

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

July 18, 2016

Satan Wants You!

LUKE 22:31-32 NKJV – (31) And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **(32)** But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Jesus was with Peter. He told him, "*Peter, Satan wants you. He wants to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you, that your faith will not fail.*" Jesus told His disciples' that they would be offended at Him that night. **(Matthew 26:31-32)** Peter, brash and bold as ever, declared "Lord, I am ready to go with you anywhere! I am even ready to go with you unto death!" Jesus, knowing what would happen, sadly looked at Peter. "*Peter*", he told him, "*you will deny me three times before morning. But, after you are changed, you must strengthen the brothers.*"

Satan asked to sift Peter so that nothing good was left. He wanted to completely destroy Peter. God allowed this sifting because He had a different goal in mind. He permitted the sifting so the good would be left and the chaff (bad) would be removed. God allowed Peter to be sifted to remove the impurities for, in the end, he would help his brothers. Sifting is used to purify a product, such as sifting 'wheat.' The process of sifting wheat allows the sifter to 'winnow out' the undesirable chaff without hurting the wheat.

There are many sifters that Satan uses, and he will reuse those sifters that have worked in the past. He will use disease or illnesses, temptations, and especially in this fragile economy, financial woes. He will use the desire to get ahead in one's chosen career, and he will even use friends and family. Again, there are many sifters that Satan uses, as many and varied as there are people.

The fact is, "He wants you and me for his army. Don't sign up! FOCUS and FOCUS now! Focus on Christ!"

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 15:14

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

You can't deal with a set back by just ignoring it!