

# The Son of the Living God

by K.P. Yohannan

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*The weight of regret and guilt can be overwhelming, but through repentance and God's marvelous mercy, we can experience forgiveness and freedom.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:16, Matthew 26:69

**Topics:** "God's Mercy", "Repentance"

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## Description

K.P. Yohannan reflects on the struggles of regret and guilt that often plague believers, using Peter's denial of Christ as a poignant example. Despite Peter's earlier declaration of faith and his close relationship with Jesus, he found himself in despair after denying the very One he vowed to follow. This sermon emphasizes the universal human experience of questioning our failures and the weight of guilt that can overshadow our lives. Yet, it also reassures us that through genuine repentance, we can encounter God's incredible mercy and grace, lifting the burden of our past mistakes.

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## Transcript

There we sit in the ruins, replaying the various destructive scenes and moaning at the appropriate times, "If only that didn't happen!" Regret clings to our every thought as we struggle to stand with knees made weak by our own choices.

That's where Peter was stuck in his thoughts. Earlier he had so triumphantly announced that Jesus was the Son of the living God. Yes, he was one of those in the "inner circle" closest to his Lord. He even miraculously walked on water. And it was to him that Christ talked about that rock upon which His Church would be built.

But he had just denied the very One he earlier declared to be the Messiah, the man he had said he would follow to the very end and even die for. So much for all his big talk. Jesus had heard with His own ears Peter's strong statements of denial. How could this happen . . . to Peter?

How Could This Happen?

We all have had those feelings. We think, "How could I have done that? I know better than this. I should have learned by now." Deep inside we have the defense that we are better than the wrong we committed.

Even the worst criminal has all kinds of reasons and explanations for the mess in which he finds himself. For example, "Two Gun" Crowley, responsible for murdering many people in the 1930s, was cornered

within a building awaiting an inevitable arrest. He wrote a note while the police were firing at him. The note read, "Under my coat is a weary heart, but a kind one." Then as he faced capital punishment, he questioned his sentence, saying: "This is what I get for defending myself."

In spite of rationalizing and trying to minimize our failure, guilt gnaws at our heart. We sink as we consider what we have done. Yet as followers of God, we know that upon repentance we can experience firsthand His marvelous mercy. Why then do we feel this shadow over us?

Roy Hession puts it so clearly in his book "When I Saw Him":

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