

GOD CHOSE YOU

SERIES: PAUSE | WEEK 1 | 4.5.2020



LEE WIGGINS
Lead Pastor

Lee: Hey, I'm Pastor Lee and this is my son Matthew and we just wanted to take a few moments to thank you for inviting us into your living room. It's an amazing thing that you would allow us to come chat with you and we just are going to pretend that we're sitting on the couch across from you and chatting, and so we thought we would chat a little bit about the passage in front of us.



MATT WIGGINS

We're starting today a series called PAUSE and that sounds really like well planned for the time that we're in, a lot of us find that we're in a pause; but when we planned this series originally it was on the same book of the Bible, it was 1st Peter, but we named the series AT CAPACITY because at that time just weeks ago we were up and to the right, we were going 100 miles an hour and wondering if we could go 125. And then all of a sudden one day with almost no notice we hit the brakes and came to a squealing stop. And when that happened we just said, "Wow, do we still want to study this book?" And we said, "Well, absolutely. That's what this book's about. It's a group of people that have found themselves hitting the brakes because of issues going on in their life." And Peter says, *Would you stop for a minute? I want to share some stuff with you because I hung out with Jesus for quite a while and I think I have some stuff to say.* And so that's why I think what we have to talk about today is really important, but I'm going to take you deep for a couple of minutes.

Now if that's freaking you out and you think, *Oh, the kids are not gonna enjoy this*, they're gonna be fine. They will pick this up, they will learn this and they'll tell you this stuff back. But we gotta go a little bit deep and then this stuff is gonna just turn on like a light and you're gonna go, "Wow, that is cool."

This is my son Matthew. Matthew, would you do us a favor? Would you read the Scripture today?

Matt: Yeah. So we're in 1st Peter, first chapter, first two verses, a short little passage just packed with so much information. I know I have a ton of questions, we're gonna get through those, but let's hop into the Scripture. It says:

*¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia,
Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the
foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for
obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in
abundance.*

– 1 PETER 1:1-2 (NIV 1984)

Lee: So here's what's cool when we read this is, he's actually reading from a different translation. There are different translations of Bible, they say basically the same thing and they're all outstanding, but his wording is a little different than my wording so as you hear me talking about it I'll be talking a little bit different. Maybe that the Bible that you have out in front of you is a little bit different. It's okay, it's all cool. And actually what you'll find is it actually illuminates a few things, so even as we talk

Matt: Oh, it gives you a deeper understanding.

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- Lee: Yeah. So you'll hear a few different words than what I'm talking about.
- Matt: Yeah, translations are not inspired by God. Okay? So just because we're using different translations on each and other different translations than you doesn't mean that our Bibles or your Bibles are any less inspired by God, they are all inerrant.
- Lee: It's just how you translate the Word.
- Matt: It's just how you translate the Word. Exactly.
- Lee: Yeah.
- Matt: Because they were written in different languages, so I just love that we're able to look at this in different ways through different lenses at the same passage.
- Lee: Cool.
- Matt: Cool.
- Lee: You want to talk about Peter for a minute?
- Matt: Yeah. So, I was wondering, so it starts off, "*Peter an apostle of Jesus Christ*," that's the first couple words. Who's Peter? Why is he – why are we in 1st Peter, the book of 1st Peter, and then there's 2nd Peter. Why are there two books of the Bible about this one dude who's – what made Peter so special?
- Lee: Yeah. He actually wrote these. In fact, he only wrote these two. Mark is one of the Gospels, Mark was written by Mark, but Peter was the one who had really trained up Mark and so Mark was getting a lot of his information from Peter. But he writes these two little books and they are, they're little books and very small letters and I think that has a lot to do with who Peter is. So when I picked
- Matt: Tell me, who is Peter?
- Lee: Well, so think about this for a moment, before Peter met Jesus he owned a huge fishing company. He was a big-time businessman and super successful with his two brothers, James and John, so they were super successful. And when you begin to think about Peter there are just a number of words that come to your mind. He's big, he's brash, he's bold, he's out there, uh, he's strong. He's always leading with his voice. He's always the first one there. He's sort of a little bit leaning in and in your face when he's talking to you. And as I picture Peter, I picture Peter with big, thick hands.
- Matt: Yeah.
- Lee: A man that's out there working on the fishing rigs. I picture him having, you know, thick skin and this kind of stuff. Do you remember when you learned to fish?
- Matt: Oh, I loved fishing growing up.
- Lee: Yeah, but you'll never forget learning to fish in California.
- Matt: Nope.
- Lee: And what was that guy's name on the boat?
- Matt: Oh, Captain, um,
- Lee: Was it Tony?
- Matt: Captain Tony.
- Lee: Captain Tony.

