

November 15, 2009

"From Faith to Failure: Controlled Failure?"

John 18:15-18, 25-27

Questions Answered

- Inside Peter's mind
- What's wrong? _____

2 Timothy 3:12

Fundamental Issues

- Because we are God's children, we live in a war zone (**John 16:33**)
- Every attack of the enemy—every trial—is Satan's attempt to penetrate our shield of faith (**Ephesians 6:16; James 1:2**)
- But God is also involved in our every trial lovingly desiring to show us the condition of our faith (**Luke 22:31-32; Philippians 2:13**)

Peter's Experience & Ours

1 Peter 1:6

The question is not "Will I fail the test?" but "Will I recognize the good hand of God in the trial, and if I fail will I run to Him for His grace-filled restoration?"

1 John 1:9; 2:1-2

Romans 8:1

What's God's Motive?

Hebrews 12:5-11

- Through our trials, God is at work conforming us into the image of His Son by rebuilding our fractured faith.

Controlled Failure

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Come to grips with the basic truth: We are all human beings and are filled with weaknesses that have been given to us by God for the revelation of His grace.

Romans 6:6

Soil in which God's grace grows

What are we to do?

- Give thanks to God for making us human beings with all of our weaknesses (**Psalm 139:13-14**)
- Reject the sin that grows in the soil of our weakness (**Romans 6:12**)
- Embrace the grace that God desires to grow in your weakness

Matthew 7:21

2 Corinthians 13:5

1 Timothy 1:15

2 Corinthians 4:7

Did God's restoration work for Peter?

Acts 2:22-23