

Peter: Spirit-filled, Cowardly to Courageous

- Wheaties box
 - Tim got a gift last week from a member and he wondered if the member thought he was a leprechaun.
 - I received a gift this week as well. Someone must think I'm a bodybuilder.
 - All joking aside, if I looked like this, it would be quite a transformation!

- As I was preparing for today, I came across another transformation - Kat Von D Baptism on October 3. **(SLIDE of Kat Von D Baptism)**
 - "Accused antisemite Kat Von D renounces witchcraft, converts to Christianity"
 - "Kat Von D posts video of baptism 1 year after renouncing witchcraft and the occult"
 - "Famed tattoo artist and occultist Kat Von D, who faced antisemitism accusations throughout the early 2000 and 2010s, released a video on her IG announcing her conversion to Christianity."
 - She has been previously known for her macabre art, and a self-proclaimed witch.
 - "I don't know if any of you have been going through changes in your lives right now, but in the last few years I've come to some meaningful realizations – many of them revolving around the fact that I got a lot of things wrong in my past. Today, I went through my entire library, and threw out books that just don't align with who I am and who I want to be. I've always found beauty in the macabre, but at this point, I just had to ask myself what is my relationship with this content? And the truth is, I just don't want to invite any of these things into our family's lives, even if it comes disguised in beautiful covers, collecting dust on my shelves. But right now, it's never been clearer to me that there is a spiritual battle taking place, and I want to surround myself and my family with love and light."

- We have been on a journey this fall as we have worked through the Acts 1-11 and selected passages from the writings of Paul exploring the:
 - **Priorities and Passionate Pursuits (SLIDE)**
 - Teaching team called FD to prioritize and passionately pursue being a church that is Christ-centered, Spirit-filled, gospel proclaiming, scripture, worship, and fellowship driven, prayer saturated, grace abundant and missional – NO MATTER WHAT!
 - **Prayers and Pleadings (SLIDE)**
 - Teaching team called FD to plead with God and pray over our church that we would continue to become a people of worship, formation, and mission – NO MATTER WHAT!
 - Today, we are going to start exploring **Power-filled People (SLIDE)**
 - **Teaching team will call us to be a people who live radical Holy Spirit power-filled lives, giving our all to the call of Christ to partner with him in changing our world for Him one life at a time.**
 - Just like we see in the spirit-filled conversion and ongoing transformation of Kat Von D, I want to remind you that spiritual transformation is possible.
 - On this journey, we are going to see how radical power-filled people were used by God to change their world for Jesus.
 - We are going to see that this is an adventure. A journey, only possible through the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - May we, Fellowship Dallas, be a people who live radical Holy Spirit power-filled lives, giving our all to the call of Christ seeking to change our world for Him one life at a time.

- [Why listen?] As we have been reminded many times this year, John 15 says we can do nothing if we are not in Christ yet some of us continue to try to live this way and are experiencing frustrated results.
 - Some of us are so consumed trying to please everyone around you and it is leaving you exhausted.
 - We worship what we pay attention to.
 - Some of us have boldly declared Jesus as Lord but are allowing fear to consume us.
 - Some of us have been on the journey for a long time and are weary; maybe even secretly wondering if there will ever be fruit from saying Yes to Jesus.

- [Where we are headed today.] 3 Scenes of Peter's Life: From Coward to Courageous
 - The first person's story we are going to explore in this series about Power-Filled People is Peter.
 - We are going to take a look at 3 scenes in Peter's life as he shifts from an eager, ordinary man working under his own power who makes a cowardly decision out of fear to being transformed by the power of the spirit becoming a new

creation who is continuing to be formed into the image of Jesus living full of power acting courageously living life on mission as a repurposed representative for Christ.

- Turn with me to Matthew 26 – one of the darkest moments of his life.

