

Bible Study Guide

The Turnaround: You Are Not A Failure

Text: Luke 22:31-34 (read)

Bible Study Focus: Resurrection Sunday reminds us of one powerful truth: death is not the end—and neither is failure. Because Jesus conquered death, our story is not defined by our lowest moment. In Christ, we are not failures—we are already victorious. This study will focus on one of the Bible’s most vivid portraits of failure and restoration: the story of Simon Peter.



Key verse: “Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” – **Luke 22:31,32**

• Famous Last Words: I Will Never...

- **Matthew 26:31-35** (summary) – **31** Then Jesus *said to them, “You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ **32** But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” **33** But Peter replied to Him, “*Even* if they all fall away because of You, **I will never fall away!**” **34** Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you that this *very* night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” **35** Peter *said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” All the disciples said the same thing as well.
- **Luke 22:31-34 - 31** “**Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has** demanded *permission* to **sift** you like wheat; **32** but I have **prayed** for you, that your **faith** may not **fail**; and you, when once **you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.**” **33** But he said to Him, “Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!” **34** And He said, “I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.”

• The Challenge

- Satan demanded permission to “sift” Peter like wheat. (I’m not sure if this was Satan’s simile or Jesus’s description of Satan’s request, but the imagery is striking. Jesus describes how Satan’s request will shake up Simon’s life.
 - **Sift** – *siniazo* – to shake **violently**; to create agitation
- Instead of denying Satan’s request, Jesus says, “I have prayed for you...”
 - **Pray** – *deomai* – to make a **request** on one’s behalf.
 - **Deo** – to fasten or **bind**;
 - This type of prayer is typically viewed as “intercessory prayer”. It is a binding yourself to someone.

- **Question:** Does it **comfort** or **disturb** you to know that God **allowed** Satan’s request regarding Peter?
- **Question:** What does God’s sovereignty over seasons of sifting mean for how we respond to trials?
- What was the focus of Jesus’s *deomai* prayer: “...that your **faith** may not **fail**,”
 - **Fail** – *ekleipo* – to be left behind; to release; to **quit**.
- **Question:** What would it look like for your situation to fail, but for your faith **NOT** to fail?

• The Charge

- “...and you, when once you have **turned again, strengthen** your brothers.” – **Luke 22:32**
 - **Turned again** - *epistrepho* – to change course or **direction**;
 - Jesus was fully aware that Peter would fail in the situation, but he was also confident that Peter’s faith would not fail. There was a divine expectation for Peter to have that “turned again” moment in his life.



- **Question:** What does it mean to you that Jesus believed in Peter’s return before Peter did?
- **Strengthen** – *sterizo* – to make **stable**; to place firmly; In essence, to hold one **steady**.
 - The principle here is that Peter’s failure will equip him to hold his brothers steady. “I can hold you up because I fell where you are starting to stumble!”
 - **Question:** What lesson do you think Peter learned from his failure that he was able to strengthen his brothers with?
 - **Question:** Why is this such an important part of the process of spiritual growth?
 - There is purpose in your “turnaround”!
 - **1 John 1:9** – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **Personal question of reflection:** What lessons have you learned from your failures that you are able to strengthen your brothers and sisters with?