

Bezael Enlite



Worship
— AND —
Sex Control

PASTOR BANKIE

Dr. Bankole Olusina, fondly called **Pastor Bankie**, is a teacher of the Word of God. He teaches from the platform of Kingdom-Word Ministries. The emphasis of his teachings is the separation of the church from the world by the obedience to the truths of God. He is happily married to the wife of his youth and partner in ministry, Ufuoma.

Bezalel Enlite

Sex is not just a physical act; it goes beyond even the emotions. Sex is actually a means of worship and a sign of worship. Control of sexuality is a major exercise of true worship and those who do not succeed in this regard fail in their service of the true God, no matter how much otherwise they labour seemingly for Him. A defiled vessel cannot offer up holy and acceptable sacrifices.

In this book you will learn many spiritual truths, including:

- ✔ The genesis of animal-like behaviour and depravity in the human race.
- ✔ What your sex life says about your faith.
- ✔ How witches control people, and how one may be delivered.
- ✔ How to avoid a walk in idolatry as a true Christian.
- ✔ How your moral life affects your children.
- ✔ The consequences of sexual immorality.
- ✔ How to keep yourself pure, and
- ✔ The cleansing power of the blood of Jesus.

Read this book, practice the truths therein and teach them to both young and old.

ISBN 978-978-56833-5-6



9 789785 683356



Worship
— AND —
Sex Control





Worship
— AND —
Sex Control



BANKOLE OLUSINA

Bezael Enlite

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL

Copyright © 2021 by Bankole Olusina

First Printing 2021

Published in Nigeria by
Bezalel Enlite (Publishers)
P. O. Box 2273 Enugu, Nigeria
bezalelenlite@gmail.com

ISBN: 978-978-56833-5-6

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

All other rights reserved. For more information, please contact the publisher.

If not otherwise indicated, all Bible quotes are from the New American Standard Bible, Copyright ©The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1977, 1995. Used by permission.

Bible quotes marked NLT are from The Holy Bible, New Living Translation, Copyright ©1996, 2004 by Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

Bible quotes marked GNT are from Good News Translation - Second Edition Today's English Version Copyright © 1992 American Bible Society. Used by permission.

Bible quotes marked AMP are from the Amplified Bible Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

PRINTED IN NIGERIA

Contents



<i>Introduction</i>	9
Chapter 1: Spiritual Influence	13
Chapter 2: The Genesis of the Trouble	21
Chapter 3: Why Jesus Pardoned the Woman	31
Chapter 4: Worship and Sex Control	37
Chapter 5: Idolatry	47
Chapter 6: Union in the Spirit	53
Chapter 7: Idolatry in Christianity	63
Chapter 8: Wrong Doctrines and Immorality	77
Chapter 9: Walking Away from The Plan of God.....	97
Chapter 10: Weariness of Soul.....	111
Chapter 11: How to Prevent Weariness	121
Chapter 12: Consequences of Sexual Immorality.....	131
Chapter 13: Spiritual Consequences	143
Chapter 14: Gatekeepers	153

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL
• • •

Chapter 15: The Corruption in The World
Through Lust163

Chapter 16: Keeping Yourself Pure - 1169

Chapter 17: Keeping Yourself Pure - 2197

Chapter 18: Keeping Yourself Pure - 3221

Chapter 19: Confessions of Faith229

Chapter 20: Power in the Blood237

About Kingdom-Word Ministries249

Other Books by the Author.....250



There is no safer guide in the matter of human love than the Bible, particularly the Old Testament. Solomon says a penetrating thing—“I adjure you, . . . that ye stir not up, nor awaken love, until it please”—before the time (Songs 2:7 RV), and woe be to any such awakener. Many a man has awakened love before the time, and has reaped hell into the bargain. Love is awakened before the time whenever a man or woman ignores the worship of God and becomes a mere creature of impulsive passions.

God cannot guard the natural heart that does not worship Him, it is at the mercy of every vagrant passion stirred by the nearness of another. Unless you are guarded by God in your human relationships you will get a multitude of haphazard affairs that God is not in; there are the same haphazard affairs in the life of a child of God, but God is in them. Beware of not worshipping God in your emotional history. Watch your fancies and your friends, heed who you love and who loves you, and you will be saved from many a pitfall.

— Oswald Chambers*



**In Our Portrait in Genesis*

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL



Introduction



Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, *“From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (which is in the middle of the garden)* you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”* Gen 2:15-17 (modified).

In life some things must be held sacred.

