

*Follow Jesus.*

We **journey** on a life-long adventure of spiritual transformation.

Could the disciples have had the foggiest idea of what lay ahead when they first responded to Jesus call to “follow me”? It seems unlikely. I can imagine Peter, in the upper room between the time of Jesus ascension and Pentecost, reflecting on the adventure – the miracles, the teaching, the transfiguration, his denial, the crucifixion, the resurrection and ascension. Interlaced with the adventure of following Jesus was his own personal journey, which was not yet complete, of being transformed from an unsteady fishermen named Simon to a rock-like fisher of men named Peter.

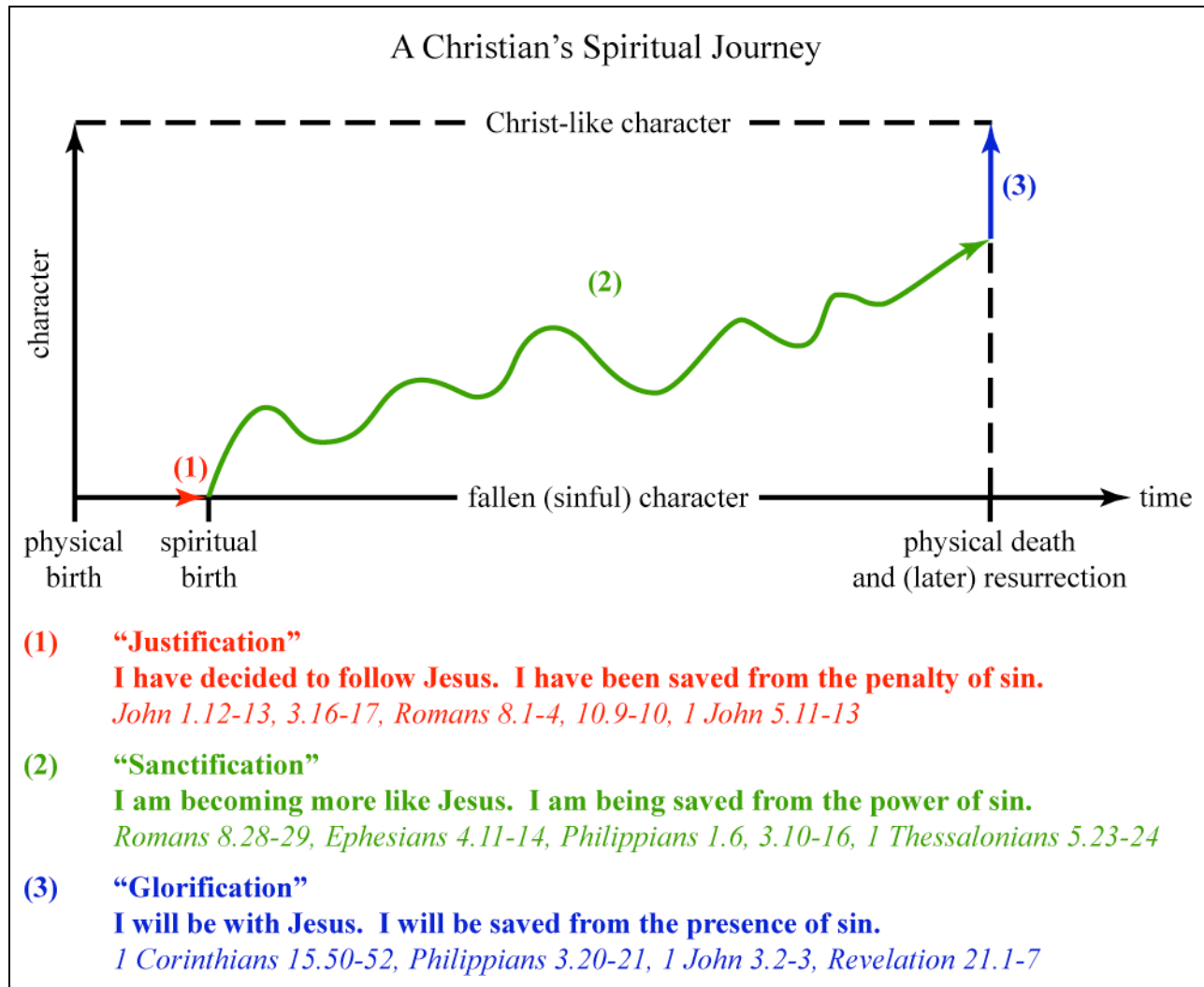
“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16.15-18

- 1) Consider the journey of Peter, “the Rock.” Rate Peter’s spiritual maturity on a scale of 1-10 based on each passage below by placing an “X” in the appropriate box. When you are finished, connect the “Xs” with a line.

	Matt. 4.18-20	Matt. 14.25-29	Matt. 14.30-32	Matt. 16.13-19	Matt. 16.21-23	Matt. 17.1-8	Matt. 26.31-41	Matt. 26.69-75	John 21.15-19	Acts 2.1-4	Acts 4.13	Acts 5.15	Acts 9.40-43	Acts 10
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- 2) Can you relate to the path of the line above? How so? What have been some of your own spiritual highs and lows?
- 3) How did Peter become a “rock”? What factors went into in his preparation? What kept him from giving up?
- 4) While the highs and lows are part of Peter’s journey, what is the overall trajectory on the above plot?



5) Read out loud and discuss the passages listed under sanctification. What does each have to say about the journey we are all on?

Romans 8.28-29

Ephesians 4.11-14

Philippians 1.6

Philippians 3.10-16

1 Thessalonians 5.23-24

Pray through Psalm 23 and for the highs (see Psalm 118.24-29) or lows (see Romans 5.1-5) that describe your journey right now.

Homework: Plot your own spiritual journey, similar to the previous page, by listing key events on a timeline. (Save this as it may be helpful in a few weeks.)