

# The Faith of the Apostles Peter and Paul

Cathedral of Saint Matthew – Houston, Texas

Without a doubt, the Apostles Peter and Paul are the most well known and loved Apostles in the Christian world of all times.

Who doesn't remember Peter across all of the Gospels, with his very sincere and ardent character, one of the first disciples of John the Baptist that followed Jesus without knowing him, and always he was near Jesus -- during the fish miracle, the Sermon on the Mount, the transfiguration or the prayer in the garden. Peter, who denied Him three times, and at one time after the Resurrection, also proclaimed his love three times before the insistent question of Jesus: "Peter, do you love me more than the other apostles?" Peter finished with "you know that I love you." Jesus said to Peter: "Feed my sheep." The faith of Peter is gift of Heavenly Father.

Of Saint Paul, we say that he was a jealous Jew, pious and passionate. To such extent, he was present at the death of Saint Stephen, when Stephen preached that Jesus was the Messiah and the Christ. Afterwards, he was Paul of Tarsus who traveled through the towns of Asia Minor pursuing the Christians. However, on the road to Damascus, Paul was knocked down off the horse by Jesus the Christ, the one Paul was chasing. Who are you? Paul said to him. I am Jesus; the one you pursue, said the voice of heaven. And he remained blind and was carried to Ananias and the brothers, who instructed him in the faith; because God said to them that Paul was a witness to the Gentiles.

From that moment, Paul would be the Apostle of the Gentiles, of the Pagan nations, of all of us! And his vehement character, like Peter's, will put him in the service of the Gospel!

Which of these two Apostles is greater? Which of these two will be more important in the history of humans?

It's a difficult question to answer. Because each one of them was chosen thankfully by God the Father, by The Son and by the Holy Spirit!

Peter was chosen, called and elected as an Apostle! Paul was knocked down, chosen, and elected as an Apostle. They received their calling and the gift of faith freely!

We can reflect over the gift of FAITH! Peter or Paul, what did they do to deserve the FAITH? Each one of us what have we done to deserve the faith? And through faith, do we deserve salvation or justification?

Faith is a free gift, an election completely free. It isn't merited. It isn't won by good works or by prayers or by penitence or through our own merits. The gift of faith and salvation has been won for us by the blood of Christ, the cross and passion of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Only the merciful and unwarranted love, like a talent and gift from God our Father and of Jesus Christ the Savior, have won us the faith.

God calls us! God chooses us! God loves us freely and give us faith!

What a great mystery! But this gift of faith, he gives it to us so that we share it, so that we preach with our lives, so that we also can be witnesses, disciples, servants, apostles, sent by God our Father and His Son, the verb of God, Our Savior Jesus Christ! What a great commitment!

Peter was called and elected! His proclamation that Jesus was the Messiah, and his bravery after the resurrection to preach Jesus as the Messiah and all his ministry in Judea and in the towns of Asia Minor up to Rome, was a free vocation, a free gift!

Both share a vocation, like the other Apostles and the great Saints of Christianity, the Holy Fathers, the great Augustine of Hippo, until the Saints of our days, Teresa of Calcutta, John XXIII or John Paul II, servants of the Gospel, witnesses before the men of faith in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God, the verb Savior of the world!

Our reply: humble and generous!

Humble Peter responded: "You know all. You know that I love you Jesus" three times and finally Jesus said, "Confirm the faith to your brothers!"

Humble Paul: "If you have received all, why are you conceited?" asked Paul. If you have received faith graciously, as a talent, as a gift, you are not better than anyone else! However, you should be more humble, because God the Father loved you when you were a sinner and he gave you His Son to make you a child of God by the passion and the blood of the Only Begotten of the Father. Paul came to say that we should glory alone in the cross of Christ, that so great is the love and that nothing separates us from the love of Christ!

Humbly, we give thanks to our God the Father for having given us faith through meditation of the apostolic spreading of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. So it is. Amen. Hallelujah!