

Simon, Simon

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat” (Luke 22:31).

A tornado watch is broadcasted when the weather patterns seem favorable for certain thunderstorms that can produce tornados. A watch does not imply that a tornado has been produced or spotted. It simply warns that the weather conditions have reached a point that causes meteorologists to feel that there is a significant risk for a tornado. The code for a tornado watch is TOA, sometimes called a “red box.”

A tornado warning is an official alert from government weather services to warn that a tornado is approaching. It can be issued after either a tornado or a funnel cloud has already been spotted, or if radar activity indicates that a tornado is forming. The code for a tornado warning is TOR. When the weather conditions reach this level, the tornado sirens will be sounded in that area, indicating that a tornado has been spotted or is forming in the area.

The basic difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning, then, is a watch is a warning before a tornado is seen; a tornado warning is a warning that a tornado has been seen in the area. Perhaps the double-call of Simon Peter, the seventh double-call in the Scriptures, the second one in the New Testament, might be called a “watch” and a “warning.” It certainly enlightens us in several practical areas.

The double-call to Simon enlightens us to the pursuits of our adversary! Just as Satan had his eyes on Job in ancient times, so he had his eyes on Simon Peter in Jesus’ day. We can be sure that he desires to have us in these hours. As is seen with Simon, the enemy’s interest is to “sift” us “as wheat,” revealing all the chaff of our lives. He wants to remind us of our blemishes. He wants us to dwell on all our failures.

The double-call to Simon enlightens us to the prayers of our Advocate! In spite of Satan’s pursuits and our limitations, we can trust in Jesus and His intercessions. His words are, “But I have prayed for thee” (22:32). God the Son talks to God the Father about His people. What a wonderful truth! Jesus prays perfect prayers. He prays according to the will of God. Thus, all the prayers of our Great High Priest are always answered.

The double-call to Simon enlightens us to the prospects of our advancement! Although Simon would fail, Jesus promised that his faith would “fail not” (22:32). While Satan would knock the disciple back and he would temporarily deny the Savior, Jesus promised that he would be “converted,” or restored. The words, “strengthen thy brethren,” indicate that Simon Peter had a future ministry. Thank God! He can use our failures to help and strengthen others.