

A Man Called Peter

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame." For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." Romans 10:9-11, 13-18 ESV

Peter loved the sea. As a child in Scotland he tried several times to sneak aboard a ship so that he could go out to sea. He longed to join the Royal Navy but was too young. His mother comforted him saying, that this could be one of the times that her granny talked about, when "God slams the door in your face so that He may guide you to the one through which He wants you to pass."

Have you ever felt like you had a door slam in your face? Did something good come of it later?

The movie says, "This is the story of man called Peter and his close friendship with God." One night when Peter was an adult he was walking in the dark. He thought there was someone walking near. When he stopped to see who it was he realized that he was near the edge of a sharp cliff and would have fallen if he had continued. Peter felt God was speaking to him and telling him he should become a minister.

What do you think God wants you to do? How can we be sure of God's calling on our lives?

The desire of Peter's heart was to serve the Lord as a pastor. When Peter preached large crowds came to hear him. People could relate to Peter's enthusiasm and heart for God. When Peter was called to Washington DC to serve in a historic congregation there was an older lady who was not pleased with the new things happening in church. Eventually Peter won her over.

Have you ever had someone who doubted what you were doing? How did you win them over?

There are times in a Christian's life when God seems very near. Other times He seems silent. Catherine had been sick with tuberculosis for two years. She felt weak and helpless. She prayed repeatedly for healing and nothing happened. When she was finally able to say to God that she would do whatever He wanted she recovered. How do we stay focused when God seems to be silent?

Peter Marshall died of heart failure in the prime of his life. Although his wife, Catherine, encouraged him to slow down, Peter loved to be busy. While some people get to live to a ripe old age, others die young. Many people prayed for Peter when he began having problems with his heart, but he still died. We might wonder why God would allow Peter to die when he was such a good man and effective pastor. While none of us knows the answer to that question, God continued using Peter's words and the story of his life to change lives. What heritage can we leave behind for future generations when our lives are over?

Peter Marshall was a friend of God. The Bible says, "You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name." John 15:14-16 NIV

Dear Lord, we want to be Your friends, too. Make Your word come alive in our hearts and minds. Show us how to live our lives so that we will bring honor and praise to You. Take away our desires for what is wrong and fill us with the joy of living our lives in ways that please You. Bless us and keep us for Jesus' sake, Amen.