

c. Faith Fails: When we Act independently of the Lord.

This is the situation with Peter (and the other disciples although his case is more emphatically presented). He assayed to honor the Lord in His own strength and in the thrust of his own will. He simply could not do it. The reality of saving faith did not fail and to this end the Lord had prayed for him that he might have a strengthening benefit for his brethren. But in the betrayal passage as in the later fishing trip (Gospel of John) the independent actions of the disciples allowed them to come into places of difficulty where it might have indeed seemed that faith had failed.

3. Conclusion

Faith, as we have noted several times, does not fail of itself. But our apprehension of it may be defective at times and it may appear that the cause we thought to serve is not being served well at all. It may seem that faith has failed. But before you make a judgment on it and its working... stop for a moment and be sure that you have not forgotten His presence, taken more credit to yourself than is good, or have acted independent of the Lord. More often than not it is not faith that has failed but people of the Lord who have failed faith.

C. HOW IS FAITH STRENGTHENED?

Luke 22:25-28, 12:22-30
9:1-6; 10:1-2

1. Introductory notes

Faith, as we have mentioned, is the willingness to do what God says, believing in Him,