

Peter's Spiritual Earthquake

Luke 22:31-32

If you've experienced a moment of "Epic Fail" in your Christian life, you need to take heart because even the greatest failure does not have to be the defining profile of our testimony.

I. V. 31 = Spiritual Earthquakes are Predicted: Satan wants to scar our testimonies = (a track record of living our faith in Jesus.) "Sift" means to harass, to shake us to our very core, to make us unsure and unusable for God's glory. So... we need to know how Satan works... **II Cor. 2:11** "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

A. He strikes during stressful periods – He kicks us when we are down.

1. **V. 24** – an argument broke out among the disciples – which one would leave the greatest legacy... Satan seizes the opportunity!

B. He strikes at our strong points – Our strong points are really our weak points. They are unguarded because we think they are secure. Peter was prideful and thought he was more spiritual / courageous than the others...

1. **John 13:37** "Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake."

C. He strikes at strategic people.

1. Simon was the leader = greatest influence on the rest.

II. V. 32a = Spiritual Earthquakes Are Permitted: WHY?

A. Because we need it – it is for our own good. Sifting separates the good from the bad. It's the process of separating the wheat from the shells (like peanuts, pecans, or corn with husks).

1. Satan wanted to sift so no wheat grains are left = to take out whatever was good.
2. Christ's desire was that no chaff would remain = chaff of pride, self-assurance.

B. Because others need it – "*Strengthen thy brethren...*" others can benefit from our sifting.

III. V. 32b = Spiritual Earthquakes Have Protection: Jesus gave an example of His Deity by already knowing and telling Peter that he would get through the "Spiritual Earthquake." Remember this when you're being sifted, tossed and harassed by Satan-- **Hebrews 7:25** "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." **I John 2:1** "...we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" ...3 things about His Protection –

A. It Is Personal – "*I have prayed for thee*" = Of course, Christ prayed for all the disciples (John 17) but here He singles out Peter.

B. It Is Past-Tense – "*prayed*" already. He didn't say, "I'll pray for you," but "I HAVE." Before the temptation I have prayed for you. Jesus anticipates and knows and prays.

C. It Is Positive – "*and when thou art converted...*" Not "IF" but "WHEN". Peter's recovery was assured before his failure was experienced.