▪ **SCENE 1: Let's start in darkness . . .**

- Jesus has just been arrested. Most of his disciples have scattered. He has just been betrayed by Judas.
 - These are the same disciples he had just finished having his last meal with.
- One of his disciples, who has been with him from the beginning of his ministry, Peter is following at a distance.
 - This is the same Peter that Jesus invited to follow him in Matthew 4 offering him the ability to shift from being a fisherman of fish to become a fisherman of men.
 - This is the same Peter who got out of the boat in John 14
 - This is the same Peter that had just cut the ear off one of the soldiers who was arresting Jesus.
 - This is the same Peter who boldly declared that he would NEVER deny Jesus, even if Peter had to die.
- **Matthew 26: 57 - 74**
 - ⁵⁷Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. ⁵⁸But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. ⁵⁹The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward ⁶¹and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶²Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶³But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." ⁶⁴"You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."^(e)⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered. ⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him ⁶⁸and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?" Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. ⁷⁰But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. ⁷¹Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷²He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" ⁷³After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." ⁷⁴Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. (SLIDE – NIV)
- Observations:
 - Peter is following at a distance.
 - He is recognized and accused of being with Jesus.
 - In this moment of opportunity, he chooses fear.
 - He chooses to please man.
 - In this moment of accusation from a servant woman at midnight, Peter acts in a cowardly way.
 - He allows the approval of man to be more important than acknowledging his relationship with Jesus.
 - Before we judge too harshly, have you ever said you would never do something, just to find yourself in a situation doing that exact same thing?
 - Personal Example
 - High School – made a mistake and crossed a line I never thought I'd cross.
 - Why do we do things we said we would never do?
 - I believe it is because we tend to choose fear over faith.
 - What are we afraid of?
 - We are afraid of being alone.
 - So, we continue to violate God's desires for us, and we act in ways counter to God's desire for us.
 - We are afraid of not having enough.
 - We hoard, collect, compile and hope that this will fulfill us.
 - We are afraid of not being enough.
 - So, we play it safe, and we rely on our own power rather than trusting that God will be with us.
 - We trust man's call for our lives rather than God's call for our lives.
 - Paul speaks about this in **Galatians 1:10**
 - ¹⁰Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

- Humans, when consumed by fear, abuse, manipulate, lie to get what we want or to get relief from what we can't stand any longer.
- In this moment, Peter chooses fear. His actions are cowardly. He does what he said he would never do.

▪ **Scene 2: The Morning**

- **Acts 2:1-40**

- When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,^[b] ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.^[c]

²²"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,^[d] put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵David said about him:

"I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

²⁶Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,

²⁷because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.^[e]

²⁹"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

³⁵until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."^[f]

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation. (SLIDE – NIV)

- Observations
 - Infancy narrative in which we see the the power of God, made manifest at the resurrection and ascension of Christ, bestowed upon the people of God through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - Peter is a recipient of this as well.
 - An eruption of from heaven that sounds like a blowing of a violent wind starts their day while they were waiting and praying.
 - It's possible this is same wind of creation that was present the very first morning of all mornings that swept across dark waters that Genesis 1 references. The wind is once again bringing something to life.
 - This confirms John the Baptists prophecy in Luke 3:16 that "Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire."
 - Filled with the spirit, the people begin to speak in tongues – in languages that are foreign to them, and they can understand each other.
 - This scene is so utterly outrageous that the only way people could make sense of this was to assume the only reasonable explanation was that they were drunk.
 - Another Accusation
 - In this moment of accusation by a crowd of mockers in the morning, Peter has a choice.
 - Remember where we left Peter.
 - We left him weeping in the courtyard, a follower of Jesus tested, who cowardly denied the Christ.
 - Now, though filled with the Spirit, he is the first to lift his voice and proclaim, openly the words that only a few weeks before he could not speak, even to a servant woman at midnight.
 - "In Genesis 2:7 the Spirit of God breathed life into the dust and created a human being. In Acts 2:1-4 the Spirit has breathed life into a once cowardly disciple and created a new man who now has the rich gift of bold speech."

