:18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- Matt 16:21** From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.
- Matt 16:22** And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.”
- Matt 16:23** But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

# Peter (we too) received some revelations

**Matt 17:4** And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

**Matt 17:5** He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”

**Matt 17:24** When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, “Does your teacher not pay the tax?”

**Matt 17:25** He said, “Yes.” And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?”

# Peter denied the Lord three times

(We may do so every day.)

**John 18:15** Simon **Peter followed Jesus**, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest,

**John 18:16** but **Peter** stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought **Peter** in.

**Luke 22:55** And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, **Peter** sat down among them.

**Luke 22:56** Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him."

**Luke 22:57** But **he denied it**, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

**Luke 22:58** And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But **Peter** said, "Man, I am not."

**Luke 22:59** And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean."

**Luke 22:60** But **Peter** said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

**Luke 22:61** And the **Lord turned and looked at Peter**. And **Peter** remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

**Luke 22:62** And **he went out and wept bitterly**.

# Why did Peter love the Lord and have some revelation? Yet why did He deny the Lord three times? **The revelation that he received was not that high, renewed or accurate.**

**Acts 1:3** He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

**Acts** So when they had come together, **they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”**

**Matt 20:20** Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. **And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.”**

**Matt 20:21** And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, **“Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.”**

**Matt 20:22** Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.”

**Matt 20:23** He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

**Matt 20:24** And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.

**Peter's three denials of the Lord were mainly caused by his not so accurate expectation that Jesus would restore the kingdom of Israel during His first coming (Acts 1:6) (actually this would happen during the Lord's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming). Peter saw that the Lord was arrested and insulted and said nothing. Peter believed that Jesus would die (He did not know that the Lord would be resurrected) and that his following of the Lord was a mistake. Therefore, he was disappointed. All the disciples thought and desired that the kingdom of Israel would be restored at that time and that they could be important officers in the kingdom (Matt 20:21, 24; but not the main reason).**

# After Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to the disciples twice, the disciples, including Peter, were still weak.

**John 21:2** Simon **Peter**, Thomas, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together.

**John 21:3** Simon **Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.”** They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

**John 21:4** Just as day was breaking, **Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.**

**John 21:5** Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.”

**John 21:6** He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.

**John 21:7** That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to **Peter**, “It is the Lord!” When Simon **Peter** heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and **threw himself into the sea.**

**John 21:8** The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

**John 21:9** When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.

**John 21:12** Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord.

**John 21:13** Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.

**John 21:14** **This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.**



**After Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to the disciples twice, the disciples, including Peter, were still weak.**

### **How about us?**

**Acts 1:3** He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

**Acts 1:6** So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

**Acts 1:7** He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

**Acts 1:8** **But you will receive power** (Greek word: *dunamis*; power of God; explosive power) **when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

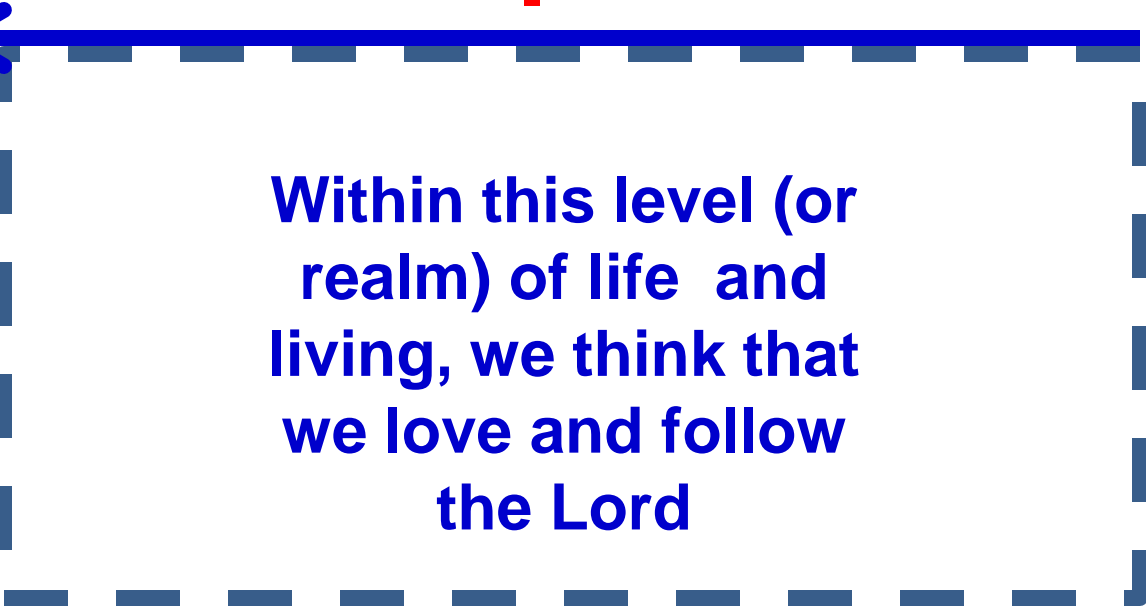
**Acts 1:9** And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

