

SIFTING (Luke 22:31-32)

By Don Krider

This study will be on the 22nd Chapter of Luke. It's a timely message, called sifting, grinding, and cranking. I don't know what you want to call it, but I know one thing, we must be converted. I'm not talking about coming to an altar somewhere, and saying to the Lord, "Yes, Lord, I need you. I am a sinner and I need to be saved."

Peter already knew that his name was written in the Lamb's book in heaven, because the Lord had already told him (Luke 10:20). He told him to rejoice in that; but here He begins to tell him something in the 31st and 32nd verses of this chapter. He begins to tell him a thing that most of us don't want to hear, but we MUST hear if we're going to do what God wants us to do.

He begins to tell Peter what is going to happen to him, "**Simon, Simon, Satan hath desired to have you that he might sift you as wheat.**" Now you and I would have right away said, "Lord, rebuke that devil." But the Lord said, "**Simon, I have prayed for you that your faith would fail you not, and when you are converted, strengthen your brethren.**"

There's a need today in the body of Christ for us to begin to strengthen the brethren, but how can we strengthen one another unless we first have been sifted and purified, and all the impurities are taken out, and all that is left of us is the pure word of God. So the Lord begins a revelation of truth that every one of us needs to hear. There are too many lumps in us, and God is going to send us through the grinder.

When I was a child, my Mother had an old sifter that you put the lumpy flour in and you would turn this little handle, and it went sift, sift, sift, sift, and out came fine flour. Mama would take it and she'd put it back in, and she'd go sift, sift, sift, and right out of that would come the fine flour.

Now here was Simon, the man who was going to charge with God all the way through. He was going to take command. He was going to do great things for God and all of a sudden the Lord began to give him a revelation. He said, "Simon!" Boy, I want to tell you something. God speaks to us and right away we get puffed up. We know that we are going to get a revelation on how great we are. God is talking to us; we are walking in the presence of the Lord. We have committed our life to Christ and all of a sudden the voice of the Lord comes to us and calls us by name and immediately we jump out and say "Yes, Lord." We are going to get a great revelation. Right? And God says "I'm going to send you through the sifter." Huh? Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever heard the voice of the Lord speak to you, and all of a sudden you thought God was calling you to some great work and all He was doing was calling you to the sifter?

Every one of us, before we go through that sifting, has an identity with flesh. We have our old ways, we have our old names, we have our old relationships, we have our old religions, and God takes us and He puts us in that sifter. We throw our hands up and we start grabbing that sifter, and we start rebuking the devil; our fingers claw all the way down the side of that sifter, and we say, "I rebuke you Satan, I rebuke you Satan."

God gets us through it one time, and He brings us out, and He says "OK Satan, sift him again". We put our hands up there and we rub them to the nubs, and we're going down the sides, and we're going

through it anyhow, and we're rebuking the devil and God is saying, "Turn it a little faster, turn it a little harder, keep turning it. I'm going to sift him until there is nothing left of him."

Let me tell you, when we're a lump, people can identify us, but when we become that fine white flour, nobody can identify one piece from another. God begins to put us together and He makes one loaf. He makes one bread out of us. He makes one body out of us until there are no personalities left. **Romans 8:28** still works, "**For we know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord and are the called according to His purpose.**"

So the Lord said, "One more time through the sifter." Sift, sift, crank, crank, and we start rebuking the devil. What we need to do is raise our hands up, get them off the sides, and just get them straight up in the air and go right on through it. Hello Saints! "**NO!** We don't want that experience. We're converted!" Without the sifter, you're not converted.

"I've got this ministry. I've got "MY" this and I've got "MY" that." God is going to put you through the sifter enough times until all you say is "Oh my, Oh my! Praise the Lord! Oh my! I've got nothing left. It's all Gods' now. He can bake me into that one loaf so I can be broken with the rest of the body to minister to the needs of Gods' people."

