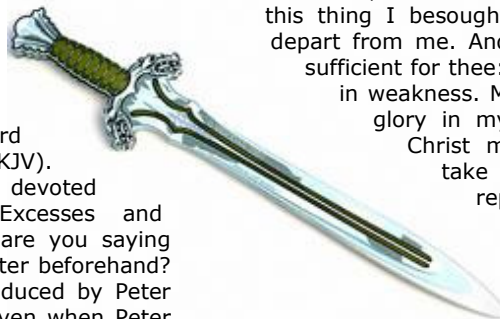




Best known disciple of Jesus is most likely Peter. He was the disciple, who set up the first church with the authority given by Jesus. We can read his teachings even today on Bible's pages, from Letters of Peter.

Peter was by nature very edgy and sometimes very intense. No way the "archetype of a believer" by current thinking. Yes, Jesus knew him and knew of these traits with short-temperness, yet Jesus chose him to be a disciple and a church founder. There is something utterly incomprehensible to a human thinking that exactly such a man would be about to bear so much responsibility - even after all the denials, swearing and slashing with the sword !

God's choice is a question of completely something else than human wisdom or talent. Even today, we look too much to "a person" and intrinsic presentation capabilities. God needed Peter's sword more, although in sheath (Joh.18: 11KJV). Genuine and honest, sincere and devoted believer therefore pleases God. Excesses and slashings didn't matter so much, or are you saying that Jesus did not know Peter's character beforehand? - Jesus himself repaired the traces induced by Peter (Luke 22: 51), and prayed for him, even when Peter did not realize God's plan in his humanity. (Luke 22: 32) Jesus' harsh words no doubt hurt honest Peter, (Matt.16: 23), but they also raised him up for his future ministry as the active and courageous church leader.



I used to think that when Peter was filled with Holy Spirit, these natural features would have been defeated, but it was not so. His humane features were still often raised. One such example was his stubborn perception towards the Gentiles. He had a very strong "patriotic" concept of the gospel and the church's life, but God again persuaded him to follow God's plans, showing him that what God had cleansed, is not to called filthy anymore. (Acts 11: 9)

Let's go back to a moment of slashing once more (John 18: 10) I do not think it was right to slap and to use violence in that situation - and Jesus rebuked Peter for that, but as we look at the situation as whole we can see something inhuman. What happened to Jesus' catchers, when they saw Jesus healing the high priest's servant's ear that was slashed by the sword? - They realized sooner or later, that the mercy and the miracle, that Jesus performed to His "enemy", had to come from God. Well, it was totally unheard off! I think they thought a lot of the situation afterwards, and maybe some of them later became obedient to the faith?!

Without Peter's zeal and the slash of sword this would not have happened. God is able to make good out of things, that seem to us only to be a losses and a miscalculations. Peter was sincere and his intentions were only to defend Jesus from His catchers. - Do you remember who told disciples to get the swords? (Luke 22: 36) The interesting thing is that just acquired sword was to be put to the sheath not used to fight

against the catchers! You see already there is a greater idea behind this? -This was supposed to happen so that those of religious zealot, jurists and the Pharisees would hear the gospel from their own mouth - or don't you think they spoke afterwards about what happened?!

Today we may wonder about such things in our midst. We do not need to be less human than Peter, we can read about everything that Peter received after the Pentecost experience. He became a mighty man of God! He was that without knowing already before the establishment of the church. God used him and his sword to evangelism, that is, glorifying His name as was planned.

- What about today? Can we find such a godly way of thinking in each other's case? Could God allow us our humanity so that in the end His name would be glorified?

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2Cor 12:7-10 KJV)

It is so difficult to see that Peter's slashing benefitted the gospel, but that is exactly what happened! Jesus, and his prayers on behalf of the Peter(Luke.22: 32) made him the man whom God believed that huge secret of His church!

Do you know that Jesus is praying for you today, also? (Hebr.7: 25) - To me, this is so comforting to know that the eternal God sees over my humanity! - Yes, He is able to transform darkest of the situations to brightness of hope and grace of Jesus Christ can penetrate every heart!

Faith in Jesus is exactly this kind of trust. It is the realization that despite the situations, everything is in God's hands! Bible is full of praise for the weakness as God's powers manifestation field. (1.Cor.1: 25) - What does my weakness, short life and human errors matter in eternity? How much more God's plans matter, which includes my weakness, and God's power manifested through it?!

I want to talk about this exactly to those, who belong with me to the group of failures, miscalculators and those with zealous nature. Know that God loves you in particular! He has a plan just for you, and yes, he is able to use you to honor His name- despite your infirmities and all! - You, who are weak, you have a mighty and powerful God! The abundance of his steadfast mercy toward us is so incredibly wonderful that we can not even get the hang of it completely! We can come to Him and there we can participate in His grace!

People may say whatever they will, God is mightier than the people's opinions. Accusations and

unforgiveness characterizes humanity, but "return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isa 55:7 KJV)

Through this grace we can rise and repent, giving our hearts under the X-ray of God's grace. There as we're relying on the Lord, He still shows us to be Lord of Lords, King of kings and the Eternal Majesty, who has not been affected by people's or the enemy's accusations!

Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. (Heb 4:15 KJV)

- Remain in God, rely in Him, pray, shout the name of the Lord! He is the God of your salvation. In Him is forgiveness of sins! In Him you will see that over all human, His plans are mighty and true!

- We do not give in one inch to the bad! We are the winners in the mighty and loving care of Jesus Christ.
- As we fix our eyes on Jesus, we can continue our journey with joy!

