

John 1:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Analysis

Andrew brings Simon to Jesus, who immediately renames him: 'Thou art Simon... thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.' Jesus sees not just who Simon is but who he will become. The name change from Simon (heard) to Peter/Cephas (rock/stone) prophesies transformation. The unstable fisherman will become a foundational apostle. This naming demonstrates Christ's authority and foreknowledge, and His power to transform character.

Historical Context

Name changes in Scripture signify new identity and calling—Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel. Peter's new name anticipates his role in the early church. Despite his failures (denials, rebukes), Peter became a rock of stability and leadership. This verse encourages believers that Christ sees their potential, not just their present condition.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What transformation has Christ worked in your character that you never thought possible?
2. How does Christ's foreknowledge of Peter's failures and restoration encourage you in your weaknesses?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἤγαγεν αὐτῷ πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦς ἐμβλέψας δὲ αὐτῷ
And he brought him to Jesus beheld And him
G2532 G71 G846 G4314 G3588 G2424 G1689 G1161 G846

οἱ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν σὺ εἰ Σίμων οἱ νιὸς Ἰωνᾶ· σὺ
G3588 Jesus he said Thou art Simon the son of Jona Thou
G2424 G2036 G4771 G1488 G4613 G3588 G5207 G2495 G4771

κληθήσῃ Κηφᾶς ὃ ἐρμηνεύεται Πέτρος
shalt be called Cephas which is by interpretation A stone
G2564 G2786 G3739 G2059 G4074

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:5 (Parallel theme): And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

1 Corinthians 3:22 (Parallel theme): Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's;

1 Corinthians 1:12 (Parallel theme): Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:5 (Parallel theme): Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

Matthew 10:2 (Parallel theme): Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Galatians 2:9 (Parallel theme): And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

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