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Lee: And I remember the first fish he ever helped you catch. But when I think of Peter I sort of picture this guy, Captain Tony. I'm mean,

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: Captain Tony was a man's man, burly, you know, he hadn't shaved in a couple of days

Matt: Nope.

Lee: and, you know, but he was cool, you know? It was like this awesome guy. You can remember him, right?

Matt: Oh, I remember that clearly. That man could, he would dive underwater with no equipment and clean the barnacles off the bottom of the boat. He just – that man

Lee: And moments later be up there dried off and working on something else, tying a knot,

Matt: Fixing the engine, whatever it was.

Lee: And you were so mesmerized by that dude.

Matt: Oh, I loved Captain Tony.

Lee: You have a dad that sits at a computer all day long. You know, my hands are like clean and perfect.

[LAUGHTER]

Tony was like, like the man, and I just see that with this guy Peter. And his brother, a guy by the name of Andrew, was the one who actually introduced him to Jesus. Andrew had been hearing John the Baptist preach and you remember John the Baptist, talk about another manly man, but a little bit on the earthy side, you know, sort of, what it'd say, he ate bugs and that kind of stuff and was living out in the wilderness. I mean, this guy – but he was calling out for the repentance for the kingdom of God is near. And so he introduces, John the Baptist introduces Andrew to Jesus, and Andrew takes and introduces his brother Peter to Jesus. And so Peter ends up being one of the first followers of Jesus. Jesus calls him three times and finally he just drops everything, leaves everything and says, "I'm all in." And I don't know, you know I like those kinds of people. I like those kinds of people that are [*clenches his fist and gestures forward*], "Let's go."

Matt: Full throttle.

Lee: What am I like when we would come up with a project?

Matt: Well, even beyond that, one of my favorite quotes from somebody talking about my dad is, "He rides a jet ski like he does everything else, full throttle."

Lee: Full throttle.

Matt: He loves full throttle. He's all the way in or all the way out, no in-between. If you're gonna be doing it – all the way. And that's what Peter sounds like.

Lee: And if I all of a sudden decide to move the woodpile in the yard

Matt: Oh, he loves moving our pile of wood for the fireplace like eight times a year all over the yard.

Lee: He hates it.

Matt: Uh, it's annoying. Put in one place and leave it.

Lee: But – like if it comes to my mind we're like all in, we're doing it, and I'm recruiting the neighbors, we're all helping, we're all

Matt: And it's a one-day project, it's not over the weekend, it's

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Lee: and we don't plan in advance, we just know.

Matt: No. Matthew, we're moving the pile. What? But it's full. Doesn't matter. Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

Lee: And so this is the guy that Jesus, one of the first followers or *the* first follower, really, that Jesus calls to Himself. And what cracks me up is the moment He calls him – his name before this is Simon, and the moment He calls him, "We're gonna change your name."

[LAUGHTER]

Matt: Okay.

Lee: What?

Matt: Talk about going all-in for Jesus though, it's like, "Okay, You can change my name."

Lee: Yeah, and that's when He calls him *Peter* – that's the Greek name. His name in Aramaic is *Cephas*, and so once in a while you'll hear him referred to as Cephas. And do you know what that means?

Matt: What does that mean?

Lee: It means "the rock."

[LAUGHTER]

Matt: That's exactly how we're describing him.

[LAUGHTER]

Lee: And Jesus says, "Hey, Peter, on this rock I'm gonna build my church, so let's roll, let's roll." And so Peter becomes a spokesperson for His disciples. Peter is the one who, when you read the Gospels Peter's the one speaking, he's the first one mentioned, and he's the one mentioned first. And he's mentioned more than any of the other disciples in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Peter was first in and he was all in when he came in. He's the guy that messes up the biggest in the midst of this. You remember the story, "Jesus, I will never deny You."

Matt: Never.

Lee: Noooo. Three times later the rooster crows. Like, what?

Matt: Peter, chops off the dude's ear.

Lee: Exactly. Walks on water

Matt: Walks on water but takes his eyes off Jesus.

