

# TUG OF WAR

CHICAGO TABERNACLE







Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.  
But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may  
not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen  
your brothers.

Luke 22:31-32



# THE NATURE OF SIFTING

Sifting: The process of shaking, which separates useful and useless particles from each other.



# THE NATURE OF SIFTING

The Key to Understanding Sifting: Sifting takes place in order that only what is useful remains.



# THE NATURE OF SIFTING

You can have God's love without the process of separation, but you cannot have his peace, joy and purpose without the process of separation.



# THE PROCESS OF SIFTING

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

Luke 22:31



**Rocks  
Sifted  
Out**

**Sifter**

**Sieve**

**Sifted Grain**





# THE PROCESS OF SPIRITUAL SIFTING

The Process of Sifting Requires:

1. The Sifter: Satan
2. The Sieve: Pressurized, Tempting Circumstance
3. Unfinished Grain: Peter and Us
4. A Conversation: God and Satan, Us and Satan, Us and Jesus



# GOD AND SATAN

The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.” Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

Job 1:7-8



# SATAN TO US

“Return to your folly!”

“As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.”

Proverbs 26:11



# US TO THE LORD

Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead.

Psalms 86:1-11



# THE PURPOSE OF SIFTING

...And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Luke 22:32



# THE RESPONSE TO SIFTING: HUMBLE YOURSELF

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your fellow believers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:6-11



# THE RESPONSE TO SIFTING:

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. James 4:7-8