

SIFTED AS WHEAT

BY KAREN SANKOWSKI

A couple weeks ago; I shared with you brethren that: I felt as though I was being sifted as wheat; I had become so burden with the distractions and demands, that were being placed upon me; (by this world) for the care needed for my grandma. I was comforted by a message the Lord sent to me by way of one of the brethren. But thinking on this even more; I found my greatest comfort in the word of God in the book of Luke. Jesus is speaking to Simon Peter. And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, [or recovered] strengthen thy brethren. **Luke 22: 31-32.**

Satan wanted to sift me; just as he did Peter.

Satan wanted to crush Simon Peter, like a grain of wheat. He had hoped to find only chaff and get Simon Peter out of the way; but Jesus assured Peter that his faith, although it would falter, would not be destroyed. Satan is still attempting to bring down and cast away God's heirs in Christ.

Since my time of sifting, there have been others in our little congregation, who have recently experienced an assault by our adversary. I had to ask myself: Are we that much of a threat to Satan? I answered yes. Satan, who hates God, also hates His people and will do his utmost to try and get us to turn from the God of our salvation. But Praise God, Jesus said: But I prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **II Cor.4:6.**

Paul tells us we have this treasure in earthen vessels; that the Excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every

side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. **II Cor.4: 7-9.** How can this be? We are kept by the power of God and the prayer of Christ; who now sits at the right hand of God making intercession for us.

James says: Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; **Knowing this**, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. **James 1:2-4.** Now this does not mean we go around happy and joyful when being tempted and tried. For when you are in it; it is not at all a pleasant experience. **The joy is the result:** when you have come out of it; still professing the Lord Jesus Christ and his righteousness.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. **James 1:12.**

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 Cor.1:3-4.**

This teaches us that one: God is fully aware of **every** attempt by Satan to bring us down. And two: That even in the midst of the fight, Jesus has already prayed for us that our faith fail us not! And we will not fail!! **If:** we keep ourselves in the Love of God. I am so thankful to God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ that **we do not** face our adversary alone. But cleave unto the Lord your God, as ye have done unto this day. One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the Lord your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you. **Joshua 23: 8, 10.** But it doesn't stop here. Once we have recovered from the battle, we are to strengthen the brethren; with the comfort wherewith we ourselves have been comforted of God. We don't want to be so focused on the trial, that

we can not see the real danger. Satan goes about seeking whom he may devour; he will go to the weakest first. When we find ourselves in the midst of this; where do we go? We run to the hills which cometh our help; and oft times we call the brethren so they too are aware of our deadly situation. Just as Jesus prays for us-we too must pray for one another. We are to be vigilant and cautious at all times. Be sober.

Whom resist steadfast in the faith, **knowing that:** the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory **by** Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablished, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
I Pet. 5:9-11.

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