

MEN'S MIDWEEK CHECK-IN



24-4

Future Grace pgs 317-
318 John Piper



JESUS KEEPS HIS SHEEP

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

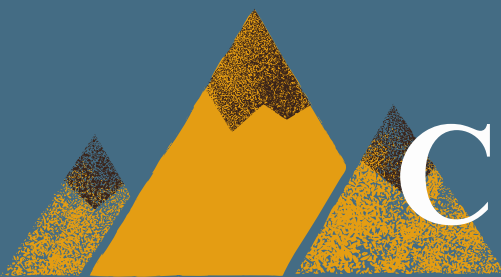
Though Peter, in fact, failed miserably, by denying Jesus three times, the prayer of Jesus preserved him from utter ruin. He was brought to bitter weeping and restored to the joy and boldness that showed itself in Peter's message at Pentecost. Jesus is interceding for us today in the same way that our faith may not fail. Paul says this in Romans 8:34.

Jesus promised that his sheep would be preserved and never perish. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28).

The reason for this is that God works to preserve the faith of the sheep. "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

TOPICS

- Off The Beaten Path with Travis Larson
- This Weeks Tool Box
- Unity In Prayer



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We are not left to ourselves to fight the fight of faith. "It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" ([Philippians 2:13](#)).

You have the assurance of God's word that, if you are his child, he will "equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ" ([Hebrews 13:21](#)).

Our endurance in faith and joy is finally and decisively in the hands of God. Yes, we must fight. But this very fight is what God works in us. And he most certainly will do it, for, as it says in [Romans 8:30](#), "Those whom he justified he also glorified." The glorification of God's justified children is as good as done. He will lose none of those he has brought to faith and justified.



OFF THE BEATEN PATH WITH TRAVIS LARSON

Travis is a simple guy who loves the outdoors. Whether its fishing, camping, hiking, or 4wheeling! Travis has attended The Well since it was a bible study at Cindy Swallow's house and continues to attend with his wife Kaylie. Travis puts his passions to work for his career as a Park Ranger at Lake Casitas. Travis was born and raised in Ojai with his family who he would describe as loving, great sense of humor, and brutally honest. When asked what God has been teaching him lately Travis said "Surrender! As a man it's tough opening up about the stresses in life. No matter how big or small the problem may be I learned that those stresses need to be surrendered to Christ. You need to accept that you can't control things as that's the Lord's job." I thought this incredibly encouraging to hear from Travis as -



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this is a daily act we have to come to. Travis has found Isaiah 43:2 encouraging to him lately. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." Travis says he has seen God be faithful in his life by looking at his awesome family and those that surround him. I asked Travis What one lesson he has learned as a husband, father, or friend and he told me, "Slow down and listen. It's easy for things to go in one ear and out the other but I have seen how big of an impact it makes being an active listener. A good example of this is our very own Ernie, not only is he great at remembering names but the small details about each person's life."

This week's Men's Spotlight reminds us of God's faithfulness and that a simple life, lived faithfully, is deeply glorifying to Christ.

Today in Christian History

July 25, 325: The Council of Nicea closes. The first ecumenical council, convened by Constantine, it rejected the Arians (who denied the full divinity of Christ) as heretics



More about Travis

Favorite Hobby: Fly Fishing

One Place He would Love to Visit :
Rural Japan

Favorite Meal: A Good Ribeye

How would he spend a free Saturday:

Hiking or fishing the Sespe

Coffee or Tea: "Coffee because Tea belongs
in the Boston Harbor"





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The Tool Box



The "Tool Box" is where helpful resources or tools can be found in building and growing as a Christian.

The Green Letters by Miles J. Stanford- This book of approximately 91 pages, is packed full of helpful experiential and doctrinal aspects to encourage understanding and maturity in your spiritual life. The Green Letters was vital in connecting pieces of biblical truths together for me. "Perhaps the greatest drama in the world is the slow and subtle growth of character in the Christian."-Miles J. Stanfordt

Unity In Prayer

Father, thank you for sustaining us as your sheep. Thank you for finishing your good works in us, that you started. We pray we live quiet lives that glorify you. Lord grow us and mature us as you see fit. Amen

