



graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER! The Papou Study Bible is a daily study provided by me to help folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my daughters who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis) never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t. This is a

simple sharing of my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, Mama, and our loving real “Dad”---God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, now, until I join them in heaven. I like to use the Blue Letter (and very

“visual,”) Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths in the beautiful way the Greek language enables you to do. And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them, challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. And when you study these after I’m gone, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. I’ll put in a word for you with the Big Guy. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*



ChristInYouSeries

Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)
²⁷To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory

graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER²

**The Lord IS Risen Series – John 21 Part 2
 Human Hearts and Veneered “Parts”**

Jesus had anticipated Peter’s failure at his trial. He knew that Satan was behind it. And Jesus also prayed for Peter’s faith in God’s forgiveness to not fail.

Luke 22³¹ “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.

¹ NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.
² I often paraphrase and use material from the NIV Study Bible. Source of both study notes (directly and paraphrased).

New International Version (NIV)
 Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Notice carefully what Jesus says here. I have prayed for you not that you don't enter this trial. But that your faith does not fail. And I would submit that the faith he doesn't want to fail is the faith that I will forgive you no matter what, and your job will still be there.

In this chapter Jesus gives Peter a redo---a chance to do right *three time* what he did wrong *three times*. And when he comes back, Jesus simply says "Strengthen your brothers." They'll get redo's too. So will we. And we'll still be able to be used by God to take care of his sheep.

There is a cool use of the word "veneer" in the Greek used to write this chapter about Peter's love for Christ. There is a marked difference between having a fine veneer of faith in God's never-failing love for you. Christ wants it to be more than just a veneer. He wants it to be the stain your whole heart and being, deep within.

Let's pick up where we left off in John 21 after the disciple realized it was Jesus who was making them a breakfast of fish and bread.

<p>¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.</p> <p>Not that this really changes anything, but the first Greek translation for the word breakfast is lunch. It primarily means principal meal. Either way, Jesus was serving a loving meal.</p>	<p>They now KNEW it was the Lord. They were probably a bit abashed that he caught them fishing instead of waiting and praying in Jerusalem. How cool is Jesus. He's there even when we're watering down his will for us in our lives, and focusing on what WE do TO SUPPORT OUR OWN EXISTENCE rather than what HE IS GOING TO DO for us and through us. Peter, their leader, was still teaching them his core value Jesus revealed to him so tellingly in Matthew 16 when he first told them plainly about his death to come---in effect, to put human concerns first. This was something Peter was going to take a while to grow out of.</p>
<p>Matthew 16</p> <p>²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.</p> <p>²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"</p> <p>²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."</p> <p>In the Greek "the things of God" and "the things of men" are used to describe what Jesus saying. Peter still had "the things of men"---human concerns---in mind. I don't think he was just taking a pleasure break. He was probably saying, yes, we wait until we get the gift from "on high," but we can't just stay in Jerusalem praying on the time. I can just hear him saying, "We've got to feed ourselves." And rather than do what Christ told them to do (wait until power came on them from on high) he was going "fishing." Maybe he thought that would be how they were going to finance their lives from this point on.</p>	

<p>Or maybe it was just a one time shot. I don't want to dogmatically say the Scripture says something I might just speculate is true. But Peter seems to me to have been a "take action" kind of guy. And he needed to "do" something.</p> <p>The loving Jesus followed Peter wherever he went. And so did at least six disciples. But notice what the loving Jesus was doing. Going with them wherever they were,</p>	
<p>¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.</p>	<p>I'm beginning to wonder if whenever we eat, we are to always recognize that it is Jesus who is giving us the bread we're eating. He's answering the prayer "Give us this day our daily bread." We should always thank him. We should always act like Jesus is giving us the food we are eating, and thank him.</p>
<p>¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.</p>	<p>The first time had been the first Sunday evening. The second time was about eight days later, in the evening again. One commentary says this was Monday evening.</p> <p>This revelation is the third.</p>
<p>Jesus Reinstates Peter – That is, gives Peter his redo.</p>	
<p>REDO NUMBER 1</p>	
<p>¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"</p>	<p>I'm assuming that the these could refer to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fish, and his fishing business. 2. The fish, and his fishing buddies. 3. His buddies. 4. Or, the NIV says the meaning of "more than these" could be "Do you love me more than these men do?"
<p>"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."</p>	<p>Well Peter, not so fast. After all---you just a few weeks ago did deny knowing me. Three times.</p> <p>PETER'S FIRST DENIAL: John 18 ¹⁷ "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."</p> <p>That being said, this is Redo 1. You get to say you affirm me, rather than deny me. Plus, I'm giving you your old job back.</p>
<p>Jesus said, "Feed (graze) my lambs."</p>	<p>And here's what I want you do. Forget fishing. Catch men (instead of fish), baptize them and "Feed the lambs." Grow up the Baby Christians. Graze them. Don't force feed them though. Look at what he learned about true shepherding from Jesus</p>
<p>1 Peter</p> <p>⁵ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.</p>	

