

OUR BESETTING SIN

21 March 2025

There are two lessons (at least) to be learned from this chapter:

- I. **SPIRITUAL VICTORIES ARE VERY OFTEN FOLLOWED BY SPIRITUAL FAILURES.** This results from the believer's tendency to wander away from the Lord and not look to Him daily for direction. This leads us to rely upon our own emotions, talents, abilities, desires, and human reasoning.
 - a. The Bible record is full of examples of victorious men of God who suffered shameful setbacks:
 - i. Noah. _____
 - ii. Elijah. _____
 - iii. Gideon. _____
 - iv. Peter. _____
 - v. David. _____
 - b. These men were powerful when they trusted God (Mt. 19:26). But when they didn't yield to God's control, they were powerless (John 15:5). _____

 - c. 1 Corinthians 10:1-12 teaches that it doesn't matter how faithfully you "used to" serve God, that doesn't guarantee you'll be faithful today. You've got to seek the face of God continually or you're bound to fall into sin. And just because you're standing today, it doesn't mean you're immune to taking a fall tomorrow. _____

EVERY BELIEVER HAS A PARTICULAR SIN THAT DOETH SO EASILY BESET THEM (HEB. 12:1-2).

- a. Definition: **BESET** : trouble, harass : hem in : surround. / **BESETTING** : persistently present or assailing : habitually attending.
- b. To successfully follow the Lord, you've got to "**lay aside every weight**" that might cause you to fail. There are many things in this world that could hinder and distract you from that goal.
 - i. Politics (Matthew 22:17-21).
 - ii. Getting involved in other people's affairs (Luke 12:13-14).
 - iii. Christians not willing to work (Acts 15:38).

- c. The "**sin which doth so easily beset us**" can be a major hindrance throughout our life. The devil uses this particular sin to hinder your progress toward holiness.
 - i. The besetting sin is different for every person.

1. It's important to go to God every day and ask Him to help you avoid that specific sin. Otherwise you'll have to keep going to God to ask Him to forgive you for doing it. Don't wait till it's too late.
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d. God provides a way for me to escape that besetting sin (1 Cor. 10:13).

i. Why do I miss the way of escape?

1. I've not been praying.
 2. I'm not in fellowship with the Lord, so I don't hear Him when He speaks.
 3. I don't read His word, so I don't have the benefit of that instruction.
 4. I'm taking a break away from God, but the Devil isn't taking a break from me.
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David's besetting sin caused him to stop looking to God and start relying on his own human reasoning. As a result, he found himself in league with the very enemy that was trying to destroy his own people. He proved himself to be a man of the world, and the world accepted him as their own (vs. 12). This proves that David was just a man.

It also proves that the same thing can happen to any one of us if we don't stay in close communion with the Lord through prayer, Bible study, and fellowship.

If you find that you've been accepted by the world, you'd better examine your relationship with God. Most likely, you'll find that you're very distant from God because you haven't been looking to Him for direction.

If you're going to stand for the Lord and live for Him, you must daily aim to do so! You must actively pursue the Lord. Only God can give you the strength and power and the enabling to accomplish that.
