

- Satan appeared before God and got permission to “sift” Peter and he was sifted, but did not come out victoriously as Job did.

WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO MEN?

A. PETER DID NOT REALIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION

Look at verse 33 - Some Christians are living their lives as if life is just a big party. They go about doing the things they like to do, and do not realize that they are in a very SERIOUS SITUATION.

1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

B. PETER DID NOT REALIZE HIS OWN WEAKNESS

Look at verse 33, we read, “And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.”

C. PETER DID NOT ACCEPT THE WARNING HE RECEIVED

He was warned by Jesus of his denial three times. But he knew it all and you could not tell him anything. Vs. 34, “And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.”

Are you being sifted today? Take comfort in knowing that the Lord Jesus knows exactly what you are going through, and He is on the right hand of the Father making intercession for you.

Your sifting will prove one of two things:

- Satan is right, you are not serving God because you love him
- Satan is wrong, you are serving God because you love him

“satan desires to rough you up!”

Notice that satan does the sifting. Let’s look at satan’s desires -

I. satan’s intent

Look again at verse 31: We need to look at THREE words in this verse of scripture to fully appreciate what the Lord is saying.

(1) LOOK AT THE WORD “YOU”

(2) LOOK AT THE WORD “DESIRED”

(3) LOOK AT THE WORD “SIFT”

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW US TO BE SIFTED? Because there are things in our lives that God is not pleased with. God allows us to be “sifted” so only the good will remain.

- SATAN HATES AND DESPISES GOD
- THERE IS NOTHING ABOUT GOD THAT HE LIKES
- ONCE, IN HEAVEN, HE TRIED TO OVERTHROW GOD

• HE WILL DO ANYTHING HE CAN TO BREAK THE HEART OF GOD
This is where you and I come into the picture. Satan knows that God loves us so much that He gave His son to die on the cross for our sins.

IT ACTUALLY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US PERSONALLY. BEFORE HE CAN HURT GOD, HE MUST FIRST HURT US!

Satan is evil and he knows how to hurt.

The Lord is Omniscient, which means he knows everything.

Look at some of the questions he immediately directs to the Lord concerning Job:

• Look at Job 1:10, we read, “*Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.*”

• Again in Verses 10-11 we read, “... *Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.*”

WHAT IS satan SAYING TO GOD?

Everything we do, we do for the purpose of what we can get out of it. Satan knows that, and Satan said that the only reason that Job served God was for what he got from serving Him.

BUT SATAN WAS WRONG ABOUT JOB. JOB SERVED THE LORD BECAUSE HE LOVED THE LORD - Every child of God is sifted. But the only reason that Satan can lay a hand on any of us is because GOD ALLOWS IT!

When the Lord told Simon that Satan wanted to sift him, he was saying, “Do not let him use you to break my heart.”

Listen, when it comes:

- To CHURCH TIME,
- To WITNESSING
- To GIVING
- To putting God FIRST IN OUR LIFE

God is saying to Peter, do not let Satan use you to break my heart. This is something that Satan desires daily. We have looked at SATAN’S INTENT, but also let’s look at-

II. SATAN’S INVOLVEMENT

WHAT DID THE LORD MEAN WHEN HE TOLD PETER THAT SATAN DESIRED TO SIFT HIM AS WHEAT?

We need to consider two things, such as:

(1) SIFTING MEANS GREAT TRIALS

I am going to say something that some of you might not expect me to say, that is, satan gets blamed for a lot of things he should not be blamed for.

There are people who see life as one big SIFTING, and that is not the case! Listen, when satan “sifts” you, YOU WILL KNOW IT!

Again, look at the life of Job, satan turned him every way but loose!

The “sifting” that the Lord warned Peter of was that satan wanted to see if he could **SHAKE HIS FAITH!**

SIFTING MEANS GREAT TRIALS, but also-

2. SIFTING CAN BE RECURRING

We may feel that we are in the midst of that sifting process today. We are being thrown around by satan, and it doesn’t feel good! This is why in the Psalms, as he was being “sifted,” David kept crying out, “How much longer Lord is this going to go on?”

We have looked at SATAN’S INTENT and SATAN’S INVOLVEMENT, but now let’s look at the -

III. SAVIOUR’S INTERCESSION

Look at verse 32

Notice this, **JESUS INTERCEDES FOR THE DISCIPLES.**

But also notice how he prayed in John 17:15! In this particular prayer for Peter, he prayed that Peter’s faith would not fail. The Lord saw some things in the life of Peter that concerned him, and he allowed him to be “sifted!”

• Satan appeared before God and got permission to “Sift” Job, and he was sifted as hard as any man has ever been sifted, but he came through victoriously.