**Since the Holy Spirit had not yet come to the disciples, they did not have the power, and they had not received the revelation that the Lord desired them to be His witnesses (Greek word: *martus*, martyrs) in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. The revelation that the Lord has given us, and the main direction of the church life, is also to be His witnesses everywhere and throughout the land.**

**In the church life, we should yearn for the Lord, come close to Him, and pursue and follow Him in order to receive a higher level of life that we can see and live out.**

**Otherwise we are unconsciously weak, to walk away from and to deny the Lord in our living.**

**The revelation  
and seeing level  
or realm in our  
life and living of  
Christ**



**Within this level (or  
realm) of life and  
living, we think that  
we love and follow  
the Lord**

**How does the Holy Spirit come to the disciples (us) effectively?**

**Example: the church corporate prayers: the gathering of prayers for the advancement of the church or the body of Christ**

**Acts 1:12** Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

**Acts 1:13** And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, **Peter** and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

**Acts 1:14** **All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer**, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

**Acts 1:15a** In those days **Peter** stood up among the brothers (**the company of persons was in all about 120**)

**Acts 2:1** **When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.**

**An important exercise in a healthy church life is the saints' constant offering of prayers, praises, and thanksgivings to the Lord in one accord, not only privately but also in public gatherings. Examples: during the breaking bread meetings the saints practice offering of praises and thanksgivings to the Lord or in other gatherings. The corporate prayer for the church or the body of Christ is to enable the Holy Spirit to come to the disciples (us).**

# The Holy Spirit came to the disciples (**us**) to produce great results. Thus we need to exercise our spirit.

**Acts 2:1** When the day of Pentecost arrived, **they were all together in one place.**

**Acts 2:2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and **it filled the entire house where they were sitting.**

**Acts 2:3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

**Acts 2:4** And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and **began to speak** in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

**Acts 2:11b** **speaks the mighty works of God.**

**A healthy church life must also cherish the church's various gatherings (currently the church has prayers and fellowship using Skype at different times everyday from Sunday to Saturday). Because of the prayers in one accord, the mutual support and care for one another, and the knowledge of the timely leading of the Lord, the saints who exercise in such a way will experience the filling of the Holy Spirit.**

**The filling of the Holy Spirit will bring in various gifts that God desires to give to the church. What is mentioned in Acts 2:4 is the gift of speaking in tongues about God's great works (the church does not currently pursue this gift). **There is also the gift of the Lord's word for ministry** (see the next page) which is very crucial.**

**Acts 2:14** But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

**Act 3:12** And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? . .

These verses indicate that the filling of the Holy Spirit would bring in the gift of God's words to the saints. Peter did not quote any Old Testament passages in the four Gospels. He denied the Lord three times when the Lord Jesus was about to be crucified (~50 days earlier). After the Lord's resurrection, He took the disciples to go fishing. After His resurrection, the Lord became a life-giving spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b) and entered into the spirit of the believers. **The Holy Spirit filled the saints because of their constant corporate prayers in one accord.** Peter, a good example, seemed to have suddenly received a lot of words of revelation (~20 Old Testament verses), and he was also fearless.

