

## **Growing Together Discussion Questions from Sunday's Sermon** *(For Personal Study, Review, Meditation and Mid-Week Group Discussion)*

May 5, 2013

- I. **Getting to know you ~ Questions for Group Discussion:**
- a. Were you ever given a nickname as a kid? Are you still called by that name?
  - b. Have you ever assigned a nickname to someone else? Who? What was the name? What was the reason for the new appellation?
  - c. Growing up, what virtue did you see in your parents that you hoped to emulate?
- II. **Getting into the Bible ~ Points from Sunday's Message:**
- a. Some Points from Sunday's Message:
    - i. When Jesus met Simon, He renamed him Peter. (John 1:42) The name Peter means "rock." Peter wasn't very rock-like when he met Jesus.
      1. Peter walked on water...then he needed to be rescued from drowning.
      2. Peter proclaimed Jesus as the "Son of the living God"... then he began to tell Jesus what was and wasn't going to happen.
      3. Peter refused to have Jesus wash his feet... then he requested a whole bath.
      4. Peter pledged his undying loyalty to Jesus twice over... then he denied even knowing him that very same day.
      5. After Jesus' resurrection, Peter returns to fishing... then is the first to jump-ship to get back to be with Jesus.
      6. Peter fellowships with Gentile Christians... then draws back when Jewish peers show up. He is rebuked by the Apostle Paul for this hypocrisy.
    - ii. Jesus calls Simon a rock (Peter) because Jesus sees what he will be – not what he immediately is, but what he will be developed into. Jesus will turn impatient, impetuous and vacillating Simon into a "strong, firm and steadfast" Peter.
      1. ***And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the***

*power for ever and ever. Amen.* 1 Peter 5:10

**2. *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*** 2 Peter 3:18

### III. **Getting into Life:**

- a. If Jesus gave Simon a new name (Peter / Rock), what name might Jesus have for you? What are some immediate deficiencies that are being removed by the Holy Spirit as you learn to walk by faith?

(When reading the Gospels, it's interesting to notice the times when Simon is called "Simon", and when he is called "Peter." He is frequently called Simon when he is being corrected and Peter when he is doing what is right. I wonder if he would cringe when he heard the old name that reflected his former life.)

- b. If God has you as His very own, through Christ, then He is committed to conforming you into the image of Jesus. (Romans 8:29-30; Philippians 1:3-6) The glorious hope of the believer is that when Jesus returns we shall be like Him! (1 John 3:1-3)

- i. What might a "perfected you" look like?
- ii. How is a perfected you different from a perfected someone else? What similarities and dissimilarities will there be when every Christian is like Jesus?
- iii. How does the vision of a future perfected you influence your faith-living at the present?

- c. Jesus is going to give a new name to those who are victorious.  
***Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.*** Rev. 2:17

- i. Have you ever shared a "secret name" with someone else?
- ii. When you think of a "secret name" given to you by Jesus, what images comes to your mind?