



THE CROSS and CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

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As Moses wrote, our life is built on every word that comes from the mouth of God. I was reminded of the significance of every word this past week, as I read these verses in Luke 22:

³¹ "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. (...)" ³³ But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." ³⁴ Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

Three times, Jesus referred to him as Simon, before switching, the fourth time, to the name Peter. Who was Simon? Simon was the fisherman who, seeing Jesus' miracle-working power, fell to his knees and confessed, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man." (Luke 5:8) Peter, by contrast, was the fisher of men, so named after he confessed what God had revealed to him – that Jesus was the Messiah. (Matthew 16:17,18)



When Satan attacks, he attacks our old selves; the people we *were* – insecure in who we are and counting ourselves unworthy of being in the presence of God. In the verses from Luke, Jesus invoked that old, insecure person three times by using the name Simon, as Simon went on to deny him three times.

But Jesus was praying for Simon!

In the end, Jesus used the name Peter, signaling to Peter that he would emerge on the other side of failure as the rock that Jesus had declared him to be: Unshakeable! Immovable!

When fears and doubts attack you, remember that Jesus is praying for you, because he always lives to intercede for us! (Hebrews 7:25) When he prays, he calls us by our new names, seeing us for who truly we are in him, even when we stumble.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
(Isaiah 43:18,19)

Thanks for Praying!

This past week, I felt moved to begin praying for multiplication: That God would double our leadership team, our membership, and – what’s most important – our impact and reach. Would you set aside some time to pray and ask God sincerely whether he’s calling you to join with me in this prayer focus?







Praying over our Spring Garden Academy graduates

We’re praying with you!

If you’re on our mailing list*, you’re on our prayer list! If there’s anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

We really do love hearing from you! Every message and phone call helps us keep going!

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* **Important:** If you’d rather not be on our mailing list, we won’t be offended! Just call or write us, and we’ll remove you. (We’ll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you’d rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did you know?

The British army built approximately 34 miles of tunnels under the Rock of Gibraltar over the course of 200 years, mostly during World War II. The tunnels, which can accommodate 16,000 troops and their equipment, serve mainly as a tourist attraction today.

**There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.**

(I Samuel 2:2)



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