

GOOD INTENTIONS

Introduction: Song by Nina Simone...*"But I'm just a soul whose intentions are good. Oh Lord, please don't let me be misunderstood."*

- Peter was trying to protect Jesus: Jn 18.10, Luke 22.49-51
 - He aimed at the head but took off an ear.
 - Peter's intentions were good but missed the mark.
- He missed the mark because:
 - He had his own preconceived plan for Jesus.
 - He could not get the bigger picture, even though Jesus had told him three times about his death.
- Did Jesus condemn Peter? No!
 - Jesus healed the ear of the person struck by the sword.
- Jesus can even restore our good intentions that turn to dust.

1. Faith for Tomorrow.

- Tomorrow's potential is in the seed.
 - Small seeds can produce more seeds that can change destiny.

1 John 5:4-5 *For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus in the Son of God.*

- Sometimes faith is not our problem, but our weariness.
- What / who is wearing out the saints?
 - Unconfessed sin
 - Health issues
 - Pressures of life
 - Spiritual attack.

2. Facing the Facts.

ILLUSTRATION: Abraham.

Romans 4:18-21 *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "so shall your offspring be."*

Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

- Promise given.
- Faced the facts.
- Did not waver.
- Strengthened his faith. How?
- Persuaded that God could do it.

3. Be Persuaded.

2 Timothy 1:12 *...Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*

- Not ashamed. Who was trying to put shame on Paul?
 - Paul was in prison, Timothy was battling.
 - Was the attack spiritual or circumstantial?
 - Shame is an attack on the soul.
- Because I know whom I believe (personal)
 - Convinced / persuaded.
- Guard what I have entrusted to Him.
- If you don't master your soul, you will become fatigued.

4. Another Level.

- Remember Peter, the man with good intentions?
- He had:
 - Couldn't pray with Jesus in the garden.
 - Denied the Lord.
 - Hidden from the crowd.
- Jesus had to appear to him for Peter to believe in the resurrection.
- Jesus restored Peter.
 - Peter saw Jesus taken to glory.

Acts 1:14-15 *They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. In those days, Peter stood up among the believers (a group of about one hundred and twenty)...*

- Peter had to help the believers come to grips with the shame of Judas' betrayal.
- No longer just good intentions: he has matured and strengthened.