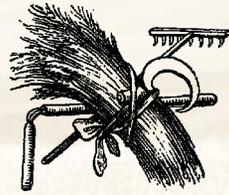


Life is full of trails and temptations that Satan wants to use to destroy the faith of those who follow Jesus Christ. Jesus warned Peter about such attacks while eating his last meal with His disciples. He said, **“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat”** (Luke 22:31). Jesus, in His love for Simon Peter, warned him of Satan’s intention to treat him as a kernel of wheat as it is sifted. He knew that the process of sifting wheat was aggressive as each kernel is tossed up, tumbled about, and beaten down. The purpose of such sifting is to break the wheat apart, no matter the amount of force or time needed to accomplish the goal. Jesus was warning Peter that Satan would use the future events in his life to toss, tumble, and beat him ruthlessly until he was broken. Unfortunately, Peter did not believe Jesus’ warning, but responded in sincere self-confidence by saying, **“Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death”** (Luke 22:33). Peter was a dedicated disciple who wanted to follow his Lord and Master at all cost, but Jesus knew that Satan’s attacks would be greater than Peter’s human resolve.



*Satan began to sift Peter by destroying his hopes and dreams through the capture of Jesus Christ.* Peter and the other disciples believed Jesus was preparing for great success by setting up His kingdom on earth. Peter was ready and eager to fight physically for Jesus’ new kingdom. So, as Judas Iscariot came to the garden of Gethsemany to betray Jesus, Peter **“having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear”** (Matthew 26:50). But Jesus responded by saying, **“Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be”** (Matthew 26:52-54). Peter’s great expectations of physical victory were destroyed by Jesus’ humility. His efforts were halted by Jesus’ submission to the will of God. Perhaps you, like Peter, have watched your hopes and expectations destroyed, and now Satan is trying to use these

disappointments to sift you as wheat.

*Second, Satan sifted Peter by shaming him with his failure as he denied Jesus Christ three times.* Peter had said **“Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death”** (Luke 22:33). But only hours later, **“Peter followed afar off”** as Jesus was being led to the high priest’s house for questioning (Luke 22:54). As Peter sat in the shadows, trying to blend in with the crowd, he was asked three times if he was a follower of Christ, and he defiantly responded by saying **“I know him not”** (Luke 22:56-60). Then **“the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly”** (Luke 22:61-62). Peter failed his Lord, and He sinned against the very One he knew to be the **“Christ, the Son of the living God”** (Matthew 16:16). Perhaps you, like Peter, feel the shame of your own sin and have been driven far from your relationship with God. And now Satan is continuing to tempt and discourage you by using your shame to sift you as wheat.

*Third, Satan sifted Peter by taking a personal and precious relationship from him through the death of Jesus Christ.* Peter had spent three years living and ministering with Jesus. His relationship with Jesus had changed his life. But as Jesus was led to Calvary, hung on a cross, and **“cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit,”** that relationship was gruesomely and unexpectedly ended (Luke 23:46). Peter was left alone. He could no longer enjoy the kind words and gentle touch of his beloved Lord and Master. Perhaps you, like Peter, are feeling the extreme sorrow and loneliness of losing one of your loved ones, and now Satan is using your sadness to sift you as wheat.

*Fourth, Satan sifted Peter by bringing insecurity and fear.* Peter, just a few days after Jesus’ death, was gathered together with the other disciples with **“the doors shut ... for fear of the Jews”** (John 20:19). The Jews had successfully murdered his Lord, and he was sure that he and the other disciples would be next. His fears were increased which the ladies returned

from trying to visit Jesus’ tomb and reported that his body was missing. **“Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass”** (Luke 24:12). Jesus Christ had been his protector and provider, but now He had been murdered, and His body was missing. Peter’s sense of security was devastated. Perhaps, like Peter, you have had all your security removed, and now Satan is using your fear to sift you as wheat.

*Fifth, Satan sifted Peter by removing all value from his years of service and sacrifice for Jesus Christ.* Peter had followed Jesus’ for three years after Jesus said unto him, **“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”** (Matthew 4:19). He had specifically mentioned his sacrifice to Jesus by saying, **“Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee”** (Matthew 19:27). He was dedicated to Jesus, and had the privilege of participating in His ministry by teaching, performing miracles, and casting out devils (Mark 6:7-13). But after Jesus’ death, all of these great achievements were perceived to be in vain. So Peter said to six of the other disciples **“I go a fishing”** (John 21:3). Peter had been specifically called from his temporal vocation as a fisherman to the eternal vocation of fishing for men. With Jesus gone, all the teaching and experience he had gained to fulfill his new vocation was believed to be of no value. There seemed to be no reason to believe he could be anything more than a simple fisherman. Perhaps you, like Peter, have begun to believe that your past service for God has been wasted, and Satan is now using that doubt to keep you from future service and to sift you as wheat.

Although Peter had his entire life destroyed in just a few days, and although he believed himself to be of no value, Jesus Christ had prayed for him. He had asked God to protect Peter from turning his back completely on his faith. Jesus Christ also came to Peter while he was fishing in order to restore Peter’s life and ministry (John 21:4-6). Jesus took special care to address Peter as He asked him three times **“Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?”** (John 21:15-17). By doing so, Jesus gave Peter the opportunity to restore his relationship and articulate his dedication once

again to Jesus Christ. Peter carefully replied “**Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee**” (John 21:15-17). And when Peter was “**converted**” by having his faith reestablished, Jesus gave him his continued purpose to “**strengthen thy [his] brethren**” by saying “**Feed my sheep ... lambs**” (Luke 22:33, John 21:15-17). For a time, Peter believed his world was destroyed and that there was no purpose for his future, but Jesus Christ knew that God had much more for Peter’s life and ministry. Peter simply needed to pass through Satan’s sifting so that he could remove his self-confidence and gain his God-dependence.

Satan’s goal and tactics are the same today as they were two thousand years ago with Peter. He desires to “**to have you, that he may sift you as wheat**” (Luke 22:31). He wants to use the event in your life to make your “**faith fail**” (Luke 22:32). Perhaps you have found him at work in your life and are presently unsure of God’s presence and your future. Please do not give up your faith, but rather “**be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man**” (Ephesians 3:16). Turn to God by communicating your need to Him through prayer, and then listen to His comforting voice speaking back to you through His Word so that you can be restored and strengthen others (Psalm 119:25-33). Be encouraged by Paul’s discovery as he said, “**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**” (Romans 8:35-39). Then begin each day with the single focus of depending on and enjoying your Heavenly Father’s loving care and comfort, as He alone is “**the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God**” (II Corinthians 1:3-4).

# Iglesia Bautista De La Fe

*Así que la fe es por el oír, y el oír, por la palabra de Dios, Romanos 10:17*



7C-05 Box 6090

Carr. 149, R. 510, K. 0.9

Bo. Amuelas, Juana Diaz, PR. 00795

Pastor Jeremy Markle - 787-374-1034



## Nuestros Cultos

Domingo

Escuela Dominical . . . . 10:00 AM

Culto AM . . . . . 11:00 AM

Culto PM . . . . . 6:00 PM

Miércoles

Estudio y Oración . . . . . 7:00 PM



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**Satan  
hath desired to have you,  
that he may sift you  
as wheat:**

**The Search for  
Bible Answers  
to  
Life's Questions**