

“WHEN DARKNESS IS FOUND IN YOUR LIGHT”

that it should be holy and without blemish.”

- a. The believer that walks through this world defiles himself with bad seed (untested idealism) brought to wickedness (darkness) in his heart, and that believer must clean himself or herself.
- b. This type of cleansing of the heart can only take place when a person is willing to renew their mind with the gospel of Christ.
- c. The Word cleanses our hearts so that the stronghold (darkness) is dispelled and the intent of our heart changed. (John 13:3-17)

{LESSON NUMBER 8} {8/8/2009}

“FINDING THE ANSWER - DISCOVERING THE PROBLEM”

“PETER’S DENIAL OF JESUS”

VIII. A good example for us to look at is that of Satan having access to the carnal side of human nature as seen in Peter’s denial of Jesus.

A. It is obvious that Peter failed, but what caused his failure when he denied the Lord?

1. We know that Jesus had predicted accurately that Peter would deny Him three times.
2. Peter’s actions that night were not a manifestation of fear. Peter was not fearful by nature.
 - a. No, human fear did not cause Peter to deny the Lord. Peter’s denial was satanically induced.
3. Sometimes before this event Jesus had warned the apostle, **“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen you brothers”**. (Luke 22:31-32).
4. This is important, please receive this, Peter had an “area of darkness” in

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his heart which gave Satan the right to demand of God permission to dwell there, and sift Peter like wheat.

5. Lets look at this area of darkness in Peter’s heart.
 - a. The story goes that after eating the Passover, Jesus told His disciples that one of them was going to betray Him.
 - b. The Word then continues by saying, **“And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them...was going to do this thing”**. (Luke 22:23).
 - c. During this serious discussion the subject changed and they began to say in verse 24, **“And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them wasgreatest.”**
 - d. What a change in conversation, they went from an attitude of shock and dismay to an argument concerning who among them was greatest.
 - e. It was almost like Jesus had read his will and the disciples were arguing over who would take his place.
6. I believe that Peter was in this group and because of his high visibility among the disciples, Satan fanned him with an air of superiority that led to an attitude of presumption and boasting.
 - a. Peter , being lifted up by pride, was being set up for a fall. **“Pride,”** the Scripture tells us **“...cometh before a fall”** (Prov 16:18).
 - b. Our God’s hands were tied by Peter’s willful decision to maintain darkness in his heart. Had not God given Satan and his hierarchy over to darkness?

{LESSON NUMBER 9} {8/16/2009}

“DISCOVERING THE PROBLEM – THE OPEN DOOR”

“DARKNESS IN THE HEART”

IX. This place of darkness in Peter’s heart is the **“OPEN DOOR”** to the devil