He said "*Simon, Simon, Satan hath desired to have you,*" and right away you and I would have said, "Well, Praise God! The Lord has revealed something to me, and the Lord is going to knock Satan in the head." But isn't it strange, it doesn't work that way. All of a sudden you find out that Satan has the handle, and you hear the sift, sift, grind, crank, crank, because God is sifting each one of us until there is nothing left but Christ; until all of us is gone, until the lumps are taken out and God can bring forth that fine pure flour of the Holy Spirit and bake us into one bread, and make us like Him in everything we do.

Let me tell you, when the Lord says to you that you are going to get ground to pieces and you are going to get tested, and you are going to get tried, you might just as well throw your hands up and begin to praise the Lord, because Brother, it's coming. God is not going to rebuke Satan and God is not going to send him away, for the Lord has appointed him to test you, and to try you, and to sift you until, when you are converted, you will strengthen the brethren. There won't be any other thought in your heart from then on; there won't be any other desire in your heart.

Somebody said to me, "How will I know when I'm converted?" It's easy; you have only one desire, and that is to strengthen the brethren. You see, as you remain lumps, God can't do much with you. Did you ever try to bake lumps? They won't stick together; you go to eat them and inside they are raw.

Did you ever eat cookies that had lumps in them? I'm not talking about raisins and I'm not talking about chocolate chips. I'm talking about batter that hasn't been mixed up right, and you're eating them and all of a sudden you get a big mouthful of mush. There are Christians like that. Taste and see that all you get out of them is mush; no sweetness, no real life giving flavor.

There is something about converted persons. When people begin to chew on them, when people begin to come to them, they get life-giving manna, they get the bread of life, they get something from them that is good. But we want to tell God how to do the converting. Hello Saints! It's like the men of God; twelve of them were in the ship, and the Lord was in the back part asleep. Here they were about to be capsized, and all of a sudden they run back there and say "**Lord, don't you care if we perish?**" (Matt. 8:23-26) They thought the Lord was just going to jump up and set the whole thing right, but do you know what He did? He rebuked them first.

I found out that is the way it works. When the storms of life are coming, and when things are trying my faith, the Lord doesn't immediately rebuke the winds and doesn't immediately rebuke all the circumstances. First of all He begins to rebuke me. And He says, "Oh you of little faith. Where is your faith? Is it in the sea and in the wind, or is it in Me? Is your faith in Me, is your faith in the One who said that I would take you across, or is your faith in what you can see?"

We've got to be converted. We've got to come to a place where we have gone through the grinder, and it doesn't make any difference how God has put us through it. It doesn't make any difference how many times He's got to have the wheel cranked and cranked and ground and ground. We are going to come out of there and there is not going to be any individuality, there is not going to be any personalities, there is going to be just Jesus. Every one of us is going to say the same thing; every one of us is going to talk the same thing. Peter was already saved; he knew that his name was written in heaven, but he wasn't converted. He thought that God would say, "When you are converted, go get a big tent and start a healing ministry. Go and get a big mailing list to let the world know what you are doing." **NO!** Everything that Peter had tried, he had failed at. He tried to cut off a man's head, and only got his ear. See, Peter was a complete washout as far as serving God.

Everything you do in the flesh will always turn out to be a mess. You can use God's name, you can use the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, but when you are trying to serve God in the flesh, you are going to fail and be miserable. You are going to have to go through the sifter. You are going to have to be converted. You are going to have to let the Lord have the crank, and you know what happens: crank, crank, sift, sift. Every time you want to speak evil of a brother or sister, you are going to hear grind, grind, crank, crank, sift, sift, and you won't talk evil anymore about people.

The Church is going through the grinder and the sifter today. God is taking out the lumps of doctrines that have separated us, denominations that have torn us apart. God is restoring back to the Church the unity, that oneness in Himself, that complete absolute perfectness. We are going to be made perfect in one, when we come to a point where it is no longer personalities or names that we come to see, but we gather together unto the Lord. The Church, (you and I), are going to go through the sifter. We are going to be converted. We are going to be made into one loaf of bread. We are going to be in one body. We are going to have one head and we are going to speak the same thing.

