

***“Peter denied it again. Immediately a rooster crowed.” John 18:27 (CSB)***

Peter is often remembered as the brave disciple who was an integral leader in the first days of the Church but the story of his denial of our Lord proves that he was only human like the rest of us. Peter, like so many of us caves to the fear dwelling deep inside him and doesn't even realise he is doing it until that rooster gave it's dawn cry and the words spoken to him showed him just how far we can fall in a single moment. A single decision can take ay of us from saying to everyone how amazing God is and what He has done for us to denying that God is more than an optional extra in our lives. Sometimes it's the fear of what people are going to say. Sometimes the fear of being seen as different from our friends or just as simple as the fear of saying something wrong that will make a situation worse and so saying nothing at all.

Fear lives in us all. Some have the courage to overcome it seemingly easily, others of us cave to it time and time again but every decision we make is a new opportunity to make a decision based on faith rather than on fear. Later on, after the resurrection, when Jesus sends the Holy Spirit on those first fearful disciples locked in that upper room (Acts 2:2-4), and then they begin with boldness to proclaim the Gospel. Peter goes from being fearful and making poor decisions to being filled with the Spirit and becoming ones of God's biggest mouthpieces on the Earth. If Peter can get it so very wrong, denying the One who he swore he would die for (Matthew 26:35), then how much forgiveness and how many more opportunities will God give us to make a stand for Him? If God can transform Peter's life in such a way, then He can also help us to go forward in faith and learn to overcome the fear within us.

**Pray**

Father of the most precious gift of all, may we be bold and remember that you have everything in hand. Help us to move forward in faith and to not let fear rule our lives. Forgive us for the times when fear has won the battle and help us to remember you are always with us, and with your help, we know that fear doesn't need to win the war. Thank you for your unfailing love that protects and nurtures us, no matter what happens. Amen.