

John 18

ENGAGE FELLOWSHIP

As he passed inside, the young servant girl guarding the gate took a look at Peter and said to him, "Aren't you one of his disciples?" He denied it, saying, "No! I'm not!" (John 18:17)

MY JOURNAL

We might be tempted to judge Peter's denial of Jesus harshly until the Holy Spirit shows us ourselves! As we journey through a world that seems filled with signs of the "latter days" where:

- People will be lovers of self, focusing on their own plans, needs, and desires.
- People will be lovers of money, giving priority to what they can acquire.
- People will be boastful and arrogant.
- People will be unloving, irreconcilable, and prone to gossip.
- People will be lovers of pleasure.
- There will be only a form of godliness.
- People will indulge the flesh.
- People will become self-willed.
- People will speak arrogant words.
- People will be enticed by fleshly lusts and sensuality, and will become entangled in the world's defilements.

(See 2 Timothy 3:1-5) and 2 Peter 2:10-18 for reference to these characteristics).

Prayerfully and humbly look at this list again:

- Consider the weakness of human flesh as we see in ourselves dimensions of "denial" reminiscent of Peter. Which of these characteristics might you struggle with? For example, I sometimes struggle with selfishness when faced with the needs and demands of my family and friends). Which of these symptoms of "denial" might be true for you? I sometimes struggle with ...
- Now recall the promised certain outcome of Christ's word to Peter: *"I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail, and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren" (Luke 22:32).*
- Recall now the personal struggle that you noted earlier. Remember the truth of Hebrews 7:25: We have a Great High Priest who, *"always lives to make intercession for [us]."*
- Pause with your partner or small group to meditate on how Jesus is interceding for you. *"As I reflect on the certainty of God's Word and that Christ prays for me like he did for Peter, my heart is touched with ..."*

Share your response with a partner and celebrate with one another that His Word never fails. Ask God to continue to bring fresh encounters with His Spirit that would change, restore, and empower you.

