



Commit your way to the Lord, and do good: so you will live in the land and, enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Psalms 37:5-6 (NRSV)

You, Me, Peter and the Rooster

Since my retirement from the routine of working every day, I have continued rolling out of bed between 6:00 and 6:30am. I love the mornings! I use this time now to sit on my back porch with my coffee and begin my day by thanking the Lord for my many blessings. I count them every day. Life is good and God is great! I also begin by listening to the sound of God all around me, the birds chirping, the squirrels squawking, the wind blowing through the trees, and just being silent, being aware and then, the sound is broken! About six months ago one of my neighbors purchased a rooster, and, like clockwork, the rooster breaks the morning silence with a loud cock-a-doodle-doo (many times repeated)! The first time I heard it I was surprised, almost startled, and I thought; wow, was this what Peter felt like when he heard the rooster crow?

In Luke 22:33 (NRSV) Peter says, "Lord I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." I honestly believe that Peter meant what he said to Jesus. How many times do we say to Jesus, "Lord, I promise I will do (fill in the blanks)", but we fail and don't follow through on our commitment? In Luke 22:34, Jesus responds to Peter's commitment by saying, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me." The two verses that really send a message to me are the two that come before Jesus' prediction to Peter, when Jesus tells Peter that Satan is coming for him and that Satan plans to shake up Peter's life! Peter has no idea what's coming his way!

Later, when Jesus finished praying on the Mount of Olives, he was seized and taken away by the high priests. When Peter denied knowing Jesus the third time, at that moment, while people were still speaking, Peter heard the cock crow, and Jesus turned and looked at him, and Peter remembered Jesus' words. Luke 22:61-62, "Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, before the cock crows this day, you will deny me three times. And he went out and wept bitterly."

So every morning, while I sit on my porch listening to God's sounds, I think to myself, how many times yesterday did I deny Jesus in some way? Did I fail to fulfill a promise I made or seize an opportunity to evangelize the name of Jesus when I had the chance? Did I not help feed the hungry, serve the poor, ask for forgiveness, or reach out to a nonbeliever? And then my thought trend is interrupted by the sound of the rooster, cock-a-doodle-doo (again and again)! Have you heard the rooster?

Gene Erb, CPFI Board Member
Forest, VA



2023 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center

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CPFI Prayer Ministry

Join us Sunday, October 2, 2022, at 5:00 PM ET!



The CPFI Past Presidents Committee was asked to implement a prayer ministry on behalf of CPFI. In March 2020, we started a weekly Prayer Meeting on Sunday evening at 5 p.m. ET, initially to pray about Covid-19 needs. In August 2020, we began meeting monthly on the 1st Sunday of the month. If you would like an invitation, e-mail Nena Lindrose at Office@cpfi.org. She will send a reminder e-mail with instructions on how to join and some suggested prayer concerns during the week prior to the meeting. We hope you will join us **Sunday, October 2, 2022**, for our next session. By signing up you are only committing to participate when able and praying out loud is voluntary.

Fred Eckel, Past President

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