

Is Sin Getting In Your Way?

The book of Genesis tells us that Adam and Eve first sinned in the Garden of Eden. Eve was subtly seduced by the adversary into eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of life. God had specifically told Adam in Genesis 2:17, *"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* Not only would Adam and Eve die physically, but their disobedience would cause them to die a spiritual death as well.

With the addition of just one word, the adversary managed to convince Eve to accept his word over the instruction she and Adam had received from God. They had been given the definitive word on the subject of the tree of knowledge, but they chose to discount it. When we're not self-motivated to be on point with God's plan for our lives, it doesn't take much to get us to slip up and fall off the track. We need to understand that the adversary roams the earth looking for an opportunity to do just that--to push us off the path to purpose so that we forget who we are in Christ. He wants to convince you that God's Word isn't true, but we cannot allow that to happen.

There is a wonderful gospel song that tells us that this world isn't our home...we are just passing through. It is easy to forget that sometimes. We become so consumed with what is happening in the world that we begin to believe that society or Hollywood sets the standard by which we ought to live and succeed. This belief will leave us overwhelmingly unfulfilled and spiritually bankrupt; it leads to destruction. God has not changed, neither does He change. His Word must be the standard by which we live and have our being.

Colossians 2:20 says that *"You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the evil powers of this world."* God has set us free from the world's entanglements and addictions, yet we continue to tie ourselves to them. This is living in sin, and it is so destructive for Christians because it makes it impossible to maintain a healthy spiritual connection to our Heavenly Father.

God gave the children of Israel a very powerful and straightforward message in **Deuteronomy 8:11-20 NIV:**

11 Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. 12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, 13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 14 then

your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

15 He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. 16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

19 If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. 20 Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God.

God is telling us to stand guard against arrogance and pride so that we do not forget from whence cometh our help. We can do nothing of our own strength. Our strength comes from Him. Our worlds begin to crumble the moment we forget that.

You may think to yourself, "...but I never forget what God has done for me. I know He is the source of my strength." Well the proof is in the pudding. The only way that any of us can truthfully say that we never forget the goodness of God is by living in such a way that we don't slip up and follow the track that Adam and Eve did. They had a very intimate relationship with God...walked and talked with Him everyday, yet when they were told something different by the devil they took his word over God's Word.

Colossians 2:9 NLT

Don't let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ.*

Those who are of the devil are trying very hard to convince us that what is right is wrong and what is wrong is right. Don't buy into it. Sin is sin, and sin is wrong. It goes against the very nature of God. It represents the exact opposite of what He wants for us. Choosing to indulge it, live in it, and stay in it represents a distrust of God's Word.

In Deuteronomy 8:16 (NIV) it says that God gave the Israelites manna from heaven while they were in the wilderness. He did it to humble them and to test them so that "*in the end it might go well with you.*" Now God knew who would stand and who wouldn't. He knows everything there is to know about all of us, but it is so awesomely important that we know what we are made of. We have to know what it is to walk out there to the

edge of the cliff and learn through faith and confidence that God will keep our feet from falling. We have to understand firsthand that when the chips are down, our walk with God through Christ does not have to go down with them.

Sin is not usually wrapped in an ugly package. It has all the bells and whistles of grandeur and luxury. The presentation can be very enticing, but once opened the contents have "*Warning, Dangerous, and Hazardous to Your Health*" written all over them. Don't be fooled. A designer wrapped package of sin is the best that the devil has to offer, but ohhh... it isn't a gift. There is a definite price to pay for it.

Moses understood the ramifications of making the wrong choices and the blessings of making the right ones. Look at what it says about him in Hebrew 11:25: "*Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*" He wasn't interested in the temporary "*feel good*" of sin. He knew that the promises of God hinge on love, light, peace, liberty, truth, and faith. I prefer God's way any day, and if you'll stay anchored in Christ and be patient and prayerful, you'll see that His way always works out to our supreme benefit.

Don't allow sin to get in the way of your relationship with God and block what He has for you. Understand that God requires a commitment from you that is at the highest level of what you can give. Only He knows the full extent of what that level is, but you can rest assure that before you leave this earth you will have some idea about it yourself.

Peace and Blessings,
Kim

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