But too many times we grab the side of the sifter, and in our hearts we say, "I rebuke the devil." You'd better try to find the scripture on that. You see, you need that one ground out of you too. Jesus said, "**resist the devil**" (James 4:7), but you do that by drawing nigh unto the Lord, and Satan will flee from you. We have so many doctrines left in us, and God is going to have to sift us some more, until when we come together, there is only one person talked about and it is going to be Jesus.

God is going to sift us, and I thank God for the sifting. I praise the Lord. Every time I am tempted to speak evil of somebody, I hear grind, grind, crank, crank, sift, sift, and I say, "Lord, I'm glad that I didn't say it." Now you may rejoice in it, but I have a hard time when the sifter has hold of me, and I am being skinned alive. That old fiery furnace is hotter than it ever should have been, and that lion's den is just about to eat me up.

That is just the time that you begin to get converted. That is the time when you quit looking at people and begin to turn to the Lord, and the Lord begins to sift you until there is nothing of you left anymore. There have been too many people walking around, trying to build their own things. You know what God is doing today? He's shaking them. He is going to shake them and shake them until there is nothing left but Jesus.

"Oh Peter," He said, "Where is your faith? Where is all that boldness when I said to get in the ship, you got in the ship? When I said we are going over, you didn't question it. You got in it with Me; you got in it with the rest of the gang, and you were bigger and braver then, Peter."

It is easy when the sun is shining; there is not much converting when the sun is shining. It is when God has gotten you to a place where there is nothing left and God can put you in that sifter, and you don't give the devil any credit but you know you are converted. You no longer say the devil is doing it to you. You know he can't do it to you unless God gives him permission.

Isn't it amazing when every-thing comes along that we don't like, we rebuke it. You probably have noticed that in the person next to you more than you have in your own life, right? You never have found this place where you are rebuking the devil all the time, right? Yet you keep quoting **Romans 8:28** "**We know that things work together for good to them that love the Lord and are the called according to His purpose.**" And if that is not enough, we come along with another scripture and say, "**The footsteps of a good man are ordered by the Lord**" (**Psalm 37:23**). But all of a sudden the cranking and the sifting start.

How come we can't take the fiery trials that come along to try our faith, and we can't say, "Praise the Lord" for these? It seems the people who say these things are the Christians who have been preached to a place where they don't have to suffer any thing in their Christian walk. There is no testing and no trying of their faith; it's just an automatic flip-over and there you are. It doesn't work that way. God is getting an army together, and it's boot-camp time, friend. It's sifting time; it's converting time. God is taking His people and shaking them and making out of them what He wants them to be.

If you want to serve God, you must be converted; and that means you can't walk by what you see or what you hear or what you feel anymore. You must be led by the Spirit of God (**Romans 8:14**). You must come out of that realm of serving God because it feels good, or the anointing of the Lord is here because you've got goose pimples.

Were you ever in that kind of condition? Man, I used to feel the Lord. I would get goose pimples on me. I found out that was no sure sign that God was there. We want to get a certain feeling in our

body and say "Ah! God's here." Where do you think He has been, on vacation, all those times you didn't feel that?

I don't think Daniel got goose pimples in the lion's den (Dan 6:16). I don't think the three Hebrew children got goose pimples in the fiery furnace (Dan 3:20-25). They knew God was there before they went into it. They knew God would meet them in them there before they went in that door.

You have to be converted, and when you are converted you will be able to strengthen the brethren. You won't be separating them; you won't be tearing them apart. You won't be talking about that preacher and that deacon and all those people. You know what you'll do? You'll be praying for them. You'll be going to your prayer closet. You'll begin to ask the Lord what you can do to bring this body together in the unity of the faith.

"Oh! But the devil is doing it." Yeah, but he has an order from headquarters. He doesn't do anything to you that he doesn't get permission to do. "Well, yeah, Brother Krider, I'm a "BIG" preacher." No, that is the first thing that God will sift out, and that is a "BIG" anything. You go into that grinder "BIG YOU" and you come out a little nothing.