In Israel, the ark was sacred. Also, the first fruit of everything was sacred. These things were the direct sign of the lordship of God among them. In the garden, the trees in the centre were sacred. One you were never to eat; the other you would eventually eat. Both had rules.

* Inserted from Gen 3:3



Sex is precisely like that. It is sacred. You can shake hands; you can hug anyone and sometimes be even more intimate with a lot of people, holding them close for minutes at a time, usually as a sign of affection. You may share a bed with your friend, your parent, your offspring, your sibling, and sometimes, though rarely, even with a stranger, and it will be acceptable. But you can never have sex with any of these. Sex is limited to the spouse with whom a covenant has been made. It is totally sacred; it is a point in relationships that shows what you really believe. It is like a part of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

It is also like the tree of life. Eventually we would qualify to eat that one, and at that time one may eat it as much as one wants. No holds barred. So it is with sex. It is with the spouse whom you have sworn allegiance to and have come into covenant with for the rest of your life. Yes, sex is physical, but it is not just a physical act; it is sacred.

In the world today, you see the campaign for free sex and for homosexuality. These are perversions of what is sacred, and it is not just about the acts; they are the manifestations of godlessness. No

INTRODUCTION



matter how much the church campaigns against these things, they will still be, unless light is shone into the world. You cannot have godlessness without sexual perversion; the church should please spend less energy fighting perversion and spend more preaching the gospel.

Sexuality is a sign of the spiritual. Sex, and the use it is put to, is the physical manifestation of the worship or otherwise of the true God.

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL
• • •

CHAPTER 1

Spiritual Influence



I wish to start this book by having you look at the story below, one I suppose should be familiar to most of us. It is the story of a young prince, named Amnon, one of the sons of David, king in Israel. Please read the story carefully because it is the basis of an important foundational point of this book.

Now David's son Absalom had a beautiful sister named Tamar. And Amnon, her half brother, fell desperately in love with her. Amnon became so obsessed with Tamar that he became ill. She was a virgin, and Amnon thought he could never have her.

But Amnon had a very crafty friend—his cousin Jonadab... One day Jonadab said to Amnon, "What's the trouble? Why should the son of a king look so dejected morning after morning?"

So Amnon told him, "I am in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

“Well,” Jonadab said, “I’ll tell you what to do. Go back to bed and pretend you are ill. When your father comes to see you, ask him to let Tamar come and prepare some food for you. Tell him you’ll feel better if she prepares it as you watch and feeds you with her own hands.”

So Amnon lay down and pretended to be sick. And when the king came to see him, Amnon asked him, “Please let my sister Tamar come and cook my favorite dish as I watch. Then I can eat it from her own hands.” So David agreed...

When Tamar arrived at Amnon’s house, she went to the place where he was lying down so he could watch her mix some dough. Then she baked his favorite dish for him. But when she set the serving tray before him, he refused to eat. “Everyone get out of here,” Amnon told his servants. So they all left.

Then he said to Tamar, “Now bring the food into my bedroom and feed it to me here.” So Tamar took his favorite dish to him. But as she was feeding him, he grabbed her and demanded, “Come to bed with me, my darling sister.”

“No, my brother!” she cried. “Don’t be foolish! Don’t do this to me! Such wicked things aren’t done in Israel. Where could I go in my shame? And you would be called one of the greatest fools in Israel. Please, just speak to the

king about it, and he will let you marry me."

But Amnon wouldn't listen to her, and since he was stronger than she was, he raped her. Then suddenly Amnon's love turned to hate, and he hated her even more than he had loved her. "Get out of here!" he snarled at her.

"No, no!" Tamar cried. "Sending me away now is worse than what you've already done to me."

But Amnon wouldn't listen to her. He shouted for his servant and demanded, "Throw this woman out, and lock the door behind her!" 2 Sam 13:1-17 NLT

Here we see the young man supposedly falling in love with his own half-sister. This 'love' was so intense that he began to feel ill. His cousin and friend gave him a godless advice, he followed it, and as a result he had forceful carnal knowledge of his own sister by another mother. As soon as he was done with having his way, his love for her turned to hate, and he had her thrown out. What a shame. But why would he do that in the first place?

Amnon, Why?

If you think Amnon was in control, I think you should read that story again. It is apparent that for

days, this young spoilt prince was 'in love'. Just by the way, let us know that being in love is one of the most unreliable feelings in the world. It is usually a strong feeling, but it is an unreliable one. Amnon was literally beside himself for the thought of the beautiful Tamar. He was so smitten by her that he forgot that they were children of the same father. It was a case of "Give me Tamar or give me death." He just had to have her.

