

**ENCOUNTERS WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
**LESSON #16**  
**HOW TO RECOVER FROM SIFTING AND DRIFTING**  
**Luke 22:31-34; 54-62**

Jesus is faithful to let us know what to be prepared for as we journey with Him. However, most of us, like the Apostles, seem to lose sight of what is really most important. There is an enemy who is constantly looking to take us down, and we must be on guard at all times. Are you keeping your eyes on the Lord, or have you been distracted by your own selfish ambitions?

**I. THE ATTACKS OF THE ENEMY ARE LIKE SIFTING WHEAT OR FLOUR. IS HE TURNING YOUR LIFE UPSIDE DOWN AND INSIDE OUT? (Luke 22:31-32)**

**A.** The disciples were focused on their own agendas rather than the glory of God. Does that describe your spiritual life? (Luke 22:24-27)

**B.** Ambition is a good thing, but we must learn the difference between godly ambition and selfish ambition. (Philippians 2:3; 20)

**C.** Satan loves to attack believers and “sift them” in hopes of destroying their walk with the Lord. He always must ask permission (*Job 1-2*) and God often allows it. Rest assured the Lord will intercede for you if He allows you to be attacked. (Notice the name the Lord calls him...”Simon” rather than “Peter”. Why??)

**II. DRIFTING FROM THE LORD IS THE SURE CONSEQUENCE OF TRUSTING IN YOUR WILLPOWER RATHER THAN TRUSTING HIS WILL AND HIS POWER. (Luke 22:33-34)**

**A.** Peter was supremely confident that he could handle any challenge, and thought he was ready to die for Christ. Your spirit may be willing, but always remember how weak you are “in your flesh.”

**B.** The God who knows the end from the beginning already knows how often you will not keep your promises to Him. Be encouraged that He always keeps His promises to you! (*John 13:36-14:3*)

**C.** Peter began drifting from the Lord during the very pressures he thought he could handle.

1. He wasn't steadfast in prayer (*Luke 22:39-46*)

2. He fought with the wrong weapons (*Matt. 26:51*)

3. He started to follow from a distance rather than stay close to Jesus (*Luke 22:54*)

4. He lost his courage and denied the Lord who would never deny him (*Luke 22: 54-62*) (*2nd Timothy 2:11-13*)

**III. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU HAVE BEEN SIFTED, OR HOW OFTEN YOU MIGHT HAVE DRIFTED, HE IS ABLE TO GET YOU BACK ON TRACK WITH HIM. (Luke 22:61) (John 21)**

**A.** The Lord always has His eyes on you. When you “look into His eyes”, you will learn what you need to do. *(Luke 22:61) (Psalm 32:8-9)*

**B.** Reaffirm your love for the Lord Jesus, and demonstrate it in how you care for others. *(John 21: 15-19)*

**C.** Surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit, and you will do far more for Christ than you ever thought possible. *(Acts 2:14-39)*

**YOU WILL BE ATTACKED AT TIMES, AND YOU MAY BE ASHAMED OF LETTING THE LORD DOWN. GET YOUR EYES OFF OF YOUR FAILURES, AND FOCUS ON HIS FAITHFULNESS.**

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#### **BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS**

- 1. Describe a time when you did not handle a Satanic attack as well as you thought you could. How did the Lord get you back on course?**
- 2. What is your greatest ambition in life, and how do you know it will bring glory to God if you achieve it?**