

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

August 8, 2020

The Faith of Peter

The evening before he was betrayed and crucified, Jesus turned to Peter and 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...”* Luke 22:31. Much is revealed in this statement. Satan wanted Peter. Satan wanted to sift Peter. But, Jesus did not want Peter’s faith to fail!

I believe Satan wanted Peter to be the one who betrayed Jesus. It is certainly evident that Satan had put this in the minds of all the disciples. When Jesus said, *“One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.”* Mark 14:18, one by one the disciples asked, *“Is it I?”* Mark 14:19. Every one of them had been tempted in their heart to reject that Jesus was the Christ, and betray him to the religious leaders.

Jesus’ prayer that Peter’s *“faith fail not”* was not just expressing hope that Peter would “hang on” through it all. In fact, Peter’s faith was not his assurance, confidence, or even his belief in one God. The Bible is clear concerning what Peter’s faith was. It is revealed when Jesus asked him *“But whom say ye that I am?”* Matthew 16:15.

Peter’s answer, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”* Matthew 16:16 was a revelation from the Father Himself. So powerful was this revelation that Jesus called it the *“rock”* upon which he would build his church. This was Peter’s

faith, and if Satan could not rob him of his belief of who Jesus is, the very gates of hell would not be able to stand when Peter stood to proclaim the gospel of Christ.

For Peter to believe *“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God”* meant he believed Jesus was the fulfillment of all the promises of redemption. He was the *“seed of the woman”* who would *“bruise the head”* of Serpent, who is Satan. Genesis 3:15. He was *“Messiah the Prince”* who would *“make and end of sin and bring in everlasting righteousness.”* Daniel 9:24. He was God’s *“servant”* who would *“open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison”* Isaiah 42:7. He was *“Immanuel,”* which is *“God with us!”* Matthew 1:23.

Peter is not the only one who had this faith. Blind Bartimaeus expressed this same faith when he cried, *“Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.”* Mark 10:47. This was a reference to the promise that God would *“...raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.”* Jeremiah 23:5. This is the reason many tried to force Bartimaeus to be quiet. It was considered blasphemous for any to say Jesus was the promised Messiah. But Bartimaeus would not be silenced about what he believed. This is why Jesus told Bartimaeus, *“Go thy way; **thy faith** hath made thee whole.”* Mark 10:52.

This was also Martha’s faith! When Jesus arrived four days after Lazarus’ death, Marth told him, *“Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.”* John 11:21-22. What was the basis of her great confidence in Jesus? She explains it saying, *“Yea,*

Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world." John 11:27. This was Martha's faith, and it is the reason Lazarus was from the dead.

Each time Jesus told someone *"Your faith has made you whole,"* he was not saying they were without doubts or fears. Instead, Jesus was referring to their unshakable belief that he was in fact *"the Christ, the Son of the living God."* They knew if he spoke, it would happen!

Peter's faith was that *"Jesus is the Christ,"* and therefore would accomplish everything God promised through the prophets that Christ would do. It was this *"faith"* which Jesus prayed would not fail in the hour of testing. Because this faith *"...is the victory that overcomes the world!"* | John 5:4.