

“Strengthen Your Folk” by Kirk Hunt

But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Luke 22:32 KJV

Simon Peter, in the hours following this statement, would show his flaws. Peter would hack off someone’s ear in rage. He would then turn in the same moment and flee in panic. Later he would deny he even knew Jesus.

Jesus saw all of this coming, in advance. He took this moment, when perhaps he should have been preparing Himself for crucifixion, to prepare Peter. He told his strongest man to strengthen those around him.

Peter would cry later, in remorse and guilt. He would discover just how little he knew about Jesus. Or Peter. When this tough-guy fisherman “wept bitterly,” he had hit rock bottom.

For all of his demonstrated flaws and shortcomings, Peter remained the strongest of the Disciples. At least he made the (misguided) effort to defend Jesus. None of the other Disciples were close enough to be accused.

With his face rubbed in the worst of his failing, Peter clung to his faith. With his soul tattered and battered, Peter refused to let go of his knowledge of Jesus. When Peter got up, the others looked to him for strength and leadership.

If you are holding onto your faith, you have strength enough to share. No matter what has happen in your past, you have what others need. The kith and kin in your circle need what you have. Strengthen your folk.

Think: Despite my flaws and shortcomings, I have strength to give.

Pray: “Lord, help me to strengthen the folk around me.”

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