

GOSPEL PEARLS

Healed instabilities

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And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke

him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (Mark 8: 27-35)

Peter, the future first pope, was a little unstable in his intentions: going from recognising Jesus correctly to putting his own human will before that of Jesus. This should encourage us when realise we are falling into sin because to error is human. Obviously, with God's help, we can succeed because even Peter, despite his failures, eventually accepted to die for Jesus. This proves that Peter's past instability was no longer present in him. Do you meekly allow God's Grace, received mainly in the sacraments, to act within you?