



THE FIGHT FOR CONTROL

JUNE 3, 2024

LUKE 22:31 NKJV – (31) And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat.

At the Last Supper, Jesus warned Simon Peter that a test of faith was coming: “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat” (**Luke 22:31**, NKJV). The outspoken disciple seemed to be in the same predicament as Job when Satan sought to put him to the test (**Job 1–2**). Satan wanted to “sift Peter as wheat,” which means that he wished to shake Peter’s faith so forcefully that he would fall, proving that God’s faithful servant was lacking.

Sift as wheat is a metaphor that could also be expressed as “shake someone apart” or “break a person down.” **Amos 9:9** gives us a similar image of God shaking Israel: “For I will give the command and will shake Israel along with the other nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, yet not one true kernel will be lost” (NLT).

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It was not just Peter who was in danger, though. The word for “you” in **Luke 22:31** is plural. Jesus was speaking to Peter, informing him that Satan had his sights set on all the disciples. Some translations, such as the Berean Study Bible, specify the whole group: “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat.”

Satan wanted control. And in some instances, he has gained the advantage because we have entertained his plans. Don’t be deceived, Satan’s plans never change, but we can. Stop entertaining him.

SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 41:10; 13

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “If you don’t deal with your demons, they will deal with you.