

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Culmination of the Ministry

The Testing of Peter

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

— Mark 12: 30, 31

Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterward.

Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, the cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice. — John 13: 36-38

Let him that standeth take heed lest he fall. Peter in this phase of development emphasizes the difficulty encountered by the aspirant in the cultivation of the *power of faith* which is unalterable. He had yet to become the perfected Rock of Faith upon which the Church is builded.

The complete dedication of life is required, whether it be by a total renunciation of the physical body or laying it down as a *living sacrifice*. There can be no half-way measures in the working of spiritual law; hence the narrowness of the path and the few that are chosen. "I will lay down my life for thy sake." This avowal immediately brings its subtle tests and they are always threefold, as in the case of Peter. "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat" (Luke 22: 31). Most familiar also are the sorrowful words of the Teacher: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, thou wilt deny me thrice."

Peter was destined to learn the full meaning of the Agony Rite in the Garden. After his triple denial of the Master, he returned in abject contrition to the Gar-

den, there to face his own Gethsemane, which was the conquest of Peter.

There, in that highly charged area, strengthened and encouraged by the ministering of Angels, this earnest and sincere disciple by means of repentance and added purification lifted himself in consciousness to that exalted place where he would be further prepared and sustained for the higher illumination which he was to receive in that mystic interval between the Resurrection and the Ascension.

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BIBLE INTERPRETATION

To those interested in a deeper understanding of the scriptures, we offer a Correspondence Course of 28 lessons compiled from Max Heindel's writings. These lessons reveal the basic harmony of religion and science, and offer logical explanations for many misunderstood basic doctrines of the Church.

The Course is given out on a free will offering basis.

Anyone is eligible to enroll who is not a hypnotist or professionally engaged as a medium, a palmist, or an astrologer. Write to:

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