

Peter and John

1 Peter 4:10-11.

I believe God has made each of us uniquely qualified to carry out the assignments He gives us. And He also gives us exactly what we need to get it done. But He doesn't make us whole. Rather we are each an arm, or an ear, or an eye. He made me perfect for what He had for me to be and do—and He does the same for every other believer. For it is only when we each play our part that His Work gets done. And what I call My Work is really only a small part of His Work.

I believe that is what He did with Peter and John in the Bible. For me, these two have been working models of two basic strains of believers. We have different titles for them in different areas of life:

- In the Air Force we were classified as Pilots and Navigators.
- In Business we called them Executives and Staff.
- In the Bible they were described as Kings and Counselors to Kings.
- In Government, the *Peters* can be seen in the Executive Branch while the *John's* are prevalent in the Legislative and Judicial Branches.

When I compare them side by side, here are some of the gifts that complement one another:

<u>John</u>	<u>Peter</u>
Navigator	Pilot
Analyze	Act
Microscope	Telescope
Avoid Loss	Maximize Gain
Cautious	Takes Chances
Advise	Decide
Counsel	Rule
Sensitive	Tough
Record Life	Live Life
Write	Speak

As I studied the lives of Peter and John, I was fascinated by the patterns of their lives. Both so important, but so violently different! Here are some of those comparisons:

- Both ran to the tomb; but John hesitated at the door and looked in, while Peter charged right on by John into the tomb.
- John was first to see Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Galilee; but Peter jumped out of the boat into the water and swam to Jesus.
- John wrote the lengthy Gospel of John, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John and Revelation. Peter wrote only the two small books of 1st and 2nd Peter.
- John (and the other Disciples) remained in the boat; but Peter stepped out onto the water to walk to Jesus.
- Peter is believed to have been crucified early in life, while John wrote Revelation in his nineties.

Interestingly, as I surveyed the workplace, I found most serious Pilots I knew in Business were also Executives. I was a Navigator in the Air Force and a Legal Counselor to many Executives. I did fly a little in civilian life, but it never seemed to fit, so I gave it up. I realized I could fly an airplane, but I will never be a Pilot. One of my longtime clients brought it all into focus, when he told me, "*Don't try and keep me out of trouble. Just get me out when I get in!*"

I believe we mature as we go through the different chapters of life, but I have concluded Peters and Johns have an underlying persona that never changes. Looking back I believe the Air Force gave me a great gift when they told me I was a Navigator. I decided it was important for each of us to determine as early in life as possible:

“Am I more like Peter or John?”

From Grandpa With Love

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