

NEVER KNOW FOR WHOM THE ROOSTER CROWS, IT CROWS FOR THEE
Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide
February 8, 2026
Kelly Stanley

- Read John 18:15-18, 25-27 for the background to this story.

The Guarantees For Spiritual Failure

1. A suffocating _____ attitude.

- + Matthew 26:33-35a, “Even if everyone else deserts You, I will never desert You.’³⁴Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know Me.’³⁵‘No!’ Peter insisted. ‘Even if I have to die with You, I will never deny You! . . .’ (NLT).

2. A deliberate _____ attitude.

- + Matthew 26:34, “I tell you the truth, Peter, you WILL deny me 3 times that you even know Me” (NLT).
- + Mark 14:31, “But Peter kept saying insistently, ‘Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!’ (NASB).
 - The word translated as “insistently” is the Greek New Testament word [ἐκπερισσῶς, ekperissōs]. This is a term that is used in measurements. It literally means “to exceed” or to keep repeating and leaping forth beyond the required measurement; to overflow.”

3. A Pitiful _____ attitude.

- + Matthew 26:37-38, “And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, and began to be grieved and distressed. ³⁸Then He said to them, ‘My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me’ (NASB).
- + Matthew 26:41, “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (NASB).
 - A more literal translation is “that you may not enter into temptation _____.”
- + 1 Timothy 4:7, “But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness” (NASB).
 - See the word “discipline?” It is the Greek New Testament word [γυμνάζω; gumnazō]. This word means “naked.” In Greek athletic contests, the participants competed without clothing, so their movements would not be hindered or handicapped by their clothing such as robes. This is where we get our English _____. So, “discipline” means to train _____.
 - “Disciple” and “discipline” come from the same Greek root – so when you came to faith in Christ, you became a “gymnast.” Ask yourself, “What is the tone of my spiritual _____?”

4. An individualized _____ attitude.

- + 2 Corinthians 4:7, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves” (NASB).

Three Situations That Brought About Peter’s Spiritual Collapse

1. One _____ girl became mightier than _____.

- + Matthew 26:69, “Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came to him and said, “You too were with Jesus the Galilean” (NASB).
 - We can quickly get blindsided from a _____ we did not anticipate and thus deny Jesus.
 - Biblical principle #1: Being courageous on _____ battles is no guarantee of victory in _____ battles.

2. Peter used _____ to cover up a _____.

- + Matthew 26:71-72, “When he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to those who were there, ‘This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.’⁷²And again he denied it with an oath, ‘I do not know the man’ (NASB).

- Peter his time made an oath. The Greek New Testament word is [ὅρκος; horkos]. It means “to promise sincerely and emphatically.”
- **Biblical principle #2:** One lie usually leads to a _____.
- **Biblical Principle #3:** The safest _____ are those close to the _____.
- Our English word “sincere” comes from two Latin words — sine cera. Sincere is actually a Latin word, meaning “_____.” The Greek term means “_____.” In ancient times, they had very fine porcelain which was greatly valued and therefore expensive. Often when fired in the kiln, tiny cracks would appear. Dishonest merchants would smear pearly-white wax over these cracks, which would pass for true porcelain—unless held up to the light of the sun. Honest dealers marked their flawless wares sine cera—“without wax.” That is genuine sincerity. No lies, no coverup. No fake labels. You’re the real thing.

3. Peter the _____ is finally put in his _____.

- + *John 18:25-27*, “Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, ‘You are not also one of His disciples, are you?’ He denied it, and said, ‘I am not.’²⁶One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, ‘Did I not see you in the garden with Him?’²⁷Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed” (NASB).
- + *Mark 14:71*, “Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, ‘Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.’ And he began to weep” (NASB).
- + *Matthew 26:75-76*, “Then he began to curse and swear, ‘I do not know the man!’ And immediately a rooster crowed.⁷⁵And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, ‘Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly” (NASB).
- The Greek New Testament word is [καταθεματίζω; katathematizō]. This is a very strong term that involved pronouncing _____ upon oneself at the hand of God if one were lying. It is perhaps the most serious taking of the Lord’s name in _____ that is conceivable, Peter said, in essence, “May God kill and damn me if I am not speaking the truth.”
- Peter swore to that same effect. The word “swear” is the Greek New Testament word [ὅμνυω; omnuō] and it means to promise to be telling the truth at the highest level of extreme for _____.
- The Romans had a certain military practice. The night was divided into four watches—6 p.m. to 9 p.m., 9 p.m. to 12 midnight, 12 midnight to 3 a.m., and 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. After the third watch the guard was changed and to mark the changing of the guard there was a _____ call at 3 a.m. That trumpet call was called in latin gallicinium and in Greek alektorophōnia, which both mean _____. It may well be that Jesus said to Peter: “Before the trumpet sounds the cockcrow you will deny me three times.” Everyone in Jerusalem must have known that trumpet call at 3 a.m. When sounded through the city that night Peter remembered.
- + *Luke 22:60-61a*, “But Peter said, ‘I do not know what you are talking about.’ Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, ‘Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times’” (NASB).
- + *Isaiah 53:3*, “He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him” (NASB).
- + *Luke 22:62*, “And he went out and wept bitterly.” (NASB).
 - **Biblical principle #4:** Great achievements can be followed by great _____, but terrible sin can be followed by wonderful _____.
- + *Mark 16:7*, “Now go and tell His disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there, just as He told you before He died” (NLT).

Next Steps Devotional Guide

1. Read over the reasons that bring about spiritual failures. Which of these have you experienced and how did you recover from them?
2. How do you ever put spiritual “sweat” and “muscle” into your discipleship and relationship to Christ?
3. We saw 3 situations that brought down Peter to deny Jesus. What are the situations that you struggle not to fail spiritually? Look at each of the 4 Biblical principles given about failure. Which one applies to you more?
4. Has God ever put you in your “corner” to humble you? To avoid spiritual failure, remember this: As His sheep, we need to stay close to Jesus, our Shepherd? What does it mean to you that the angels told the women at the tomb that Jesus wanted Peter to meet Him in Galilee and why?