▪ SCENE 3 – BOLDNESS ON DISPLAY

- Peter had just healed a man who had been lame from birth.
 - All the onlookers are astonished, and Peter begins to preach again to remind them that this was done through the power of Jesus Christ.
 - Just like in Acts 2, he calls them to repentance.
 - It just so happens he had some powerful officials in the crowd.
- Let's pick up in **Acts 4:1-21**

- The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ²They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.⁵The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others of the high priest's family. ⁷They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹Jesus is

"the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone."^[a]

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."¹³When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶"What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name."¹⁸Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! ²⁰As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." (SLIDE – NIV)

- Transformation is being realized; spirit-filled, Peter continues to make the shift from a people pleaser to a God pleaser; from cowardly behavior to courageous action.

- The difference between where he was and where he is can only be attributed to the filling of the spirit and Peter's submission to Him.
 - It's remarkable that he can speak boldly in front of powerful leaders who could punish him harshly. In scene 1, he couldn't even speak boldly in front a servant woman.
 - I don't think these sermons were being preached from notes or from an iPad.
 - God, through the Spirit, gave Him the words!
 - Unschooled, ordinary men are capable of extraordinary acts when power filled.
 - Sidenote:
 - Isn't it interesting that sometimes religious leaders stand in the way.
 - In the kingdom of God, when we are spirit-filled, we all are equal and can partner with God in His redeeming work in the world.
 - I think we must really be careful not to let man – even religious leaders - stop us from fulfilling what God has called us to.
- SO, WHAT!? What can we learn as from these 3 scenes in the life of Peter?
 - **WHEN WE FALL ON OUR FACE, WE HAVE A CHOICE (SLIDE)**
 - Sometimes it takes us failing miserably to be reminded of what we want.
 - Peter wanted to follow Jesus all the way to the end.
 - In the moment, his behavior was that of a coward. This lesson caused him to be forced to reassess how we was going to choose to live from that point on.
 - Some of us have fallen flat on our face. This is the moment we have a chance to get back up and try again.
 - Hebrews 10:39 – But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and are saved.
 - Some of us need to be reminded today that -
 - “You are not the sum of your worst moments; and you are not the sum of your best moments. You are the sum of the moments where you courageously say yes to Jesus and draw near to Him.”
 - ACTION:
 - Get back up! Turn to Jesus.
 - **FORMATION TAKES TIME (SLIDE)**
 - When we are filled, it takes time to be formed. This is a journey.
 - The enemy has done a great job deforming us. We must be reformed in the image if Jesus. This takes time.
 - We must learn how to use the power that we have.
 - Learn how to use tools.
 - This is called discipleship!
 - ACTION:
 - Be willing to grow through training. Say yes to growth.
 - **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US MOVE FROM POWERLESS TO POWERFUL (SLIDE)**
 - The boldness of a yes; offered over and over to following Jesus, allows ordinary men to do extraordinary things because of the power of the spirit.
 - When we are filled with the Spirit, we can live Holy Spirit power-filled lives, giving our all to the call of Christ and seeking to change the world for Him one life at a time.
 - ACTION:
 - If you haven't said yes, do it today!
 - If you have said yes, pray for boldness to proclaim what God has called you to proclaim.
- **Conclusion**
 - Can you imagine a world where you live this kind of life.
 - Where we shift from being full of fear to living in the power of the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
 - Can you imagine a church who lives from this place.
 - In the name of Jesus Christ, may we be a Christ-centered, Spirit-filled community that gives our all to the call of Christ and seeks to change our world from Him one life at a time.
 - So, FD as God commanded Joshua in Joshua 1:9, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”
- Let's sing!

