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THE TESTING OF FAITH

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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.” 33 But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.” 34 Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.”

Luke 22:31-34

INTRODUCTION



LINK TO SIFTING VIDEO:
HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/SHORTS/XC6W1HOEFAI

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that he may sift you as wheat

Luke 22:31

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Luke 22:34

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But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail.....

Luke 22:32

Another way Satan sifts us is by using our affliction like in Job's case

The reality of Satan sifting people is real and it's not unique to Peter

And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat

Luke 22:31

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Peter 5:8

But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death

Luke 22:33


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The good news is that there is hope even in failure

1) TAKE ENCOURAGEMENT IN JESUS OUR ADVOCATE

And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail.

Luke 22:31-32

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Romans 8:26

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

Jesus praying is a picture of Jesus as our advocate when we sin

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

1 John 2:1

Jesus is our advocate; speaking up for us on our behalf

But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail.

Luke 22:32

While Satan aims to sift us by shaking our faith, Jesus our advocate is praying for us that our faith should not fail

We can take encouragement that even in our failures, we have an advocate who is praying for us, contending with us for our faith that it will not fail

2) RETURN TO JESUS IN REPENTANCE

But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me.....

Luke 22:32

Part of the restoration process of Peter would include his return to Christ

Repentance means to change our minds. It's a turning away from sin and turning to GOD.


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Repentance is when there are works befitting repentance.

But declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance

Acts 26:20

When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more”

John 8:10-11

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Hebrews 4:15-16

After taking encouragement from Jesus our advocate, our response should be repentance; a call to action and do works befitting repentance

3) STRENGTHEN YOUR BRETHREN AS A TESTIMONY

But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.

Luke 22:32

But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

Genesis 50:20

GOD can turn stories of failures into stories of GOD's goodness.




EASTER

GOD can turn stories of failures into a testament of GOD's goodness and faithfulness in your life that He can use to strengthen others

CONCLUSION

“And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.”

Luke 22:61

Jesus does not turn away from us
even in our failures

How do we withstand the testing of faith:

- Take encouragement in Jesus our advocate
- Return to Jesus in repentance
- Strengthen your brethren as a testimony