Lee: And he's there at every – every event that goes on in Jesus Christ's life, he's there, he's observing it. All the things we read about in here [*holds up His Bible*], and you remember this text tells us and there were a whole – John says there were a whole lot of other things that aren't even recorded in here; that all the books couldn't fill, uh, fill up. And so he starts out really well and he messes up really big and yet Jesus invites him back, and Jesus calls him back, and there's just this healing place in it that I think does cause all of us to go, "Oh, good, there's a place in this for me." In fact, when Jesus rises from the dead the first thing He says, "Go tell Peter! Go tell Peter!" It was just like, to me it's like – really? Like the first thing on Jesus' mind was to somehow get out the message that you gotta go tell Peter what you've just seen, and you've seen Me, that I'm here, that I'm alive.

And by the way, next week is Easter, you gotta come back for Easter. You gotta be on this. The next verse – verse 3 – talks about the resurrection. And Peter, everything that Peter talks

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about is all through the lens of the resurrection, and the resurrection changes everything for him. And this is what he talks about in this, it's the thing that's gonna actually help him through the suffering, help him help others through the sufferings, help him gain a perspective on life.

Lee: Peter was the one who takes the Gospel and begins to preach it first.

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: And in the book of Acts, real early in the book of Acts which is trying to explain the beginnings of the church and this kind of thing, Peter goes out there and he takes the message of the Gospel out there and he's preached to 3,000 people. And then Jesus says, *Hey, listen, you're gonna take it.* And then, so he – in the first chapters up through like I think it's Chapter 12 of Acts – he's taking it to Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria, to the uttermost parts of the earth. So that's a quickie on Peter if that was fast.

Matt: Yeah. Yeah, I love that but that only gets us through word #1 in this book.

[LEE LAUGHS]

Matt: That's all we got.

Lee: I'm sorry.

Matt: We're to "*Peter*," so right after that, "*an apostle of Jesus Christ.*" So what does it mean to be an apostle?

Lee: I think it's important to say this really quick, but an apostle – a lot of people aren't quite sure what that is – the Scriptures are really clear. First Corinthians Chapter 9, verse 1, says that an apostle had to see the resurrected Lord. So in order to be an apostle you had to see the resurrected Lord. Acts Chapter 9, verse 15, says that you had to be chosen by Jesus; that Jesus actually called you an apostle. And in those days they had to perform signs and wonders to be part of it. Remember, the apostles were doing that, disciples were doing that, where they were performing signs and wonders which really put this validation on it, like, this is legit.

Matt: Yeah. And that's real.

Lee: I still remember when you guys were young and I'd preach a message and I'd tell a story about you all, everyone would come up to you out in the –

Matt: "Is it true?"

Lee: "Is it true?"

Matt: "Is it true?" was always the question. He'd tell a story about – "Is it true? Is it true?"

[INAUDIBLE / CROSSTALK]

[LAUGHTER]

Matt: He's full of it.

Lee: They'd come running up to me like, "I know what you told the church today." But, I mean, everyone would come up, it's true. But there is something inside of us that wants to know is that true, is that possible. And let me just tag onto this, "*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ*," so when you hear the word *apostle* here's the words I want you to attach to that: A sent one. So you had

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle?
Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are
not you my workmanship in the Lord?
– 1 CORINTHIANS 9:1 (ESV)

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he
is a chosen instrument of mine to
carry my name before the Gentiles
and kings and the children of Israel."
– ACTS 9:15 (ESV)

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to be one that saw the resurrection, chosen by Jesus, performing signs and wonders to be an official apostle. But if we were to pull back and look at this from a 30,000-foot level, there is a sense in which we are all sent ones, we are ones representing Jesus. We're not representing ourselves, but when we come to Jesus Christ we are representing Jesus. So that's what Peter's saying here. He's going, hey, *I, Peter, I'm an apostle but that doesn't like put me like higher or better or smarter, you know, have some specialness to me. I'm just one who's out there representing Jesus.* And so that's what my process is in this.

Matt: Yeah. Yeah, I love that. So right after that it goes into the actual meat of this letter and it says, ***"To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout"*** and it lists a bunch of places and then it says, ***"who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God."*** So what we see there are two words that really pop out off the page to me. I'm a student at a Bible college so we have all the theological intense discussions, but what pops off to me is it says "God's elect" and then it says "the foreknowledge of God." And this is the topic of a lot of really deep, complex theological debates about predestination, did God show choose me? Do I choose God? Do I actually have free will? Does God choose before you were born whether or not you get saved? It's a big

Lee: I'm getting exhausted.