<p>Comment: I know this can sound a bit like a duty or imposition, but for Peter it may have meant a huge blessing. "You're not fired and you're not disqualified from ministry! I want YOU to feed my lambs."</p>	
<p>REDO NUMBER 2</p>	
<p>¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."</p>	<p>This contrasts his second denial: So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you? He denied it saying, "I am not."</p>
<p>Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."</p>	<p>So Jesus ups the ante. Not only do I want you, rough and burly and real man Peter, to feed baby lambs. I want you to (shepherd) take care of "dumb" (and sometimes annoying) sheep. They won't just "get it" by teaching and osmosis. They will need to be shepherded. Not by overlording, but by your example.</p>
<p>¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."</p>	<p>His third denial: "One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off challenged him. "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" Again, Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow." "Yes," I could hear Jesus saying. "I know that. But do you? And do you realize what the implications of loving me means? Then he gives him the next instruction and way of truly showing he loved him.</p>
<p>Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."</p>	<p>So, here's your job strong-burly-real-man-of-unclean lips Peter. Feed my lambs. Shepherd them into living into what you've fed them with as babies. Then, continue to feed sheep who will be sheep all their lives and need shepherding, no matter how many</p>

	times you have to repeat the same lessons over and over again. By the way, your reward for this in this life?
¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.	It will be death that glorifies God but makes you look like a loser in this world! One more thing he tells the one who tried to talk him out of the cross.
Follow me in the way of the cross.	
Then he said to him, “Follow me!”	

To loss, death, and hope in a world no one can see yet, and which much of the world thinks is unreal.

Let’s look at the stories that depict Peter’s three denials.

Matthew 26	Mark 14	Luke 22	John 18
“I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said.	“I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,”	“Woman, I don’t know him,”	“I am not.”
“I don’t know the man!”	“This fellow is one of them.” . . . he denied it.	“Man, I am not!”	“I am not.”
he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”.	⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore (Greek “damning and swearing”) to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”	“Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!”	²⁷ Again Peter denied it,

Now contrast that with the three redo’s Peter is given.

Matthew 26	Mark 14	Luke 22	John 18	John 21
“I don’t know what you’re talking about,”	“I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,”	“Woman, I don’t know him,”	“I am not.”	“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”
“I don’t know the man!”	⁷⁰ Again he denied it.	“Man, I am not!”	“I am not.”	“Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”
he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”.	⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”	“Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!”	²⁷ Again Peter denied it,	Peter was hurt because Jesus “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Even in his reinstatement and redo. Peter kept insisting on his love. What was Jesus trying to get him to see? It didn't stop Jesus from giving Peter the redo. But it didn't stop Jesus from giving Peter to understand truth in the "inward parts." That's what David did when he repented of his sin with Bathsheba. Below are multiple translations of Psalm 51:6.

KJ21

Behold, Thou desirest truth in my inward parts; in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

AMP

Here is a closer translation to the Hebrew.

(CLV) Ps 51:6

Behold, You delight in truth even in the hidden parts, And in the ⁷secret ^{~c} parts You cause me to ^lknow wisdom.

Wow. The word translated "hidden parts" actually means "veneered parts," the parts even we don't see because of the "fine" veneer we've put over them for ourselves and others.

We have veneered parts.

But God both forgives us and deepens us.

He wants the distinct person known as us to know truth on the inward parts.

The part unseen to the world.

Our veneered parts.

Wow.