

New This Week

Stand Against Slavery Prayer Event for Engedi Refuge Oct 20 6-8 pm

A prayer and worship time at Northlake Community Church, 1471 McLeod Rd, Bellingham for Engedi Refuge. An offering will be taken.

Operation Shoebox Collections

Shoebox collections are ongoing. The final week is Nov 24. For labels, boxes or questions please contact Mollie.

Sunday Bible Study on 1 Peter Begins Nov 24 at 9 am

A Special Sunday class starting November 24 for 7 weeks with Ron and Colleen Paulson They will be teaching through 1 Peter. And encourage lots of discussion. Make plans now to attend. Please contact Ron or Colleen for further information.

Next Men's Breakfast Oct 26 @ 8 am

Clock Change Nov 3

Nov 2 we will need to turn our clocks back one hour in order to arrive on time Sunday morning

Volunteers Needed

Two guys needed to clean a widow's gutters. Single story home, no gables, easy with a 12 foot ladder. Coffee and cookies provided. Please contact Pastor Jim if you can help.

TONIGHT

**ICR Speaker 6:30 pm
Join us to hear how God
is working in a heavily
persecuted area.**

**Community Prayer for
Trafficking Victims
and the Engedi Prayer
Service**

From the Lead Pastor's Desk

I was reading a devotional by John Piper (desiringgod.org) that fits our message for this coming Sunday. If you love God and are called according to his purpose and looking to Christ for hope, then you have a most wonderful promise: Jesus prays for you, and he will never let Satan destroy your faith and bring you to ruin.

"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 brethren." And he said, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." He said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you three times deny that you know me." Luke 22:31-34

It is interesting to me that the "you" in this passage is plural in Greek, not as obvious in English. Jesus is telling Simon what Satan intends to do to him and all the disciples. What does Satan aim to do? What does "sifting like wheat" refer to in real life?

The best clue comes in the next sentence where Jesus says, "But I prayed for you that your faith may not fail" Satan aims to sift Simon and the others like wheat. Jesus aims to keep Simon's faith from failing. So probably "sifting like wheat" means doing something to make the disciples' faith fail.

We can imagine a picture like this: Satan has a big sieve with jagged-edged wires forming a mesh with holes shaped like faithless men and women. What he aims to do is throw people into this sieve and shake them around over these jagged edges until they are so torn and weak and desperate that they let go of their faith and fall through the sieve as faithless people, right into Satan's company.

Faith cannot fall through the mesh. It's the wrong shape. As long as the disciples (you and me too) hold to their faith, trusting the power and goodness of God for their hope, then they will not fall through the mesh into Satan's hands.

Therefore, the sifting of Simon Peter and the others is Satan's effort to destroy their faith. This remains Satan's main goal today. It is relatively unimportant to Satan whether we are healthy or sick, rich or poor; what he wants is to sift out our faith. If he can do it by suffering, he will try that; if he can do it by wealth, he will try that.

Peter learned a good lesson that night. Some 30 years later he wrote 1 Peter 5:8-9: "Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist him firm in your faith."

Jesus pictured Satan as a farmer shaking Christians in his sieve, trying to tear them apart from their faith. Peter pictures Satan as a lion who can devour anything but faith. The only person that can fit through Satan's sieve is an unbeliever. The only thing that will fit down the lion's throat is an unbeliever. This is the victory that overcomes Satan's sieve and Satan's throat, OUR FAITH! (1 John 5:4)

What an encouragement! Jesus is praying for us and as we hold our faith fast to the end, Satan cannot destroy us.

VOLUNTEERS

We are very grateful for our many volunteers that serve faithfully week after week as well as those who step forward to meet periodic needs that come up in our church family. If you would like to volunteer in any area please contact Nancy D or complete the tear off page in Sunday's bulletin and place it in the offering bag.

www.vcflynden.com

Ministries for Serving Your VCF Family

Worship-singing, playing an instrument, operating the soundboard

Children's Ministry, being part of a teaching team or assisting a teacher

Men's Ministry-share your faith story, help cook a breakfast, facilitate a Bible study

Women's Ministry- be part of the planning team, facilitate a Bible study, Partner with another woman in our Heart to Heart Partnering, share your faith story

Youth-be available to provide transportation for meetings and activities, be a mentor or prayer partner, host a youth event, provide snacks

Fellowship-be on a rotational list to prepare snacks for fellowship on Sunday

Greeting-greet and take the offering on a rotational basis for Sunday service

Hospitality-reach out to guests to help them get connected to our VCF family

REACH-be part of a intergenerational team that plans events for our VCF family

A complete calendar of events is located at www.vcflynden.com but here are this week's highlights!

Friday

Saturday

Prayer as a Priority 7 am

Sunday

Corporate prayer Engedi Prayer Svc and Trafficking Victims

Monday

Design for Discipleship 7:00@ministry center

Tuesday

LOV Bible study and Prayer-Armor of God 9:30-11:30 @ Ruth's

Wednesday

Men's Bible study on Luke with Garrett Wise at Lynden Starbucks

LOV Coffee and Conversations with Cay 10:00 am @ministry center will not meet today

Rochelle and Gizzard Wedding 2 pm

Thursday

LOV Coffee & Conversations with Tina 9 am

Meet in Tina's home

Prayer 1-5pm in Ruth's home

Pray about anything on your heart! If you are willing to be a part of passionate prayer for prodigals, please e-mail Ruth at rnleon50@msn.com.

Men's Group Bible Study on @ 7 pm in Bellingham



Prayer Requests, updates
and praises can be sent to
prayer@vcflynden.com