

When the Rooster Crowed

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Introduction: Satan is a capable enemy who wages a deadly warfare with people in every form of existence. When a Christian fails to realize that Satan has effective attack weapons that target the spiritually strong, that person invites serious spiritual crisis and disaster. Peter is a significant illustration.

I. Peter deserves recognition as an exceptional man

- A. He was decisive.
- B. He was a wholehearted man.
- C. He was perceptive. (John 6:68; Matt. 6:16)
- D. He was loyal.
- E. Jesus recognized and complimented these commendable qualities.
- F. Because we know how common it was for Peter to say something, it is important to realize he was not boastful but quickly said what he felt.

II. Peter was a combination of notable success and notable failure

- A. Peter's successes were many.
- B. Yet, his failures were just as memorable.
- C. The point: it is not unusual for a person committed to Jesus to be a combination of notable success and notable failure.

III. The foundation of Peter's problems rested in Peter's faith

- A. Let's examine the event shortly after Peter's great confession. (Matt. 16:21-23) Why would Peter contradict Jesus so strongly? (cf. v. 16)
- B. Now, look at the events prior to Jesus' betrayal. (Matt. 26:31-35) Peter swears his allegiance to Jesus to the death. Jesus speaks contrarily.
- C. Since Jesus said they would betray him, why did Peter strongly deny its possibility? Peter's confidence was in Peter.

IV. In spite of Peter's confidence in himself it still happened

- A. It happened exactly as Jesus said it would. (Matt. 26:34)
- B. When the rooster crowed 3 times, Peter crumbled. (Luke 22:61, 62)
- C. I am confident of this truth: for every Christian who dares to grow and mature in Jesus Christ, there will come a moment when the rooster will crow for us as well.

Conclusion: A person cannot be told to trust in God instead of himself/herself. A person must learn to trust in God instead of himself/herself. The irony is this: we usually learn that truth when we think we are already trusting the Lord instead of ourselves.