



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Goodness of God!

Scripture: Luke 22:31-34

All four gospels spoke about Peter's denial of Christ (Matthew 26:31-25; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:33-34; and John 13:36-38). However, only in the Gospel of Luke 22:31-32 states these verses of Scripture: ***"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."*** This verse wonderfully demonstrates the Sovereignty of God by clearly presenting forth His omnipotence and His omniscience. As believers we are kept by the power of God and He interceding for us in prayer. God has set boundaries on Satan concerning His children (Hallelujah!).

The malignant work of Satan is shown through the Scriptures. Tempted Eve to disobedience (Genesis 3:1, 4-5); slander the saints (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6); inflicts diseases (Job 2:7); opposed the righteous (Zechariah 3:1); removed the good seed from mankind (Matthew 13:19); sows the tares among mankind (Matthew 13:38-39); ruins the soul and body (Luke 9:42); is a liar (John 8:44); instigate men to sin (John 13:2); and prey upon mankind (1 Peter 5:8).

Satan wanted to destroy Peter's self-confidence, so he wished to shake Peter's faith so forcefully that he would fall, proving that God's faithful servant was lacking. In truth, the adversary wants to destroy the faith of every believer (John 10:10). *"But I (Jesus) have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not"* (Luke 22:32). Moreover, in John 17:9, 15 – **Special for the Church**, Jesus Intercessory Prayer *"⁹I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. ¹⁵I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."* Also, Paul wrote about **Provision of a Way of Escape**, *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"* (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Peter when thou art converted, after you have turned back to me, and come back into focus what your mission or assignment is to strengthen thy brethren. The supreme task of the church, *"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins"* (James 5:19-20).

That's why: *"Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love (have affection for) thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep"* (John 21:15-17). However, **the 5-fold ministry is** *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:12-13).

Satan at times may test those who are followers of Jesus Christ, but he must ask God for permission. Our victory is found in depending on God. It is described as putting on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17). Whenever we do experience a test, Jesus is with us to strengthen us and intercede for us (Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:26-39). In challenging times, it's reassuring to remember that Satan's power to sift Peter as wheat was limited by Christ's intercession. When Satan comes after us, we should remember that Jesus Christ always lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25).

Another reason the Lord allows us to suffer through experiences of testing is so we can learn how to help others grow in faith. **Our true faith and perseverance are revealed not in a walk of sinless perfection but in repentance and restoration.** We get up and keep going, like Peter, after we fall. When Satan comes to sift us as wheat, we have an advocate, Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us (John 17:9, 11, 15). He will protect us so that the devil can never destroy our faith and hope (John 10:27-28; Hebrews 7:25). Jesus Christ began a good work in us, and He is faithful to complete it (Philippians 1:6).

May you be blessed with these encouraging words of the Goodness of God!