**Where is your faith?**

I want to examine this question this morning. I want to use Peter as an example of one who maybe we all can relate to a bit more than the other disciples and apostles.

**Faith is lacking**

* Fishing (**Luke 5:1-11**) – Realized he was a sinner who was not worthy to be with Jesus
* Walk on water (**Matthew 14:22-33**) – Had little faith when distracted
* Denial (**Matthew 26:69-75**) – Feared for his life
* Do you love me? (**John 21:15-22**) – Not willing to fully commit to the will of Jesus

**Faith has grown and matured**

* Sermon on Pentecost (**Acts 2:14-47**) – No longer fearful for his life, telling those present they were guilty of the crucifixion of Jesus. Peter overcame his fear to preach what was needed. (Illustration about my Daniel).
* Faithful witness (**Acts 4:19-20, 5:17-21, 25-32, 40-42**) – Imprisoned, beaten, and no longer fearful but rejoicing. (This was brought up in Brian’s online class this past Thursday.)
* When held to be killed (**Acts 12:1-6**) – Put in prison, in stocks, and waiting for the same fate as James.
* Mature Peter (**1 Peter 1:6-9, 4:12-19, 2 Peter 1:12-15, 3:17-18**) – last words, do not lose your faith, keep growing.

**What changed?**

* Peter’s faith in Jesus increased.
* He no longer feared for himself, but he feared and respected the will of Jesus and God the Father.
* Maybe it was when Jesus arose, maybe it was when Jesus ascended, or maybe it was during the period the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem. But somewhere in that time period Peter put his complete faith and trust in Jesus!
* He maintained that faith until he died.
* Our faith can overcome our doubts and fears (**1 John 5:1-5**). (A passage from our Family Study last Wednesday.)

**How about you? Where Is Your Faith Today?**

* Your faith will be tested. The faith of all of us is being tested right now.
* There are many uncertainties that can create doubt.
* Man’s influence can cloud our thinking and decrease our faith.
* When we only think about ourselves and loved ones, rather than what God wants us to do, our faith will shrink.
* When we start trusting what man says rather than the Word of God, our faith can be compromised.
* Peter transformed from thinking of himself and what others thought, to one dedicated to God’s will and the salvation of others.

When our faith is in Jesus, we will choose to put Him first in everything (**2 Peter 3:14**). (Many are assembling this morning trying to encourage each other to do this very thing.)

Peter’s faith was grounded in the Word of God (**1 Peter 1:22-25**). Obedience to that Word is the only way we can be saved from our sins!