

Sifted

Luke 22:31-32

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, strengthen thy brethren.

Jesus did not say he would deliver Peter from the sifter. But rather that "I have prayed for [you]," "that thy faith fail [you] not."

God allows you to be sifted!

Sifting removes the rough particles.

It removes the impurities.

It builds character.

It tears out the old man and builds that broken man.

When you are sifted, God is trying to separate the carnal man from the spiritual man.

James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

There is nothing joyful about temptation, but James says to count it joy when you are tempted because it's the tempting that molds.

Simon the fisherman needed to be sifted so he could become Peter the preacher.

God had to remove the old fisherman out of him and make him a man that was willing to go to the gentiles and eat that which was common and unclean. He had to be sifted so he could be used by God and spent. There is no convenience in being spent.

Romans 5:3-4

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

The devil has no authority to sift you, but God allows this to happen to make you perfect and entire. He allows this so that you will not fail in the hard times. He allows it so you can become a partaker instead of a spectator.

If we as men of God are truly interested in being “God’s men” we need to be willing to let God sift us. And when the sifting process is over, then we need to strengthen the brethren.

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