God Strengthens Us Through Others

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:31–32)

What about the other ten apostles (not counting Judas)?

Satan was going to sift them too. Did Jesus pray for them?

Yes, he did. But he did not ask the Father to guard their faith in the very same way he guarded Peter's.

God broke the back of Peter's pride and self-reliance that night in the agony of Satan's sieve. But he did not let him go. He turned him around and forgave him and restored him and strengthened his faith. And now it was Peter's mission to strengthen the other ten.

Jesus provided for the ten by providing for Peter. The strengthened becomes the strengthener.

There is a great lesson here for us. Sometimes God will deal with you directly, strengthening your faith alone in the wee hours of the morning. But most of the time (we might say ten-elevenths of the time) God strengthens our faith through another person.

God sends us some Simon Peter who brings just the word of grace we need to keep on in the faith: some testimony about how "weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

Eternal security is a community project. Whenever God encourages your heart with the promise that in Satan's sifting your faith will not fail, then take that encouragement and double your joy by using it to strengthen your brothers and sisters.

- John Piper

Events

TODAY High School Girls Bible Study 4 PM **TODAY Annual Budget** Part 2 7 PM 4/12 & 19 Youth Bible Study 7:15 PM 4/19 Baruch Maoz on Israel Ministry 7:15 PM Give



Upcoming Events





Service Times



- -Sunday School 9:30 am
- -Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
- -Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
- -Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

Loving God, one another, and the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ

April 9, 2017



Pastors

tarde

Gary Hendrix Charles Fortner Stu Johnston Andy Dunkerton

Stephen Byrd Robert Fisher **Bob Prentice**

919-563-9249 www.grbc.net

Morning Worship

Call to Worship

Nick Gaines

Opening Hymn

And Can it Be

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me? Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace, humbled Himself so great His love, and bled for all His chosen race. 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for O my God, it found out me. Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; my chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own. Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me? Amen

Text and Music: Charles Wesley, 1738 Alt, 1990

Scripture Reading

John 12:1-19, page 898

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

#190 Glory Be to Jesus

Preparatory

Be Unto Your Name

We are a moment, You are forever, Lord of the ages, God before time; We are a vapor, You are eternal, Love everlasting, reigning on high.

(Chorus) Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, worthy is the Lamb who was slain:

Highest praises, honor and glory - be unto Your name, be unto Your name.

We are the broken, You are the healer, Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save; You are the love song we'll sing forever, bowing before You, blessing Your name. **(Chorus)**

(Key change) (Chorus)

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Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix

Evening Worship

Call to Worship Pastor Andy Dunkerton Opening Hymn #400 Come Thou Fount

Scripture Reading 1 Peter 1:22-2:2:12, page 1014

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory We Stand in Grace

We are dead to sin and alive in Christ, and we long to be a living sacrifice. Purify our hearts and cleanse our hands to live holy lives in Your sovereign plan.

We stand in grace. We stand in grace.

Justified through faith in Christ, who is the Perfect Sacrifice, we stand in grace.

We have peace with God through the Spotless Lamb whose blood was shed so we may be born again. Let us drink our fill from this Fount of Grace and be faithful to Him 'til we behold His face.

We stand in grace. We stand in grace.

Justified through faith in Christ, who is the Perfect Sacrifice, we stand in grace. (key change)

We stand in grace. We stand in grace.

Justified through faith in Christ, who is the Perfect Sacrifice, we stand in grace. We stand in grace.

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Preparatory

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Wonderful, merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper Spirit we long to embrace You offer hope when our hearts have Hopelessly lost our way Oh, we've hopelessly lost our way

(Chorus) You are the One that we praise You are the One we adore You give the healing and grace Our hearts always hunger for Oh, our hearts always hunger for

Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne

(Chorus 2x)

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Sermon

Michael Lopes