**Persisting under the pressure of failure**

Lord, with you I am ready to go both to prison and to death…a servant girl, seeing him as he sat at the fire and looking intently at him said, this man was with Him too…But he denied it, saying, woman, I do not know him…a little later another saw him and said you are one of them too! But Peter said Man, I am not! And after about an hour passed another man began to insist, certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too. But Peter said, man I do not know what you are talking about! Immediately while he was speaking a rooster crow. The 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. And he went out and wept bitterly.

Luke 22: 33,56 – 62

**The pressure of failure**

Nothing is more shameful than failing to keep a commitment.

Failure causes great personal embarrassment & disappointment

Failure produces lost trust in others who trusted us to keep our word to them

Life - long bitterness & defeat comes when someone does not overcome their past failures

**The stories of failures of God’s people can help us as God’s people today learn to persist & overcome our past failures**

**Today we look at Peter the Apostle & his failure to confess Christ**

**Hear God’s Word**

1. Peter made a public commitment to suffer & die with Christ – 33
2. Peter genuinely desired to suffer with Christ
3. Peter failed to show courage at the fire when others confronted him as a disciple

He said, I do not know him!

He said, I am not a disciple of him

He said, I don’t know what you are talking about

1. Peter heard the rooster crow & saw Jesus look at him, He left the fire & went away & wept bitterly
2. Shame, embarrassment & grief filled the mind of Peter

**Believe God’s Word**

1. Have you ever failed to be a witness for Christ in some situation of life?
2. Today are you living with shame from the past failure from your marriage, your children, your work or some other relationship
3. Are you living with the regret of broken promises & commitments?
4. The good news is that there is forgiveness with God
5. Jesus promised Peter that he would be able to persist under the pressure of failure when he had repented of his failed commitment.

Luke 22:33 – “I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail, and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers”

**Live God’s Word**

1. Admit your failures to God
2. Ask for His forgiveness from your past failures
3. Trust that the Lord Jesus will forgive your sins & renew your relationship with him
4. Rest in Christ’s intercession for you in heaven today!

**You can persist under the pressure of failure when you know that the Lord forgives and intercedes for us before God the Father!**

**Rom. 8:34 – who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.**