Well, thanks to the advice of Jonadab, Amnon finally had his way; he had his way and immediately afterwards hated himself and the woman. The story does not say much about what he felt for himself but I am persuaded he hated himself almost as much as he hated her. He just got what he had been dying for days for, only to discover it was all vanity. He hated her so much he couldn't bear the sight of her. So much for falling in love. In my book, *Should I Say Yes*, I emphasized that falling in love is a 'falling', and I explained that if you were to fall into anything, you should try and get up. Feelings, no matter how strong they may seem, are fleeting. It is crazy to act on your feelings in this life. No wonder the Lord warned us

thoroughly on how to keep our ways pure;* we cannot do it by feelings—they are too unreliable. We can only keep pure by the word of God.

Anyway, Amnon's *without-you-I-cannot-sleep* love was turned inside out and then amplified in that negative direction. The feeling was stronger as hatred than when it was love.

Do you still think he was in control?

I believe you don't think so anymore. No, he wasn't; he was under an influence. The spoilt boy was being controlled by something else; something was happening that was beyond him. Events had been set in motion and spirits released; he was just a pawn in the scheme of things that was engineered to punish his father David.

His desire was engineered by an evil spirit.

Jonadab was an agent of Satan.

They all were under the power of an evil influence.

The first point I want to bring out at this time is that sex and its urges are not controlled at the moment

*Psa 119:9

of sex or the last precipitating moment of temptation; they are controlled long before then. We will see more on these things in this book. There is an environmental cause to it, and by that I mean a spiritual environment. That was why Jesus did not condemn the woman caught in the act of adultery in that well-known story. It was not right to stone her since she was not an exceptionally wicked soul; she was just part of the environment.

By the way, I am not at all exonerating Amnon entirely from the sin, nor the woman Jesus forgave. You may have noticed that I repeatedly called him a spoilt prince, and so he was. He was open to the spirit of immorality—the spirit of incest and the spirit of hatred that was set to wreak havoc in their home. He made choices before that point that made sure that he would be used for the evil. That was why Paul warned Timothy about being made ready for works. One is prepared either as a vessel unto honour or a vessel unto dishonour. There is certainly a preparation.* So, Amnon was indeed culpable, and he died for it. And many like him are still dying for sexual sins. I have seen many men die

*2 Tim 2: 21

directly for these things, and there are many more that die but not so directly, and people are not quick to recognize that it was such a sin that killed them.

Yes, Amnon was culpable, but at this point I wish to lay my emphasis on the fact that when this was happening, Amnon was not in charge, and I wish for us all to get ready to understand the cause of sexual sins, the effect they have on people individually, on us as a church and on the society, and to know the cure for it.

Like I said earlier, Amnon and Jonadab were all under an influence.

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL
• • •

CHAPTER 2

The Genesis of the Trouble



Space for the Devil

I mentioned in the last chapter that Amnon was under the influence of a spirit—an evil spirit. He was just a pawn in the scheme of things that was engineered to trouble the household of his father David. We need to take a quick look into why this was happening to David. We need to understand how the door was opened which allowed that spirit into the house of David.

Don't forget, evil spirits or Satan himself are not God, and they are not as powerful as people often make them seem. They cannot just enter into people's lives as they wish. Each person has the power and authority concerning what he or she allows or disallows. We must open a door for the devil or his agents before they can gain any access into our lives. One of the few powers that the devil has is the power to tempt. He tempts us so that by

obedience to him and disobedience to God, he will gain access into our lives. We will see later that one of the most powerful doors that Satan uses to gain control of men, even powerful men—men of authority, is through their falling into sexual sins. Without us opening a door for Satan, he cannot enter. That is why we are told not to give place to the devil.* He can only occupy the space that we give to him. When we obey his temptations, we come under divine judgment; we come outside the protection of the shadow of the Almighty. It is after this that Satan can afflict. David opened a door and that allowed Satan into his household.

Judgment of God

David was under the judgment of God. You see, God is a God of love, and David was His special beloved. But, even though God is love, He is also a just God. To be just means that He always does what is right and does not ever overlook evil. As a law, evil must always be dealt with. Forgiveness with God is not just the overlooking of events that are sinful; forgiveness means that Jesus paid a price for the sin and makes intercession for the

*Eph 4:27

transgressor. God did not just overlook your sins and mine; Jesus paid the necessary price and bore the penalty.