You'll come out until you are all the same size in Christ. You'll come out where there is no respecter of persons. You'll come out where you won't be talking about "YOUR BIG" ministry anymore. You won't be talking about "YOUR BIG" this or "YOUR BIG" that. You will just be so glad that you are in the bread. You'll be so glad that you are in the dough. You'll be so glad you are in this thing. Why? Because then you survive the sifter. The devil doesn't get to build that fire unless the Holy Ghost says, "You've got permission." And He said, "You can only go so far, old boy, and that is all you can do."

The next time you even have a thought of speaking bad or thinking bad about somebody, you are going to wake up and hear grind, grind, crank, crank, sift, sift. Just picture for a moment a big sifter, would you, where you are able to hold onto the sides, but you couldn't quite grip it because your fingers weren't long enough. You dug your fingernails into the side of it, and you kept disappearing all the time, and you were talking about "YOUR BIG" ministry, "MY BIG" ministry, and all of a sudden, WHOOM! Out the other end, "BIG" nothing, and the Lord says, "How does it feel now?" "Oh man, "MY" ministry survived." God said "One more time through the grinder."

You get out the other end, and He said, "How does it feel now?" "Whew! "MY" ministry barely survived that time." Through the sifter one more time. He said, "How do you feel?" And you said, "I'm dead!" He said, "Good! Now you have the message."

You've got to die. You've got to be converted from the natural to the spiritual. You've got to get out of the "MY" realm, the "I" realm, the places where it's all yours. You are going to come to a place where nothing belongs to you, everything belongs to God, you belong to God, and that which you have, you are glad to give it away.

When God gets through converting you there won't be anything left of you. When people come up and talk to you, they will get the same answer out of you that they will get out of someone else who

has been converted. They won't be able to go around and separate the body and build little pens and separate God's people and set them against one another. There won't be that anymore. God is bringing the Church unto Himself, a glorious Church, without spot, without wrinkle (Eph 5:27), washed in the blood of the lamb, gone through the sifter, converted to do the mighty works of God.

The days of division are over. If you want to stay separated from the body of Christ, you won't be sifted; you will be destroyed. There is a lot of difference between being sifted and being destroyed. The sifting just tears you up and skins you alive until there isn't anything left. It converts this body from "MY" temple to the TEMPLE OF GOD, converts it from "MINE" to HIS. Pretty soon you aren't going to hear about anybody's "BIG" thing anymore. All you are going to hear about is Jesus. You are going to hear about the love of God. You are going to see it. When is it going to happen? As soon as God is through sifting His body.

When the body starts coming together, there are not going to be any "BIG" super ministries anymore. There's going to be the five-fold ministry (Eph 4:11) that has perfected the body and has come into the unity of faith. Then when you come together, you'll start singing and praising the Lord without a leader. Someone will have a tongue, and an interpretation, and a revelation, and a song, and somebody will have a word to bring to the body of Christ. When you go away four or five days later you won't even know what time it is or where you have been. The first thing that disappears when you are converted is your wristwatch, because you enter into a new realm of time; it's called eternity. Your time schedule on calendars goes next. I'm only going to be where God allows me to be tomorrow, if there is a tomorrow. All I've got today is now; this is it.

The Church is going to be converted, and it's going to be converted until the world can see it. It'll be converted until the religious people can see it. It'll be converted and sifted until there is nothing left but Jesus Christ in you and me; until there is nothing left but us in Him and Him in us, and we are made one in Christ Jesus.

When I've gone through the sifter, I always found out something. God was on that side, and He was on the other side. When I came out battered and bruised and squashed out of shape, He was always there to pick me up and say, "I love you." I don't know about you, but all of my life has been a process of conversion, one area at a time.

Some of us need conversion in our prayer life, some of us need conversion in the way we talk, some of us need conversion in the way we walk, but there are areas in our lives that everyone of us need to be converted in. Some of us need to be converted in our minds.

