

## NO MORE YO-YO

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John 1:40-42 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. 42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

### I. Turbulent Times

#### A. War is on the Horizon

1. Israel firing on Hamas
2. Afghanistan
3. China – launching their first aircraft carrier
4. Nuclear Iran

#### B. Terrorism is on the rise

1. Afghanistan – the shooting of the girl
  - a) *Malala - A schoolgirl*
  - b) *shot for wanting an education*
2. Middle East
3. Europe and the USA

#### C. Natural Disasters

1. Hurricane Sandy
  2. Earthquakes
  3. Tsunamis
  4. Prairie Fires
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D. Economy on the Rocks

1. Dow Jones – Is falling
2. Nasdaq – is not doing better
3. Europe is an economic mess
4. The price of Oil and Gas continues to rise
5. Unemployment continues to remain high

E. Immorality is on the rise

1. The legalization of recreational drugs
2. Entertainment media
3. Lying, Stealing, Murder

F. Family is on the decline

1. Benefits of family
    - a) *Provides a stable environment*
    - b) *For husband, wife, and especially children*
    - c) *Over 90% of the western world will marry before the age of 50*
  2. Traditional marriage is slowly being eroded
    - a) *With living together*
    - b) *Civil unions*
  3. Even then more than half of all first marriages will end in divorce
    - a) *The numbers continue to climb for second and third marriages*
  4. Which leaves us with single parent homes
    - a) *Children need both parents*
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*b) Single mothers are overworked, overstressed, underappreciated*

*c) Children that come from single parent homes tend to have more psychological and societal issues*

5. A rise in domestic violence

6. Abortions are at an all time high

*a) We live in turbulent times*

## II. Terrible Times

### A. Persecution

1. China – Bro. Votaw – underground churches

2. Middle East -

3. Even in India – Bro. Uppin told us about persecution there

*a) Christians are killed around the world EVERY single day*

*b) Families are torn apart and people's lives destroyed for the sake of this Gospel*

### B. False religions

1. Muslim is the fastest growing religion in the world today

2. Over 60% of the world still claims to be Catholic

3. Christianity and Christian values are mocked and ridiculed.

4. Atheism is on the rise

### C. Personal

1. Beyond the scope of the national and international things

*a) Some have lost jobs*

*b) Some have lost possessions*

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- c) *Some have lost health*
- d) *Some have lost family and friends*
- e) *Some have lost hope*
- (1) We are living in a terrible day

### III. Simon vs. Peter

#### A. Simon

- 1. Means – hearing
  - a) *Always with an open ear*
  - b) *Any new thoughts that come in*
  - c) *Always changing your mind*
  - d) *Never constant*
- 2. Reflected in the life of Peter
  - a) *None of the other disciples spoke as much as Peter did.*
  - b) *And so much of what he said was contradictory*

(1) He was always quick to speak out

Matthew 16:21-22 From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

(2) Quick to condemn

Matthew 18:21Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

(3) Quick to reach out

Matthew 14:25-28 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. 26And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they

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were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. 27But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. 28And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

(4) Quick to repent

Luke 5:4-8 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. 8When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

(5) Never any consistency in his life and words

Matthew 26:31-35 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. 32But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. 33Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. 34Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. 35Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Matthew 26:71-74 And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. 72And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. 73And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. 74Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

B. Peter

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1. You were Simon – but you will be called Peter
2. Simon means hearing
3. Peter means stone
  - a) *Unchanging*
  - b) *Unmovable*
  - c) *Steadfast*

#### IV. God wants solid saints

##### A. In the garden

Mark 14:37-38 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? 38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

1. It's not Peter that is sleeping in the garden, it's Simon

##### B. After the resurrection

John 21:15-17 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

1. It's not Peter that needs reminding about his purpose, it's Simon

##### C. After the Holy Ghost

1. It's always Peter

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready

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to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

2. No more Simon – but now it is Peter the Stone

D. Are we solid saints?

1. Through circumstances

- a) *Through stress of everyday life*
- b) *Solid in our prayer life*
- c) *Solid in our Bible Time*
- d) *Solid in our tithes and offerings*
- e) *Solid in our church attendance*
- f) *Solid in our involvement*

2. Through trouble

- a) *Through our sickness and disease*
- b) *Through our problems and misfortunes*

3. Through crisis

- a) *Through those times that seem like our world is falling apart around us.*

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Psalm 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

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