In the time of David, atonement was by offerings of lambs, goats and other clean animals. But not every sin could be atoned for, especially not by the blood of bulls and goats.* It is outside the scope of this book to discuss different kinds of sins and the principles of atonement, but let us note that David sinned a sin that he could not atone for by simply saying 'I am sorry' and offering a sacrifice. He had to suffer for his sin. Even though he repented and God technically forgave him, there was still a set of punishments to endure as the full cleansing for his sin.

The sin we speak of was the attempt to cover the sin of adultery which he committed with Bathsheba. This attempt resulted in the murder of Uriah the Hittite who was one of David's strong men. He was Bathsheba's husband. But even though the cover-up plan succeeded, the sin could not truly be covered. David learnt the hard way that even

*1 Sam 3:14

though you may be able to hide things from men, you cannot hide them from God. For about a year the Lord said nothing. Many of us don't quickly realize that God said nothing for close to one year after Uriah's death. I suppose He was waiting for David to come forth himself, but he didn't. David probably didn't come forward himself because he thought he got away with it. God literally gave him time to repent but he did not. Then the Lord's patience was exhausted, and He sent Nathan.

Nathan exposed the sin of David and delivered God's judgement. Please let us be careful to judge ourselves even when everything seems right so that we do not enter into divine judgment. By the time judgement starts, we probably have waited too late. The quietness of things may not necessarily be a sign that it is all okay; it may just be the waiting period in which God wants us to take that first step of confession and repentance. Time is given to us so that we can repent.*

This was the judgement of God concerning David:

'Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing

*Rev 2:21

evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the LORD, "Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your companion, and he shall lie with your wives in broad daylight. Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun."' Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the LORD.' And Nathan said to David, 'The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.' 2 Sam 12:9-14

After David heard the judgement, he repented in dust and ashes, so to speak, and God was gracious toward him and forgave him. Nathan however explained clearly that the forgiveness would only spare David's life; it did not wipe out the other consequences. He added that the little boy recently born would die. David had done something that

was deserving of death and he was to die for it, but his admission of his deeds and confession of the sin got him favour. This was a major area where he was better than Saul, the king before him. Rather than making excuses for anything, he accepted it and confessed it. It saved his life, but it was too late to save him from all the troubles created by the sin.

Just by the way, let us remember that the real sin that he was being punished for was that of covering his sin, which led to the murder of Uriah. If he had confessed his sin after the adultery, without trying so hard to cover it, he would have been forgiven and not had to suffer at all. Anyway, that was how the evil spirit got into the household. It attacked each person as their pre-existing individual character would allow.

We are not now speaking in details concerning the judgement of David but just to point out that his adultery and cover-up opened the door for all manner of things in his life.

Judgements vs Consequences

Let me quickly point out something at this point: Most of the times, God's judgements are not



punishments He is meting out because of His displeasure; they are often rather the declaration of inevitable natural consequences of our actions. Laws were set in place beforehand and breaking those laws has automatic consequences. If you look at the words that God Almighty spoke to the serpent and to Adam in the garden, you will notice that the judgments were natural consequences.

*Cursed is the ground because of you;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.
Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you.*
Gen 3:17-18

The Lord was not as much inflicting punishment out of anger as He was declaring to them the natural consequences of their actions. When a man sins like the sin of Adam, the ground under him comes into a dysfunctional state, and that is what is called a curse. It is not because the Lord is specially angry. It is like putting water into your car's fuel tank and your mechanic discovering it sometime after you had begun your journey. Imagine that he discovered the fuel he had told someone to add to the tank still lying about whereas a look-alike

container of water was empty. The person mistakenly switched the containers. You may hear him say, “The car shall stop sometime in the course of this journey,” and it would not be a result of his displeasure or desire to punish you. Someone has done what should not be done and so he is making you aware of the impending consequences.

Also, to illustrate, the daring man who jumps off a cliff with rocks waiting to receive him may hear the Lord say, “because you have lifted off this cliff in disobedience to all warnings, the rocks shall smash thee to pieces and angels shall recover your soul and move it into the afterlife.” That may sound like judgement, but in reality it is not a matter of punishment; it is just a declared consequence.

Sins and Devils

Our sins and disobedience to the word of God have their consequences. What David experienced was such a phenomenon. His adultery opened the door to more personal sins, the multiplied sins in turn opened the door for the spirit that began to afflict his children. It is interesting to note that *disobedience attracts evil spirits, and evil spirits attract each other.*

When you sin, you open doors for Satan into your life. As a man, the keys and control of the main door of your household is with you. David opened a wide door, and the spirits of incest, of conspiracy and of murder entered. The things did not affect him alone but also his children. Beware, your actions as a man, and as a woman too, do not affect you alone; they affect your children too.

