

# CHRIST'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

The Gospel of John: The Deity and Teaching of Jesus Christ

## ***"When Pressure Reveals the Heart: Christ's Strength and Peter's Weakness"***

John 18:12-18 NKJV

[12] Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. [13] And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. [14] Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. [15] And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. [16] But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. [17] Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." [18] Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.

### Main Points

- 1. Christ Bound—but Sovereign *Jesus is arrested by men yet remains fully in control.*
- 2. Peter Following—but at a Distance *Peter follows Jesus, but not closely or boldly.*
- 3. Peter Confronted—and Failing *Under pressure, Peter denies Christ and blends in with the world.*

**Instruction** (2 Tim 3:16): What is God telling me?

**Inspiration** (Romans 8:16): How is the Holy Spirit moving me?

**Imitator of Christ** (Ephesians 5:1): How will I serve God by imitating Jesus?

**My prayer this week:**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Peter followed Jesus "at a distance." In what ways do believers today sometimes follow Jesus from a distance rather than closely? What causes that distance?
  
2. Peter warmed himself among those who opposed Jesus. How can the environments we place ourselves in influence our spiritual decisions?
  
3. Peter's denial was real, but so was his restoration later. How does this passage encourage you when you fail spiritually or fall short?
  
4. How does Jesus' calm submission while being bound reveal His strength, even when He appears powerless?
  
5. What situations reveal your weaknesses most clearly—fear of people, desire for approval, or avoiding conflict?

**Bible Reference NKJV**

**Isaiah 53:7 NKJV** He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

**John 10:18 NKJV** No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father

**John 11:49-52 NKJV** And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, [50] nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." [51] Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, [52] and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

**Mark 14:48-50 NKJV** Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? [49] I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." [50] Then they all forsook Him and fled.)

**Luke 22:34 NKJV** Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."

**Psalms 1:1 NKJV** Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

**1 Corinthians 15:33-34 NKJV** Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." [34] Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

**Romans 12:2 NKJV** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**Proverbs 3:5 NKJV** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

**Matthew 12:30 NKJV** He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.