Matt: Is that what this passage is about? Is that what we need to focus on it? What's up with this?

Lee: Yeah, and you know I'd say yes – but absolutely not.

[LAUGHTER]

Lee: You know, there's a part of this where there's something helpful and understanding that God chose us, so that word elect, what's your text say?

Matt: It says, ***"To God's elect."***

Lee: To God's elect, and so when it's talking about God's elect it's talking about His chosen ones, the ones He chose. And you know that in Ephesians 1 it says that we were chosen before the foundations of the earth; that somehow before anything was even created, before anything was even, here God said, "I choose Matthew. I choose Lee." And we're like, "Okay! I quit." And that's why the whole conversation is

Matt: Yes. So how do I know if I'm chosen?

Lee: and I'm out. How do I know that I'm chosen? And so, and then you look at Peter who has fully messed up, we've already established that, who messes up. So Jesus called him three times, he finally says yes, he leaves everything and he messes up – is he chosen? Where does this fit in here?

And then it talks to the exiles in dispersion

Matt: Uh-huh.

Lee: and he names these different locations, and I would just say to us today these are locations—so you remember, the Jewish people, there was a given point where they were attacked by Rome, they were pulled out and taken to Babylon, and then eventually they get spread out all over the place. These locations are in what is known as the Roman Empire today in northern Turkey up

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

– EPHESIANS 1:3-4 (ESV)

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along the Black Sea, and so that's the places that are being listed here. And these are people that have been subjected to some serious suffering. Nero was in power at that point

Matt: Didn't he burn down Rome and blame it on the Christians at that point?

Lee: because he had to distract from what else was going on and he knew that he could pin it on these Christians.

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: And so this is sort of a first wave of persecution that they feel coming on them and they're feeling the weight of that, and I think he's reminding them, God chose you, you put your trust in Jesus, God has chosen you. And by the way, there's this weird tension – I like to call it "tensionism" – is that God chose you before the foundation earth, but there was a moment in time where God's speaking to you and moving in your heart and touching you and pulling you that you go, "Yes." And so in time and in space I say yes to Jesus, but long before the earth was formed He chose you. I just think that's the coolest thing and I think we complicate it. Here's what makes this really hard, when He chooses you it's all about Him. When I choose me it's all about me, and so what I would say to all of us is let's choose Jesus but let's remember that God chose you and you matter. And I think that's the picture of this that is so powerful, so that's the foreknowledge of God the Father.

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: The foreknowledge of God. He – and by the way, that's what I want you to hear in all of this. Take a white board and erase it for a moment, even this moment that you're in God knew you were gonna be in it. God saw this, everything – past, present, future – He's got it all. He knows it all. And there's nothing that's out of His control, nothing that He's missing. And I would just say when I read these towns – Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia – I might say Exton, Downingtown, uhm,

Matt: Glen Mills, Bryn Mawr

Lee: Glen Mills, Bryn Mawr, and Honey Brook and Lancaster and Harrisburg and Philadelphia and New York City and Washington, D.C. and Baton Rouge and Los Angeles, and we start throwing those out

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: and just say hey church, church, church, church, do you understand – you're the elect ones? God chose you and in His foreknowledge He knew you, He grabbed you, and He loved you and He wants to pull you in through His life, in through His life. And I would just go so far—I want you to hear this, look at this—because of the "**foreknowledge of God the Father**," so there's God the Father. The next phrase says, "**in the sanctification of the Spirit**,"

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: and the next phrase says "**for obedience to Jesus Christ**" — you here have the Trinity all working together. Peter, who was best friends with Jesus, who spent like insane amounts of time with Jesus,

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

– 1 PETER 1:1-2 (ESV)

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watched Him, lived with Him, he understood God the Father, God the Son, one God, three separate distinct persons. God, it says here, had the foreknowledge, they were elect of God, but there was a sanctification in the Spirit, and I want to explain that word sanctification. Just, if you're taking notes, write it down "set apart", to be used for a different purpose. So when God chose you and you said yes to Jesus, His Spirit, God Himself, set you apart for a different purpose. So what the Bible will teach us is that we were children of the darkness, we were children who our father was Satan,

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: and all of a sudden we changed ownership when we came to Jesus and now God is our Father. And that that should be the most encouraging thing to each one of us today. And so we are sanctified and that sanctification is to make us holy. Again the word *holy* meaning "to be set apart" for the purpose of God's, that's why the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin because God doesn't want you to be living that old life anymore. And so as long as we're living in these bodies we still struggle with that, we still have human emotions, human fears, human concerns, human desires, human sins, and some of you are struggling with stuff right now that you know is sinful and you're going, "Why? Why is that?" Even though you're living in these bodies, God's Holy Spirit is convicting you, that's why it bothers you right now.

