

Hello! This is Dorothy!

I was contemplating that little phrase when Jesus said to Peter, **Simon, sleepest thou?** How terrible he must have felt! Oh, the spirit of rebuke that went right through him. But what about us? Let's see the background of this statement. It was in the upper room and our Lord Jesus announced to his disciples this forthcoming denial. We read in **Matthew 26: 31** -

31 . . . All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written - actually, in Zechariah 13:7: — I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

32 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. - *always, the Lord has a message of hope!*

33 Peter declared to Him, Though they are offended and stumble and fall away because of You [and distrust and desert You], I will never do so.

34 Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, you shall deny Me thrice - three times..

Peter revealed utter ignorance of himself, which, in turn, produced complete confidence in himself.

In **Luke 22:31**, we read -

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath

desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.

32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not . . .

Oh, how many times has the Lord prayed for you? How many times has the Lord prayed for me? I don't know. But He is there, interceding on our behalf if we know and love Him. Hallelujah, that He is concerned, for the enemy would have **sift us as wheat!** But, praise God, He was able to say these words of comfort to Peter.

And then He says these remarkable words to Peter - . . . **and when you are converted . . .** , - *in other words, when you are born again; when you understand that I died in your place at the Cross, and you receive the Holy Spirit in your life* - . . . **strengthen thy brethren.**

This is the sifting of the false and true in His disciples and what He is doing all the time in our lives. Every day, something is happening and He is doing that work in us. Peter was to help others through the very experiences he himself had gone through, but Peter was not yet spiritually fit and ,unfortunately, he was very over-confident. Peter thought he could handle the situation and protested -

35 Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. .

. We are utterly deceived if we are so foolish as to try to fathom or understand the depths of our own hearts.

In **Psalm 36:9**, we read - . . . **in thy light shall we see light.** Self examination is absolutely impossible! Self confidence is always a sign of immaturity.

In **Psalm 19:12**, we read - **Who can understand his errors? . . .**
True knowledge of self is only possible through a true knowledge of
the Lord Jesus Christ. In the same proportion that we abide in
Jesus, we alone know, as in **2 Corinthians 3:18**- **But we all, with
open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are
changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the
Spirit of the Lord.**

Matthew 26:36 -

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called
Gethsemane, and He told His disciples, Sit down here while I
go over yonder and pray.

37 And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee,
He began to show grief and distress of mind and was deeply
depressed.

38 Then He said to them - *this is Jesus speaking* - **My soul is
very sad and deeply grieved, so that I am almost dying of
sorrow. Stay here and keep awake and keep watch with Me.**

Peter, by the way, was one of the disciples selected to go not only
that he might be of comfort and strengthen the Lord at this time,
but it was necessary for his further training.

40 He - *Jesus* - **came to the disciples, -a little later here - and
found them sleeping, and He said to Peter, What! Are you so
utterly unable to stay awake and keep watch with Me for one**

hour?

After Peter's bold assertions; after three years of personal contact and spiritual influence, at this critical hour, **Jesus saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? (Mark 14:37).**

Matthew 26: 41 -

41 All of you must keep awake (give strict attention, be cautious and active) and watch and pray, that you may not come into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. The Lord returned two more times to again find them asleep.

. . . **watch and pray** . . . Peter thought himself capable. Faith gives forethought, leads to clear insight, and brings knowledge of self. Faith develops experience and this knowledge of Christ is only possible through constant fellowship. Personal spiritual dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ alone brings spiritual alertness and victory.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