THE CHURCH

THAT CHANGED

THE WORLD

PART 2: PRAYERS & PLEADINGS

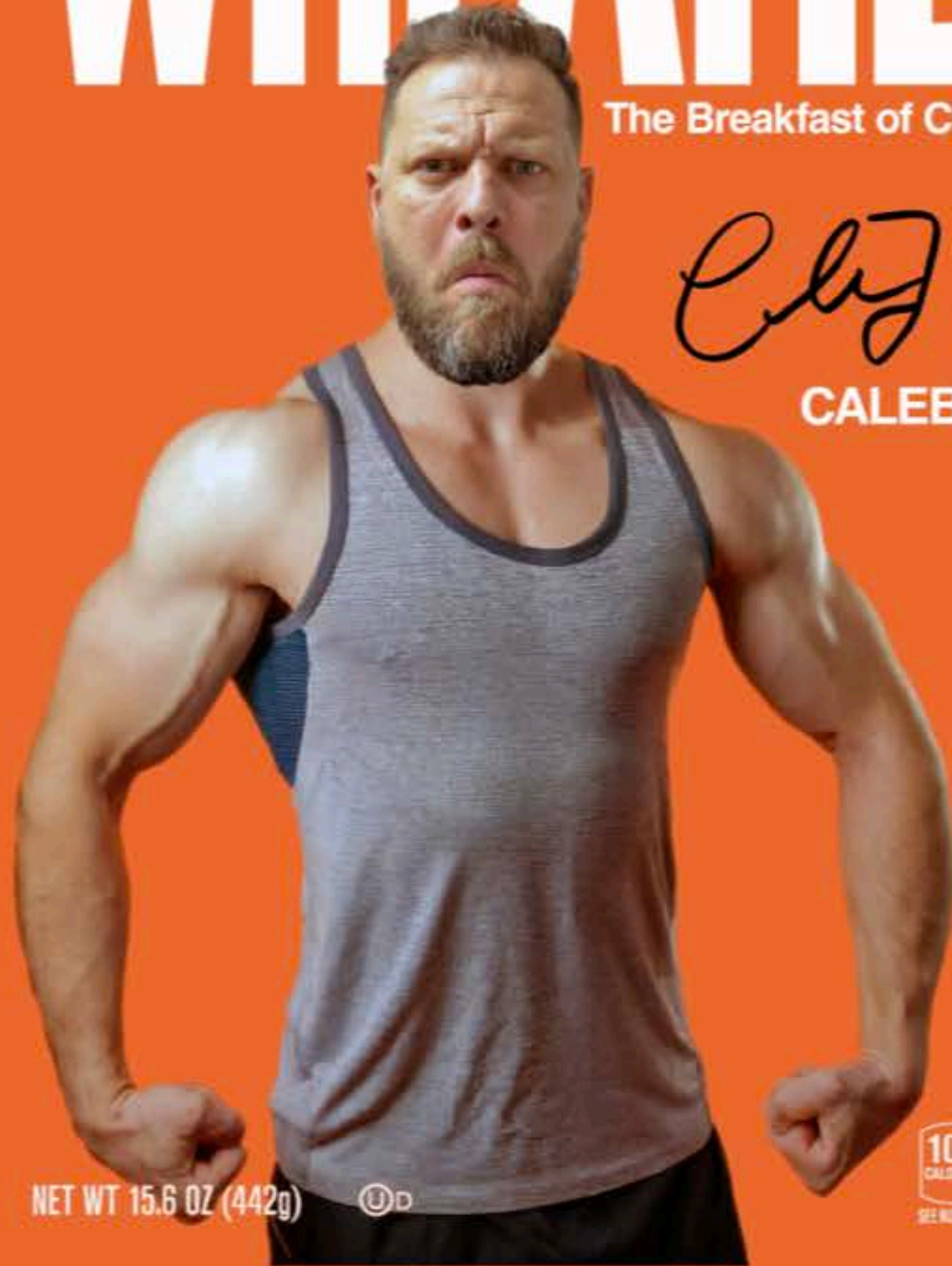




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PRIORITIES AND PASSIONATE PURSUITS

PRAYERS AND PLEADINGS

POWER-FILLED PEOPLE

57 Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. 58 But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. 59 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. 60 But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward 61 and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" 62 Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"

MATTHEW 26:57-74 (NIV)

63 But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."64 "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. 66 What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered. 67 Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him 68 and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?" Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

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70 But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. 71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" 73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." 74 Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

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ACTS 2:1-40 (NIV)

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." 14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

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18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' 22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

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25 David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, 27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' 29 "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

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33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'" "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.

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9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." 13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. 14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. 15 So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin

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and then conferred together. 16 "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. 17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name." 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20 As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

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