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: Convicting you to say no to that sin and, um, Titus says it this way – to reject, to say no to all ungodliness and all that nastiness.¹ That's the Holy Spirit in your life saying that, so it's clear here that it's in the sanctification of the Spirit, being set apart, being used for a different purpose. And I want to say this, and again, many of us are sitting on our couches right now, I'm sitting with my boy to be part of a family,

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: and so that's what He's inviting us into, this sanctification of the Spirit, to be part of a family.

Matt: Yeah, and the last piece of this, the last portion of it, it says, "*and sprinkling of his blood,*" and I think that's just so, so powerful. It's such a little piece of this verse, of this passage, but

Lee: So what do you think that's all about?

Matt: Well, I mean at first look, people are like, "Why is Christianity so bloody? Why is this all focused on the blood?" But we look at it and we go, "*and sprinkling of his blood,*" we go, "We're sanctified through Christ, through the sacrifice He made on the cross."

Lee: Why is that important?

Matt: Because without that none of this matters.

Lee: Wait a minute, but what's that sacrifice on the cross do for you?

Matt: It's salvation, it's atonement.

Lee: But why does it take blood?

¹ **TITUS 1:11-14 (AMP):** For the [remarkable, undeserved] grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to reject ungodliness and worldly (immoral) desires, and to live sensible, upright, and godly lives [lives with a purpose that reflect spiritual maturity] in this present age, awaiting and confidently expecting the [fulfillment of our] blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who [willingly] gave Himself [to be crucified] on our behalf to redeem us and purchase our freedom from all wickedness, and to purify for Himself a chosen and very special people to be His own possession, who are enthusiastic for doing what is good.

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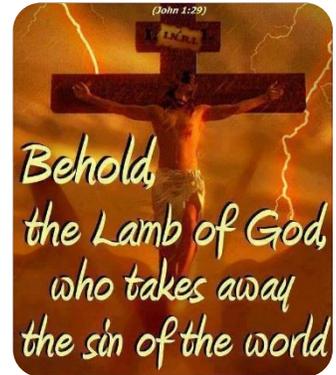
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Matt: Well, in the Old Testament it was through sacrifice of a lamb, but Jesus stepped in as that perfect lamb.

Lee: Just a little fact that I think is sort of cool is Peter originally is really attracted to Jesus through the preaching of John the Baptist, when he was teaching about Jesus being the Lamb of God.

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: And so it would be, you know, he grew up seeing lambs slain and their blood being shed to cover sins, they just covered it, covered it for a while, but now the Lamb of God, the Promised One, the Messiah has come and Peter's going, "The Lamb of God?" Now remember, one little fact I didn't tell you about Peter earlier, Peter, when Jesus was about to go to the cross, Peter's like, "No, no, no, no, we don't have to do that."



[INAUDIBLE / CROSSTALK / LAUGHTER]

Lee: And yet here he really, I mean, obviously at this point we're talking that, we're about 65-68 A.D. and I don't even know if I mentioned it, Peter ends up dying on a cross, at least that's by tradition in Rome, says he won't die like Jesus Christ and is crucified upside down. This guy knows of what he speaks and he believes in Jesus so much that he goes to a martyr's cross dying, losing his own life for that. But he knew that Jesus' blood sprinkled upon us is what forgave us of our sins and cleansed us from all unrighteousness, and he really promotes that.



By the way, if we were in a real service today at the church we would have been taking communion, and we would have been talking about leading right into communion right now. I believe if you're with family or you have the ability to get on, you know, Facetime here in a little bit and Facetime with someone else, grab a piece of bread, grab some grape juice or, you know, whatever you have, like, that could look like that and partake of communion and remember Jesus. I think we need, that's something we need to do together as a group, but I think you can do it together with a couple other Christians. So whether you do it in your small group this week and I hope you're meeting with your group, most of our groups have been meeting and that is really, really cool, and so be taking of communion.