Do you want to be converted? You know what you are doing, don't you? You are saying, "OK, Lord, give it to me." Well, if you don't say it, He is going to do it anyhow, so it really doesn't make a whole lot of difference. It's a lot easier when you just hold your hands up and say, "Praise the Lord. All of this is working together for good. I don't understand it, but here we go again."

God is going to sift you until He has made you perfect in every area of your life. Do you need conversion in your prayer life? Do you need conversion in your mind? Do you need conversion in the way you walk and talk? Can you honestly say "Lord, I have been sifted so many times, there is

nothing left of me." Well then, you don't need to be sifted anymore. But I'm honest with you, there is still just too much self hanging around town.

God is going to convert us from self to Him. God is going to convert us out of the religious realm into the salvation realm. God is going to take us out of doctrinal differences and denominational separation and bring us into one fine flour. We are going to be baked into one bread, and then the world is going to see the Church.

A lot of us when we felt the call of God in our lives just knew that God had really found the right evangelist or preacher. I felt that way. I felt that Billy Graham was sleeping or retired, or Oral Roberts had taken a vacation. I didn't know what they were doing, but bless God, the Lord had finally found the right guy, and I was ready to go and win the world for Jesus. That was the beginning of the process. I found out that I couldn't even get a Church to preach in. I would go to Church and say "I want to preach in your Church this Sunday," and they would say, "Who are you?" And you know, they had never even heard my name. They would say, "Well, who are you licensed with?" That was another blow on the head. I thought all you had to do when you got a call was go preach. I didn't think you had to have a piece of paper to prove to man to preach. I just believed that God called you and He sent you, like the word said (Mark 16:15).

I would get angry with those preachers, and I said, "Well, they just don't recognize the anointing of God. That's what's wrong with them." Have you ever felt like that? You had a word from the Lord and you wanted to deliver it, and nobody will let you say anything. You finally got in a phone booth and called somebody collect, and told them what God had done to you. You told them how rotten that guy down the street was because he didn't recognize the anointing when it came close to him.

I felt that God had found the number one evangelist. I was raring to go, but I had no place to go. Nobody would listen to me, then I found out that I didn't have too much of a message. I mean how long can you preach John 3:16? I preached it two years; that's all I knew, but it worked. God is saying to us that we have to come to a place where we are willing to be converted. Are you really converted? You are the only one who can answer that; I can't. I can speak for myself. I know what it took for me to get where I am now, and I still believe there are areas in my life that God is converting; that I could be a lot stronger in than I am now. How many find spots in your life like that?

God converted me by sending me to another country. I went down to this big city of Sao Paulo, Brazil, with this preacher, Slim Boatright, and I thought I was going down there on a pleasure trip. All I was going to do was hold the evangelist's coat and his briefcase. How much trouble can you get into carrying an evangelist's briefcase and coat? Not much, because you have to sit in the background anyhow, and how much conversion do you need to sit in the background? That's what I thought.

One night he said to me "You're going to preach tonight." I said, "I'm going to preach tonight? You must be mistaken. I'm the guy who is holding your coat when you start sweating too much; I'm that guy. I'm the guy who sits in the back over here." He said, "No, you're preaching tonight." I want to tell you, God converted me within thirty seconds. All that day I sweat, and I sweat, and I sweat, and I'd keep saying, "Are you sure?" He would say, "You are preaching tonight."

I read everything in the Bible that I knew to read. I read all day long. I shook. I sweat all day long. That night I got up behind the seat there and prayed, and I prayed, and I prayed, and nobody was talking to me. I looked out over that crowd, and there were over a thousand people out there. I hadn't preached to more than three or four in my whole lifetime, and what I had preached didn't take long.

I said to old Slim, "Slim, you must be mistaken. They have come to hear you." He said, "Hey, kid, you are preaching tonight." That's when I learned something about that man. He was converted. He didn't have to preach. He didn't have to be the "BIG" show. He didn't have to be the BIG personality. He could let some guy who had never preached a lick in his life, preach that night, and he would pray for him and stand behind him and shout with him.

