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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 971

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text. Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

## The Man We Know as Peter:

- Peter's name in Greek (Πέτρος) means *a rock*.
- Peter, an apostle, was one of Jesus' three best friends.
- He grew up in the fishing village of Bethsaida—north shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- As an adult, he lived in Capernaum. (cf., Peter's House)
- It was Peter that followed Jesus' instruction when the many fish were caught (Luke 5:5ff)
- At his "calling", Jesus said, "From now on, you will be catching men." (Luke 5:8ff)
- He was a fisherman that stepped out of a boat to walk on the water to Jesus. (Matthew 14:28)
- He was the one disciple who declared that Jesus was divine.
- He twice tried to stop the crucifixion of Christ.
- He is also known as a man who failed—denying Christ three times.
- The Bible seems to indicate that he died by being crucified upside down (cf., John 21:18-21, Origen, Eusebius and other church historians.)

# When Good Men Fail

Luke 22:31-32

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - Luke 22:31–32, NLT** -<sup>31</sup> "Simon, [that's Peter's pre-Christian name] *Simon*, Satan has asked [lit., to have you (also translated "demanded" (ESV) and "seeking" (GN), translated a *dramatic aorist* verb, and] to sift [the metaphor of *sifting* wheat is used where the wheat would be beaten in order to determine what is "wheat" and what is "chaff;" it's used to signify a time of "testing"] *each of you like wheat*.<sup>32</sup> But I have pleaded in prayer [in the emphatic] *for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail* [Gk: ἐκλείπω (ek-LAY-po) lit., to run out meaning "to prove undependable" (Wuest)]. *So when you have repented* [lit., returned] *and turned to me again, strengthen* [this NT verb is typically understood as "to help someone mature"] *your brothers.*"

### 1. No Christian man is beyond the possibility of significant moral failure.

**Luke 22:33–34, NLT** -<sup>33</sup> Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you." <sup>34</sup> But Jesus said, "Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me."

### 2. Satan often attacks us at the point of our strength, not at our weakness.

**Mark 14:29, NLT** -<sup>29</sup> Peter said to him, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will."

### 3. God will not waste your failure.

**Luke 22:60–62, NASB95** -<sup>60</sup> But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." <sup>62</sup> And he went out and wept bitterly.

- God can take our failure and make us stronger than we were before!

### 4. God can redeem your failures—all of them.

**Acts 2:14, NASB95** -<sup>14</sup> But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.

- Peter did much more for Jesus after he failed!