Thus, on Sunday mornings, during the bread breaking meeting or other gatherings, the saints can exercise to offer praises and thanksgivings to the Lord. The corporate prayer of the church or the body of Christ is to enable the Holy Spirit to come to the disciples (us) and to give us higher revelations and the power (dunamis) to walk a narrow path (Matt 7:14) to follow the Lord. Then it will not be easy for us to unconsciously deny the Lord, like Peter and many times ourselves.

**Longing for the fresh leading of the Lord in the church life.  
Generate an operation with a burden from the Lord.**

**Do not dwell in the past or even in one previous operation  
that God may have blessed.  
Do not remain in routine.**

**Not limited to only one city that God is blessing, but rather  
with the view of the building up of the body of Christ  
(the churches in many cities)**

## **Example of Philip: having the fresh leading of the Lord**

**Acts 8:5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.**

**Acts 8:6** And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did.

**Acts 8:7** For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.

**Acts 8:8 So there was much joy in that city.**

**Acts 8:14** Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,

**Acts 8:25** Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, **preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.**

**Acts 8:26** **Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place.**

**Acts 8:27** **And he rose and went.** And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

**Acts 8:28** and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

**Acts 8:29** **And the Spirit said to Philip,** “Go over and join this chariot.”

**Acts 8:30a** **So Philip went to the eunuch. . .**

**Philip evangelized the city of Samaria, and Acts 8:7,8 indicates that that city was very blessed. Peter and John also came to help. But Philip still heard and followed the fresh leading of the Lord and left the city of Samaria, and went to the wilderness to preach the gospel to a eunuch. (Mat 18:12 "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?"**

## **Examples of Barnabas and Paul (Saul) and the Antioch Church: not limited to the blessings of one city**

**Acts 11:24** for he (Barnabas) was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And **a great many people were added to the Lord.**

**Acts 11:25** So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,

**Acts 11:26** and **when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.**

**Acts 11:27** Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

**Acts 11:28** And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

**Acts 11:29** So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.

**Acts 11:30** And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

**Acts 12:25** And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

**Acts 13:1** Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**Acts 13:2** **While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."**

**Acts 13:3** Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

**Acts 13:4** So, **being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.**

**Barnabas was a brother who was full of the Holy Spirit and had great faith. Therefore, the church in Antioch was very blessed, and many people believed the Lord. But Barnabas went to Tarsus to search for Paul (Saul) and found him. Then they labored together in the church in Antioch, and taught many people. The church in Antioch, led by the Holy Spirit, also gave money to the saints in Jerusalem. Also the Holy Spirit sent Barnabas and Paul on their first journey of evangelism. It also means that the church of Antioch is not only for the gospel of that city alone, but for the building up of many churches (the body of Christ).**



## **Paul, Silas and Timothy's example: having a fresh leading of the Lord**

**Acts 16:4** As they (**Paul, Silas, Timothy**) went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem.

**Acts 16:5** **So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.**

**Acts 16:6** And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been **forbidden by the Holy Spirit** to speak the word in Asia.

**Acts 16:7** And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but **the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.**

**Acts 16:8** So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

**Acts 16:9** And **a vision appeared to Paul in the night:** a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

**Acts 16:10** And **when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.**

**Paul, Silas, and Timothy evangelized the cities of Asia and enjoyed a great blessing from God, the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily. But these brothers still obeyed and followed the fresh leading of the Spirit. After several brothers had fellowshiped, they left Asia and took a ship to Europe to preach the gospel. Acts 16:24 tells us that Paul and Silas were kept in a prison in Philippi. But we learn from the Book of Philippians that the saints in Philippi had a very healthy church life and presented financial offerings to Paul and his co-workers.**