I'm sitting over there and my knees are knocking together and I can't even read the Bible, I'm so nervous. I finally said, "Oh God, give me something. Just anything." And the Lord is not talking to me, and it is grind, grind, crank, crank, sift, sift time. The big brave guy that had come to Brazil to proclaim the gospel of Christ, by holding a briefcase and coat in his hand, all of a sudden was projected out in front of everybody with nothing to say. I'll tell you today, I know who preached that sermon. I got in that pulpit, and I said, "Lord, you've got to give me something." Nothing, nothing, nothing! When I hit that pulpit, I laid that Bible down and I started to open it, and God said **Mark 9:23. "Only believe, for all things are possible to him that believeth."** God began to crank me and sift me, and while that message was going on, this Brother was interpreting. I don't even know what he preached I was so terrified.

Don't tell me how brave you are. It's easy to talk when you are not there. You keep talking long enough; you are going to be there. I had all of these visions of how I was going to run out on that stage, and conquer Brazil for God. I had all those big grandeur dreams. "My" ministry was going to flourish. I want to tell you something, when the time was up, I was glad to get off that pulpit, but God wasn't through yet. I was over there sweating. I knew God had done something, because those people were shouting and singing and praising the Lord, and it wasn't what I preached. I am sure today that it was the interpreter that God moved on and anointed him and saved me from the crowd, or they would have hung me.

I'm standing there behind this little fence, scared to death. I could feel that grinder coming on me. I could feel the sifter working on me. God was getting rid of Don Krider that day. He was getting rid of me, right there in front of everybody, and when He finally finished it off, He brought a woman with two little children to me. She was bawling, and squalling, and crying, and speaking in Portuguese, and I couldn't understand a thing she was saying. The pastor's wife came to me and said, "Brother Krider, what is wrong?" I was probably about as white as a sheet. I mean, there couldn't have been any blood left in my body. I had died ten times up on that stage already, and here was a woman who was going to put the final sword to me and kill me.

She talked to this woman in Portuguese, and she turned to me and shrugged her shoulders like it is an everyday thing, and said, "All she wants you to do is heal her daughter." Now I hadn't been too long removed from a Baptist Church. I was told that healing belongs to the doctors, not to ministries.

Right? I said, "That's all?" And then to make it worse, to put the final nail in the coffin, the little girl raised her dress up and out of her stomach was a hernia like a golf ball. I died right there, just died! There was no more left of me. God just literally had the grinder run over me, the sifter cranked me until I couldn't even talk anymore.

I said, "Lord, what am I going to do?" And He did it so gently. He said, "Just stretch your hand out, in the name of Jesus." I stretched my hand out and before I could touch that little girl, she was healed instantly, and the little boy behind her had the same thing, and both of them were healed instantly.

I want to tell you something; I didn't feel like taking any credit either. I walked out of that back door into the rain that night, and I said "God, I thank You for what You have done for me tonight. I thank You tonight that there is a dead man lying behind that pulpit, and I'm walking as far away from him as I can walk. I am walking as far away from that man who came down here, as I can possibly walk."

On the plane back to the U.S.A. God said, "I want you to go quit your job and come and preach the gospel." No education, no training, but I had one thing that I will never forget; I had a sifting experience with God. When I walked out of Brazil I was not the same man that went to Brazil, but God had to literally strip me of everything I thought I knew, and all the great ambitions I thought I had when I went into that country.

I want to tell you something else. Whatever God lets me do, I'm grateful for it, and if He would let me keep the door in the House of the Lord the rest of my life, I would be thankful for it. I have no BIG ministry. I have a BIG GOD! I have no name except the name of JESUS. I have no reputation to uphold. I have nothing of my own. Everything I have belongs to Him. I had to go through the same place that Peter went through. Peter was going to do it, and God showed him that he couldn't do it. It was going to be done by the Spirit of the Lord, or it was not going to be done at all.

