

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 1
SIMON—or PETER?
THE CHRISTIAN’S STANDING AND STATE

14 August, 2014

Read verses 1 through 4.

THE CHRISTIAN STANDING: this is our eternal position with God in Jesus Christ, freely given to us by the grace of God the moment we are saved.

THE CHRISTIAN STATE: this is our temporal condition, which may be one of two things:
CARNAL: worldly, affected by the flesh.
SPIRITUAL: completely submitted unto God’s will.

THE TWO NAMES OF THE WRITER:

SIMON: Relates to the OLD man, ungrounded (sifted as wheat, Lk. 22:31). Jesus referred to him by this name whenever he was in error.

PETER: Relates to the NEW man, grounded (solid rock, Jn. 1:42)

ATTRIBUTES OF SIMON (BY GRACE)	ATTRIBUTES OF PETER (BY CHOICE)
APOSTLE (vs. 1): God chose to make Peter an Apostle.	SERVANT (vs. 1): Peter chose to serve by submission to God.
LIFE (vs. 3): God GIVES eternal life the moment you are saved.	GODLINESS (vs. 3): available to all who are saved, but you must choose to be godly.
GLORY (vs. 3): you WILL go to Heaven if you’re saved.	VIRTUE (vs. 3): I can choose not to sin, to be a blessing to others, to provide joy and peace to others. I can live a heavenly life on earth.
PARTAKER OF THE DIVINE NATURE (vs. 4): granted to all believers. We are a new creature, born again, member of the body of Christ, indwelt by the Holy Spirit.	ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION THAT IS IN THE WORLD THROUGH LUST (vs. 4). I choose not to participate in sinful practices.

JOHN 1:35-42

The historical record refers to “**Simon Peter**” (vs. 40). Before he met Jesus, he was referred to as “**Simon**” (vs. 41). Upon meeting Jesus, he receives a new name “**Cephas**” (a stone). Note: Peter = Petros = solid rock!

He is called Simon Peter even after he’s saved because sometimes he’s Simon (ordinary man, worldly) and sometimes (not always) he’s Peter (solid rock, spiritual).

MATTHEW 16:13-18

“**Simon Peter**” answered (vs. 16). This name is used because it is a historical record or who’s speaking.

“Jesus...said, Blessed art thou, **Simon Barjona...**” (vs. 17). The unregenerate, unsaved man can know Jesus and testify (**confess with thy mouth**, Rom. 10:9) as to who He is.

“Thou art **Peter**” (vs. 18). When an ordinary man sees who Jesus really is, Jesus can change that ordinary man into a stone that He can use to build His church.

MATTHEW 17:24-26

Jesus said in verse 25, **“What thinkest thou, Simon?”** because Peter has done wrong by presuming to speak for the Lord without understanding.

It is possible for a man to think he’s standing up for and speaking for Jesus, but to be in error and be actually speaking from his own intellect. That’s **“Simon.”**

“Peter” will enquire of the Lord” (1 Kings 22:7, 2 Chron. 34:21) before speaking on His behalf.

LUKE 22:24-34

There was strife among the disciples over **“which of them should be accounted the greatest.”** If you just let Jesus Christ be the greatest, you will eliminate strife in all your relationships. Humble yourself, serve the Lord, serve others, and get off the throne.

During this time when Peter wants to be greatest, the Lord refers to him as **“Simon, Simon”** (vs. 31). The “old man” (Simon) is the one that Satan is allowed to “sift as wheat.”

Peter promised to follow Jesus to prison or to death (vs. 33). But if you’re Simon when you could be Peter, you’ll deny the Lord (vs. 34).

JOHN 21:15-17

“Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas...” (vs. 15). The Lord called him **“Simon”** because he’d gone back to his old ways; he was in the flesh, but he loved the Lord. You CAN be in the flesh and still love the Lord. “Peter” is the one who submits to the Lord’s will.

Notice **“PETER was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me?”** (vs. 17). When you sin, you will grieve the new man; you will grieve the Holy Spirit.

Don’t be content to be Simon, with all the benefits of the grace of God.

Decide to live a godly life and you’ll find yourself doing like Peter finally did (Acts 2:14, 38, 3:4, 6, 12)

Satan wants to sift you out. (Simon)

The Lord wants to build on you. (Peter)