Peter says this matters, and again, why does this matter? He's talking to a group of people that are hurting and he's saying, "I know of what I speak. I knew Jesus personally. I walked with Him. I saw Him do these things. And I know, like, He made it clear to me God chose us, His Spirit sets us apart, and Jesus' blood is what makes everything okay right now."

And by the way, I've had a lot of people this week talking to me about that. There's a lot of fear. I mean, when you all of a sudden realize people, that names that you know, are dying you begin to ask, "What's the chance that someone I know or love will die in the course this time?" Or, "What's the chance that it'll be me?" And there's a lot of questions about that for salvation. And I would just encourage you right now, would you just pause right now, the blood of Jesus sprinkled, and shed on that cross to forgive you of your sins. And you may be feeling that same pull of the Spirit right now, where God's Spirit is saying, "Put your trust in Me." And if you are, this is not a time to go, "I wonder if I was elect," or "I wonder if I was chosen" and

Matt: You are.

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Lee: now's the time. Yeah, you are.

[LAUGHTER]

The fact that you're feeling and the fact that you're asking those questions, the fact that God sent you in front of this screen right now to hear these words, just as simple as just saying, "Jesus, come into my life. I want You to forgive me of my sins. I want that blood to cover those sins. I believe that You did that. I trust You right now, Jesus, and I want your Spirit to set me apart and use me. I want to be part of your family." And if you've just prayed that prayer, I mean, you pray it in your words, you say it however you want to say it, read these verses and just say, "I believe this. I believe this, Jesus. It's You." He'll change your life.

Matt: Yeah. And so, but I think of just a great way to end that is the same way Peter ends this verse, it says grace and peace be with you in abundance.

Lee: Yeah, and then that's what

Matt: That's what he's saying.

Lee: and that's what we want right now.

Matt: That's what we want.

[INAUDIBLE / CROSSTALK]

Lee: as a result of this.

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: And mine says, "be multiplied to you."² You get more and more and more and more of that. And the more you walk with Jesus, the more grace you'll receive. You know that grace is? You know, something I didn't earn, something I didn't deserve, something that I didn't do anything to get, but God just pours it out. And peace, Shalom. This is sort of cool, peace with God literally, "the war is over." You say, "Well, I didn't know there was a war. I mean, was there a war between me and God? I've never fought with God. I've never had this relationship that you just explained, I never quite understood it like that, but I don't know if I was at war." The Bible says that when we sinned that separated us from God and so that put enmity between us and God, there was a separation and the moment you put your trust in Jesus—that's why God sent Jesus to forgive you of your sins—that blood covered your sins and cleansed you of unrighteousness.

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: So that's what I'm excited about, "*May grace and peace be multiplied to you*" [ESV]— to your family, to your children, to those that you love that aren't sitting beside you today, may that be extended to you in the fullest manner. You have that still open in front of you?

Matt: Yeah.

Lee: Read may grace and peace, how does it say it in yours?

Matt: "*Grace and peace be yours in abundance.*" [NIV 1984]

Lee: [LAUGHING] Yeah. That's what I wanted for them to

[INAUDIBLE / CROSSTALK]

Matt: Not just I hope you have a little grace and a little peace, like, *abundance* of that grace and peace. I just love that wording he said. You can tell he's all-in, he wants it in abundance, he wants it

² | PETER 1:1-2 (ESV): May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

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multiplied to you, not just, "Oh, I hope that you're at peace." It's, "I hope you have abundance of peace."

Lee: And you're a big guy, you're a big guy,

Matt: Yeah. I need a lot of peace.

Lee: but think about it, it's one thing for someone sweet and nice to come up say, "Grace and peace to you. Yes."

Matt: [*reaches over and pats Lee on the shoulder*] Grace and peace to you.

[LAUGHTER]

Lee: Imagine one of those guys at the gym walking up, just pumped all that weight, imagine that guy getting off the boat carrying a bunch of nets going, "You're gonna get peace, you get grace through Jesus. God bless you. God bless you." That would be our word to you today. That's what Matthew and I want you to hear today in the midst this time, grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Jesus,

I pray that your grace and your peace will be multiplied to all who watch. That You'd be glorified in their lives. And Lord, I pray right now in the midst of all this craziness that they'd be able to just take a deep breath and feel your grace and your peace fall upon them.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

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