God is calling some of you into ministries, but if you are going to go out and say that "YOU" are going to do it, forget it. You are going to hear the grinding, you are going to hear the cranking, and you are going to hear the sifting, until one day you can walk away from that dead man and leave him behind some pulpit somewhere. LEAVE HIM THERE! Put him under and keep him there, and wherever you go, the Lord is going to go before you. Wherever you go, God is going to be with you.

We MUST be converted. What the Church needs today are people who can strengthen the brethren, can go by and say, "Hey, I love you. Let me give you a hand," without anything of gain for self. God is so good to us, isn't He? So when you are tried and tested and sifted, don't grab hold of the sides and rebuke the devil. Just throw your hands up and say, "I thank my God I am counted worthy to suffer these things for the gospel's sake."

Jesus loves you, but before you'll ever be used of God you must be converted. You must be a person who has walked away from the flesh, and is now walking in the spirit. I don't care how old you are, or how young you are. I don't care whether you are male or female, the price tag is still the same. You must die, that He might live.

The word of God says to examine yourself to see whether you be in the faith (2 Cor.13:5). It is very possible that many of you are being called into different kinds of ministries, but I have told you what price is going to be paid for you to walk in that ministry. Are you are willing to bury your old man? Not to have preconceived ideas as to what your ministry is, or what you are going to do, but you are making a vow to God, not the man, "Lord, I am going to bury the old man right here." Do you feel that the presence of the Lord has just touched your life in a new way; that God has really begun a new work in your life and heart? Can you feel that tenderness of the Holy Spirit?

He'll go with you through that sifting time. He'll go with you through that fiery furnace. He'll go with you through that lion's den. He'll go all the way with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you (Heb13:5). Don't give up. When the going gets tough, just draw a little closer to Jesus. He'll cover you and protect you. He'll keep you, and then when you are converted, you'll be so glad that you went ahead. You'll be so glad that whatever it took, you were willing to let it happen in your life. The world needs you. The body needs you. Jesus has need of you. He wants you. Let Him convert you. Let Him take whatever it is going to take.

Simon was no different than we are. He was a man, who in his own strength, wanted to serve God and to do what he could do. In our own strength we can do nothing of any real value for the Kingdom of God, for it is not by power nor might, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord (Zech 4:6).

There's going to be a burial identification. We are going to acknowledge that we have been buried with Christ. We live, yet not us, but it is Christ who lives in us, and the life that we live, we live by the faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us (Gal. 2:20). I am asking God to plant this message in our hearts in such a way that our desire from here on is to walk in a place to be able to strengthen the brethren; to be able to come alongside those in need, lift them up and encourage them, and to set their feet straight again in the paths of righteousness.

Just humble your heart before the Lord right now. Just begin to thank Him and pray to Him, and commit your life to Him right now. I don't care how long you have been saved; I don't care how long you have known of salvation; but now I am asking you to make a commitment to Jesus. No matter what it takes, no matter what it may cost, you are going all the way.

Make that commitment right now in your own life. Just you and the Lord. Just tell the Lord in your own words, "Lord, I am going to make a commitment. Lord, I am going to die right here. The person who walks out of this room isn't going to be me anymore. It is going to be that new creature. It's not going to be the old man, but the new man. Lord, I am making that kind of commitment."

You'll be glad you did one day. You can lay down the old self. You can lay down the old problems and burdens and sorrows and griefs, and just step over and into what God has prepared for you. You'll be glad that God brought you to this. It is worth it all!

Help to strengthen others so they can make a commitment. Pray for the commitment of that individual's life. You are pouring your love and your faith and your heart into that individual that their commitment can be strong.

God, I thank You! I thank You, Lord! God, for my Brothers and my Sisters, I thank You for the commitment that is in their lives. I thank You for the conversion process. I thank You for that which lies ahead of them as good, even though the trials will come. Father, the testing will be there, but oh, the rewards and the joy and the satisfaction of knowing Your presence. Lord, I can tell it is worth it all! Lord, let their commitment be strengthened. Let the love of God be stronger in their life than that love has ever been before. Thank You, Jesus! Thank You, Lord! Amen!