



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Pastor Terry's Thoughts of the Week

Bold Church: Rock

Peter, the Rock – sometimes! Sometimes, Peter, the Pebble! We see Peter in so many stances throughout the Bible that we usually can relate to him in one place or another. This person who BECAME the rock of faith began as someone quite different.

Me, too. I really don't think I'm any kind of a rock of faith, but I pray that my life will look like a good Christian life to those who encounter me day by day. There are sometimes, inside, I feel like the little stone by the side of the road about to get kicked about by some vehicle driving by. At other times it seems all's right with the world and I ride high.

My suspicion is that we all have times like that. We wonder what life is throwing at us one day and the next day the sun is shining in our lives so strongly we can do just about anything anyone asks us! We, too, can join Peter, the flip flop!

But look what happens. Yes, he was very wishy washy in the beginning – but always a hard working fisherman. But his life changed because of Jesus. His life changed when the resurrection came into it. His life changed when he came to know new life in Christ.

It's at this point that Peter's faith became rock-like. Nothing would move this new foundation in his life. And yet, he didn't stop learning and listening to God. Peter was bound to a great degree by the regulations of the Jewish faith when it came to eating, bathing and getting together with people. Gentiles were not high on his list and many foods were definitely on the "not to eat" list.

But Peter didn't stop praying, he didn't stop his communication with God. And part of that communication came to him, teaching him that all things God has made were good and he was not to despise any of them. We should also be aware that we should not abuse any of them as well.

I'm overweight. I'm sure no one in this wonderful family of God can relate to that! But what that means is that I am abusing some of the good gifts of God. I am over eating and/or not being active enough, physically, in my life. What I know is that I need to do is change my way of thinking, eating and acting. I'd love to say that with age, I should be expected to slow down, but that's really my mind making excuses. I need to change my approach to life.

Will I? I don't know. At the moment of this writing I know that I would like to. But also I know that the will is weak, so I have a long road ahead of me. I don't want to abuse the gifts of God, so I need to make all of this a point of prayer.

What has happened to this rock that is supposed to be my wonderful faith? Well, it seems to have become a bit worn down by time. It means that I have to re-examine where I am in my relationship with God. It means I have to be more like flip-flop Peter and be open to God's words in my life.

Now I know that this is MY problem. I ask that today we try to identify YOUR difficulty in life and re-open communication with God. No, God won't "fix it" but there are bound to be messages and help from Him and from this family to help us on our way.

TMK



-- *Week of May 23, 2010*