

# Luke 22:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

## Analysis

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Jesus warns Peter: 'And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.' Jesus addresses him as 'Simon, Simon' (Σίμων, Σίμων, Simōn, Simōn)—repetition indicates solemnity and affection. The warning: 'Satan hath desired to have you' (ὁ Σατανᾶς ἐξητήσατο ὑμᾶς, ho Satanas exētēsato hymas, Satan demanded you). The verb indicates Satan requested permission to test Peter (and likely all the disciples—'you' is plural). The purpose: 'that he may sift you as wheat' (τοῦ σινιάσαι ως τὸν σῖτον, tou siniasai hōs ton siton). Sifting wheat separates grain from chaff through violent shaking. Satan wanted to prove the disciples' faith was superficial chaff, not genuine grain. This echoes Job's testing—Satan attacks believers only by divine permission, and God limits the test.

## Historical Context

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This statement reveals spiritual warfare's reality. Satan actively seeks to destroy believers' faith through trials and temptations. The imagery of sifting wheat involves violent shaking to separate what's valuable from what's worthless. Satan hoped Peter's denial would prove his faith was mere profession. But Jesus' intercessory prayer (v. 32) ensured Peter's faith, though tested, wouldn't fail ultimately. Peter would deny Christ three times (vv. 54-62) but would repent and be restored. This teaches that genuine faith survives testing—not because it's strong in itself but because Christ sustains it through intercession. The pattern applies to

all believers: Satan seeks to destroy our faith, but Christ intercedes to preserve it (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, 1 John 2:1).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does this passage teach about Satan's role and limits in attacking believers?
2. How does Christ's intercession ensure that genuine faith survives even severe testing?
3. What comfort should believers find in knowing Christ prays for their faith not to fail?

## Interlinear Text

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εἶπεν δὲ ὁ Κύριος, Σίμων Σίμων ἴδού, ὁ Σατανᾶς

**said** **And** G3588 **the Lord** G2962 **Simon** G4613 **behold** G3588 **Satan**

G2036 G1161 G2962 G4613 G2400 G4567

ἐξήτησατο ὑμᾶς τοῦ σινιάσαι ὡς τὸν σῖτον·

**hath desired** **to have you** G3588 **that he may sift** G4617 **you as** G5613 **wheat**

G1809 G5209 G3588 G4617 G5613 G4621

## Additional Cross-References

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**Zechariah 3:1** (References Lord): And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

**1 Peter 5:8** (Parallel theme): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

**Revelation 12:10** (Parallel theme): And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

**Amos 9:9** (Parallel theme): For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.

**Luke 10:41** (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

**Acts 9:4** (Parallel theme): And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?