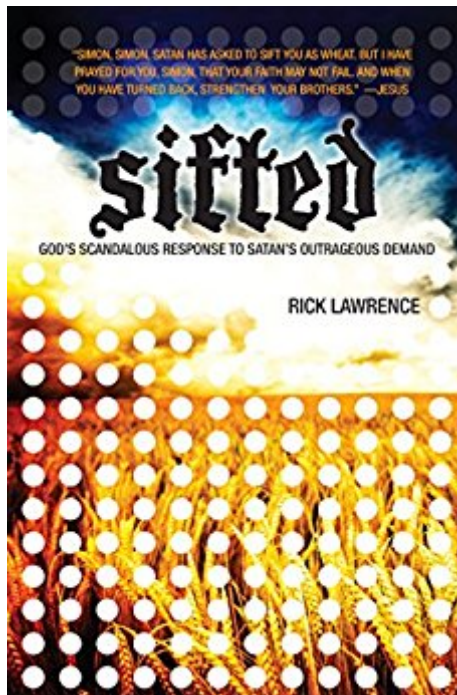




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Sifted: God's Scandalous Response To Satan's Outrageous Demand



Synopsis

Discouraged by life's difficulties—both life-shifting catastrophes and the drip-drip-drip of daily trouble? Dissatisfied with the same old pat answers about God's role in our hard times? Rick Lawrence offers fresh biblical perspective based on a single Scripture snapshot in Luke 22:31-32. Jesus tells Peter he's about to be sifted like wheat—shaken hard, beaten, and agitated until he practically falls apart. Satan's going to do it. And Jesus is going to allow it, in the interest of showing Peter who he really is. Lawrence uses the simple agrarian metaphor of sifting as a jumping-off point for a rigorously honest, deeply challenging, yet powerfully comforting exploration of the trials that beat us down, the good God who allows our troubles, and the incredible beauty the process of sifting can reveal in us.

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Customer Reviews

As many times as I've read Luke's Gospel, I've never really paid attention to one verse (22:31):

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” I know God allowed Satan to attack Job to prove that Job would remain faithful, but I didn’t remember that God allowed Satan to “sift” Simon Peter. And Jesus’ response wasn’t to tell the devil “no” or make it easy for Peter, he prayed that Peter’s faith wouldn’t fail. Although the pop culture references (celebrity quotes, song lyrics, etc.) didn’t resonate with me and I didn’t agree with everything he said, the author’s discussion of how God sifts each of us made a big impact on me.

This is the first book I have ever read by this author, but I can assure you it won’t be the last. Everyone has been sifted many times during the course of their lifetime. I certainly have. Now I have a deeper perspective and insight that because of my sifting, I am able to walk more intimately with my Lord. He has allowed me to be sifted to equip me to walk with others during their sifting. I especially liked the author’s chapter on the meaning of names. I compose and speak Blessings for people and always include the origin and meaning of their names. Names are indeed powerful and parents should consider that when they are giving names to their newborns. Thank you, Rick Lawrence for a very moving book. It has changed the way I think about God allowing bad things to happen to good people. It’s all for the glory of Christ.

Rick Lawrence delves into the murky waters of sifting seasons to interpret this violent, lonely soul stripping process of being prepared for promotion in the kingdom. The Bible is riddled with accounts of men and women who are plunged into the pits of despair prior to stepping onto platforms of purpose. If you are not in the season of sifting now you may be soon and this book is an excellent companion and guide for navigating through the pain and the promise.

I got this book also as a free download from David C Cook. Once I started reading it, it was hard not to gallop through, but take my time to digest what I was taking in. It is one I will read and reread. I will not be satisfied with my kindle addition, but will have to get a hard copy to underline and notate. It’s not often I come across a book that impacts me so much I will buy a case to have handy to give out when I feel the nudge. Besides the bible, I have two other books I buy to give away. Now I have 3. If this is the place your in, or have been....it will resonate, and minister hope and encouragement to you. Not for pew warmers or those who like God in the sky. This is the up close and personal God. As is much quoted from CS Lewis, in The Chronicles of Narnia, " He’s not safe, but He’s

good."

I've 100% enjoyed this book, because it describes what I've gone through the last year-&-a-half: beaten, separated & revealed. I look back on the last year and say, with all honesty, that I have been sifted like Peter was. But right now, I'm currently experiencing this raw longing for the Lord Jesus; what the Lord said to him at the ministry conference (see next-2-last chapter) is what I'm feeling right now: "You're bored with everything but Me." I'm also experiencing the "naked and unashamed attitude Lawrence references in the next-2-last chapter (see John chapter 21). Thank you, Rick Lawrence, for writing this. . .and making it a ****free**** e-book LOL! Five-star rating from me!

This book came into my life at a time when I was feeling more like Job than Peter. But the revelatory teaching throughout this book is directly responsible for a complete shift in my thinking from victim to victor; from feeling neglected to knowing God has me in the palm of a His hand. The exegesis throughout this book as well as the poignant delivery of such timely words has given me the courage to press on amidst difficulties toward the bigger picture of God's love. I highly recommend this book. It's a must-read!

I was directed to this book as a free download so jumped at it. What a blessing!! Rick Lawrence doesn't just preach empty words, he's been sifted and speaks from his own experiences straight to your heart. I kept wanting to hug him and say "thank you" for sharing, teaching, explaining and lifting the burden of the sifting I'm going through. I've come to realise that when we go through these tough times it's NOT because God has abandoned us. To the contrary! He considers us strong enough to face the battle and to come out the other side still in love with Him, even though we may be bruised and broken. I so want to get hard copies of this wonderful book to share with my family and friends who are facing their own sifting. You will not regret getting this book!!

SIL liked it

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