
THE GOD WHO FIGHTS FOR YOU

- I. **What is God's reaction when life shakes you up?**
 - a. Does God care?
 - b. How we view God determines our answer.
 - c. Jesus' words give us an answer to this question.
- II. **Peter's Story**
 - a. Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples, followed Jesus after He had been arrested.
 - b. **Luke 22:55-62** (NRSVue) *"When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ Then a female servant, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, 'This man also was with him.' ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' ⁵⁸ A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not!' ⁵⁹ Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, 'Surely this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean.' ⁶⁰ But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about!' At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly."*
 - c. Peter's life came unglued standing around that fire.
 - i. He hadn't intended to deny Jesus.
 - ii. Peter even promised to stand by Jesus through thick and thin.
 - iii. Circumstances can shake our certainty.
 - d. Jesus knew that this was coming.
 - i. **Luke 22:31** (NRSVue) *"Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat,"*
 - ii. Sifting in ancient Israel involved shaking the kernels to remove the husks.
 - iii. Satan believed he could shake Peter and make him break.
 - e. Jesus' prayer
 - i. **Luke 22:31** (NRSVue) *"but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail, and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

- ii. Jesus prayed for Peter to make it through the shakeup.
 - iii. Jesus had faith that Peter would make it through Satan's attack.
- f. **Romans 8:34** (NRSVue) *"Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."*
- i. Jesus is our representative.
 - ii. Just like Jesus prayed for Peter, He is praying for us, too.
- g. **1 John 2:1** (NRSVue): *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous,"*
- i. Advocate was used for legal proceedings.
 - ii. Jesus is like our defense attorney.
 - iii. Satan accuses, but Jesus defends.
 - iv. He fights for us when life tries to shake you up.
- h. **Romans 8:31** (NRSVue): *"What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"*
- i. Jesus forgave Peter and restored him to ministry.
 - ii. It doesn't matter who is against you when Jesus is on your side.

III. Our Story

- a. We have someone who believes in us and stands by us even when everything goes wrong: Jesus!
- b. When Satan pounces, Jesus is ready to defend.
- c. Who's fighting for you?
 - i. Even if you feel like no one is on your side, remember that Jesus is.
 - ii. Like Peter, when you receive Jesus' help, you can go out and share that hope with others.
 - iii. We can follow Jesus' lead and fight for each other.