

Encouragement for Those Times of Failure

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 22.

B. Failure can be a catalyst for something great if we respond correctly.

II. Satan looks for opportunities to cause us to fail.

A. Satan's goal is to dislodge our faith rendering us useless for God.

B. Satan asks for permission to attack those believers with potential because he fears the damage they will do to his kingdom of darkness.

C. Christ knows our failures ahead of times, so He has no expectations of us.

1. He knows our failures and weakness.

2. Satan often attacks us in our areas of strength because our guard is down in those areas.

III. Jesus allowed Peter to fail but not to be sifted.

A. God lets us fail, but God does not cause us to fail—we make the choice.

B. God did not save us based on conduct but our response to grace.

C. Is your life making enough of an impact that it is worth God and Satan discussing?

IV. Our failures are the objects of Christ's prayers.

A. He prayed that Peter's faith would not fail even though his courage failed.

B. We should see failure as an isolated event so that we respond appropriately to it.

C. Jesus is not praying that we do not sin but that we have help in our failure. (Hebrews 7, Romans 8:26)

D. The final choice of obedience is left to us.

E. We need to see Jesus as our friend—one who does not condone sin, but one who does not forsake us when we do sin.

V. Our failures can prepare us for our greatest service before God.

A. If God is going to use us to our maximum potential we must be broken.

- B. Peter's problem was pride, selfishness, an independent spirit and disloyalty.
- C. God had to deal with all of this to prepare Peter.
- D. We must respond appropriately to these times of failure.

Application questions:

1. How can God let us fail and not be responsible for our failures?

2. How would you respond to someone who is struggling with a sin in light of Jesus' example? Explain.

3. How have failures prepared you or someone else you know for greater ministry?
