

BEING SIFTED IN THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

It appears to me that satan has permission to **sift Abraham and Sarah (Gen.16)**. Like satan did with Job (Job 2:1-3) and Peter (Luke 22:31-32) and Adam and Eve (Gen.3:1-6).

Satan has been permitted by God to shake-up the lives of spiritually mature believers to separate their walk by faith from their walk by sight (2 Cor.5:7). Since it is volitional, satan believes he can beat the believer.

Sifting is not a bad thing unless it doesn't separate the seed from the chaff (**Luke 22:31-32**).

- The seed is faith not failing - New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking.
- The chaff is Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking that is in opposition to the revealed directive will to these believers.
- The wheat is the spiritually mature believer's life - The Christian Way of Life (CWL).
- Satan is the enemy of God in the angelic conflict – The Angelic Conflict (AC).

This lesson will study four aspects of “gaining the victory” when being “sifted” in the Angelic Conflict.

(1 John 5:4b) “This is the victory that overcomes the world – our faith.”

(1 John 5:19) “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

1. In our lesson text, Jesus offered a prayer for Peter under sifting – “I have prayed for you”.

It consisted of three parts.

- 1st part That your faith may not fail.
- 2nd part You, when once you have turned back.
- 3rd part Strengthen your brothers. (Lk.22:32)

Our Lord establishes the operation of the Directive Will of God (Categorical Bible Doctrine) with the spiritually mature believer. Jesus established the Directive Will with Peter in **Matt.16:21-23** and connected it to the AC.

The same was true for Abraham and Sarah. In **Gen.12:1-9**, Lord established the details of Abraham Covenant. In Gen.12:10-20, Abraham and Sarah agree and put the messianic seed section in jeopardy with Pharaoh (permissive will).

They might have thought it wouldn't matter since Sarah was barren. But she was only barren to the human agenda not God's. God had to intervene (over-ruling will) to protect the plan of God.

2. The Lord does not sift baby or immature believers in this Angelic Conflict (AC). He only sifts spiritually mature believers (Phil.1:21, 28-30).

(1Cor.10:13) “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able o endure it.”

(Job 2:6; 1:12) “But you must spare his life.” [Divine protection of believers]

3. When Satan came before God seeking someone to devour (1 Pet.5:8), God volunteered Job, a spiritually mature believer, twice (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-10).

Job is interesting in biblical history because we believe he was a contemporary of Abraham and Melchizedek.

The Lord addressed Job to Satan as **“My Servant.”** (Job 1:8; 2:3; 42:7-8) [Three times]. Abraham and Sarah have been on the foreign mission field for ten years as the “Lord’s Servants.” (Gen.16:3).

The Lord described the spiritual maturity of Job as blameless, upright, one who fears God, and shuns evil (Job 1:8). As spiritually mature believers, Abraham and Sarah are qualified for this test in the Angelic Conflict (AC) (Eph.6:10-17).

This is true of all believers who qualify for Sifting in AC (Ezek.14:12-20; Gen.6:9; Heb.11:7)

4. One thing we can learn from these Siftings in AC. They all were attacked on a pivotal doctrine of the Directive Will of God.

(Eph.6:6-7) “Not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, **doing the Will of God from the heart**. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men.”

Note the pivotal doctrine and Satan’s attack

- **Adam and Eve** (Gen.2:17) “Don’t eat of tree of knowledge of good and evil.” – Satan (Gen.3:4-5) “Eat and be like God”
- **Job** (Job 2:3-4) “He will maintain his integrity.” – Satan (Job 2:3-4, 9) [Give up your integrity and curse God]
- **Abraham and Sarah** (Heb.11:11-12) Messianic seed (Rom.4:21-25; Gal.3:16) Satan (Rom.4:1-5) Justification by works rather than by faith / any heir
- **Peter** (Matt.16:21-23) Setting mind on man’s interests rather than God’s – Satan (Luke 22:31-32) Deny person and work of Jesus Christ for salvation of the world (Matt.26:31-35; 1 Cor.15:3-4)
- **Satan** is always looking for Old Man Cosmic Diabolicus (OMCD) [Worldly Thinking] kinks in our understanding of the Directive Will of God to launch an attack (Eph.4:27; 6:11; 2 Tim.2:26; 1 John 2:16).

(Heb.2:14) “Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that **through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.**”

(1 John 3:8b) “**The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.**”

(1 John 4:4) “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because **greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.**”

(James 4:7) “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and **he will flee from you.**”