

The Spirit is Willing

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

All too often in the Christian life we are like Peter as a disciple. We talk the talk but fail to walk the walk. We fail Jesus again and again and swear that next time it will be different. What did it take to turn this weak but willing Peter into the rock that Jesus knew he could be? It may have been his worst failure of denying Jesus that finally changed him. But even before he fell, Jesus gave him instructions for when he turned back (Luke 22:31-32). It seemed that Jesus knew somehow Peter's faith would emerge stronger. What will it take to turn us into rocks of faith? Hopefully not a terrible failure like Peter's.

Cast list	Peter – Should be dressed in "Bible times" costume. Jesus, Judas, Guards - non-speaking parts.
Approximate Running Time	2 minutes
Scene Description	Gethsemane before the arrival of Judas and the guards. Jesus is praying. Peter is struggling to stay awake.
Prop List	A fake rock that Peter is lying against.
Other Production Notes	This can be played as a straight monologue with only Peter or as a re-enactment and monologue by adding the non-speaking parts.
Related Scriptures	Matthew 26:27-28; Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:31-32; Philippians 2:8; 1 John 1:9
Song Suggestions	Hard to Get (Rich Mullins), If I Stand (Rich Mullins)

A fake rock or two are set at the front of the platform. Peter rests against a rock, nodding off to sleep. Jesus is upstage left or upstage right, kneeling and praying.

If being played with a re-enactment, then Jesus stands, obviously troubled, and walks to Peter. Jesus touches Peter on the shoulder. Peter stands and shakes himself awake. Jesus returns to his praying position upstage and begins to pray in obvious distress.

If being played without Jesus, Peter starts from sleep, stands, and shakes himself awake. Peter looks toward an offstage Jesus praying.

Peter:

So sleepy. Another failure. Somehow I always keep taking my eyes off him and sinking into the waves. Somehow I always manage to say and promise more than I actually do.

Peter turns to look at Jesus briefly.

I have never seen him in such turmoil. Struggling in prayer. His body racked with sobs. If only there was some way I could help.

This week began so hopefully. The praises of the crowd as we entered Jerusalem. I thought the people might crown him king that very day.

Then something changed. He confronted the priests and the merchants in the temple. He began preaching about destruction and judgment. The crowd started to slip away.

And now - I swore to follow him to the death, and I can't even stay awake? All he wanted from me was human companionship - someone by his side. My faith in him has always been strong. And yet I fail. The spirit is willing, but my flesh - so weak.

If being played with a re-enactment, while Peter speaks the preceding paragraph, Jesus stands. Judas and two guards enter behind Peter, who does not at first notice them. Judas kisses Jesus. The guards lead Jesus offstage. Peter sees them exit and reacts.

No! No! Not this. They cannot arrest him. I can't let this happen. I won't fail him again - not this time. This time I will stand like a rock by his side and fight for him. No matter what. I will not fail him again.

Peter picks up sword and rushes out after Jesus and guards. As he exits a slide is projected on the screen, saying:

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Luke 22:31-32

Fade to black

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