

The Sift That Shifts

Luke 22:31-32 KJV

31 “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

Introduction: The Purpose and Power of Preparation.

Alignment and Adjustment are working together to create a mandated outcome.

When you're being moved from one position to another and one posture to another.

1. The opposition to preparation: We all face giants in our lives but how we see them is what differs. The Israelites army saw Goliath as something to fear but David saw him as something to fight and defeat.

In the bible, the sifting process represents intense trials and spiritual testing permitted by God to purify believers in the area of their faith, removing impurities (chaff) and strengthening them for service. While Satan intends to destroy, God uses this shaking to refine, humble, and prepare believers, often using it to separate the faithful from the unfaithful.

Amos 9:9

“For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.”

2. Purposeful Perspectives of the Sifting Process:

- **Divine Permission & Sovereignty:** Sifting is not random; Satan must request permission to tempt, and God limits the scope of the trial, ensuring the believer is not totally destroyed.
- **Purpose of Refining:** Similar to separating wheat from chaff, this process **removes ungodly areas** and **reveals weaknesses** to make believers more **resilient, humble, and prepared for future ministry.**
- **Jesus 'Intercession:** Even during the intense trial, Jesus prays that the believer's faith will not ultimately fail, as He did for Peter.
- **The Goal is for Strengthening:** The purpose is not destruction but maturing faith, enabling believers to return and strengthen others after the trial.
- **Preparation for Service:** It is often a season of shifting where God removes distractions to prepare someone for a new, and more effective season.

Ultimately, the Bible indicates that while sifting is uncomfortable and disruptive, it is used by God to produce a "pure and holy" believer.

Romans 8:26-39 NLT

We Have Help

26 “And the **Holy Spirit helps us** in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the **Holy Spirit prays for us** with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the **Spirit pleads for us** believers in harmony with God’s own will.

We Have Hope

28 And we know that **God causes everything to work together for the good** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

We Have a Head-start

29 For **God knew his people in advance**, and **he chose them** to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

30 And having **chosen them**, he **called them** to come to him. And having called them, he **gave them right standing** with himself. And having given them right standing, **he gave them his glory**.

We Have a Holy and Heavenly Alliance

31 What shall we say about such wonderful things as these?
If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't **he also give us everything else?**

33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for **God himself has given us right standing with himself.**

34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.")

37 No, despite all these things, **overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.**

We Have an Honest Conclusion

38 And I am convinced that **nothing can ever separate us from God's love.** Neither death nor life, neither angels nor

demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love.

39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, **nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**