Sexual sins particularly have terrible and multiplied effects. I think it is one of those terrible sins a man can use to open doors for Satan into his home. Men who commit adultery turn their children to harlots, whoremongers, drug addicts, and criminals. Adultery is one of the major doors for Satan. The spirits come in their numbers. They possess a home and wreck it entirely. Many of the emotional problems that families experience, and the gangsterism and prostitution that young people get involved in, are often because of the adultery of their parents. How I wish parents would be mindful of the fact that their sin is affecting their descendants. It is not about whether you are caught by your wife or husband or your pastor. Apart from Joab, I suppose no one else

knew what David did, and so it was so for about a year, until Nathan showed up with the word of God. Your sins, man, woman, did not go unnoticed. It is not just about you but also about those whose lives are tied to yours. You can't afford to be that wicked.

That was how Amnon's driving spirit came into the home; it entered him, made him lust after his sister and caused him to rape her. Then the spirit was done with its assignment. An accompanying spirit of hatred for her and for himself came in right afterwards, while the spirit of vengeance went to work on Absalom. "Vengeance is mine," the other prince thought, and so Amnon died by his hands.

Sin is not pleasure; it is sugar-coated poison.

I have explained many things in this chapter, but the main reason I brought up the matter of Amnon was to show that his behaviour was caused by a spirit which David had let into the home. We are examining how it is the proper worship of God and obedience to His ways that puts order into sexuality in our lives.

CHAPTER 3

Why Jesus Pardoned the Woman



Let us look at the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery who was brought to the Lord Jesus.

It happened one morning as Jesus sat teaching in the temple, that the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. They made the woman stand in front of Him and everyone; they wanted Him to tell them what to do with the woman. They were actually setting Him up so that they would have something to use to accuse Him.

Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say? John 8:5

The problem with this was that whichever way He answered, He would run afoul of someone. If He said to stone her, He would run afoul of the Romans who had removed the imposition of

capital punishment from the hands of the people. If He said to let her go, He would run contrary to the people who were gathered, and much of His disciples, as they believed in Moses. They thought they had Him cornered.

Now, there is something we often mock at but which I want to point out here because it helps us understand the answer the Lord finally gave in this matter. This woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. That means she was not alone as no one in the *very act* is ever alone. So, where was the man? The law of Moses should have been applicable to him too. Their refusal or negligence to bring that man along says loads.

Now, what did the Lord do? After writing on the ground for a while, He looked up and made that forever famous statement:

He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her. John 8:7

It is this answer we want to examine.

Of course, we know what happened—all the men who were breathing fire and brimstone a while ago



left, beginning with the older men, one after another. Jesus was left alone with the woman. There was no one innocent enough to cast a stone. It was not about boldness; it was about innocence.

Why did the Lord Jesus say what He said?

First, let me clarify what He meant by sin in that statement. When He said 'sin', He was not referring to just any sin. The sin had to be adultery, or a closely related sin, like fornication. One thing you must bear in mind is that the God who gave those laws did not think human beings needed to be perfect to enforce them, and Jesus knew this. What He wanted were men who were not guilty of adultery.

I heard a preacher explain that the law forbade people from standing in judgement or testimony in a sin they were guilty of. That was why all the men left. The truth is that those men were all adulterers, and that was probably why they did not apprehend the man who was with the woman in the *very act*.

Now, we often assume Jesus took this stance because He was being merciful and kind, and there is some truth to that, but more true is that He was

understanding. He knew that those accusing men were the reason why this young woman was committing adultery. The whole society was an adulterous society, both literally and figuratively, and that was the reason this young woman was committing adultery. The atmosphere was charged with that spirit. He was not just forgiving her, He was showing understanding of her condition. And the Lord, under the prophets, had said that He does not judge young women who commit adultery if the men are adulterers too.

*I will not punish your daughters
when they play the harlot
Or your brides when they commit adultery,
For the men themselves go apart with harlots
And offer sacrifices with temple prostitutes;
So the people without understanding are ruined.*
Hos 4:14

This was the reason for the mercy that woman experienced with the Lord Jesus. At the end of the encounter, He imparted into her the ability to walk above sin by these words,

“Go. From now on sin no more.” John 8:11



He was not counselling her but was giving her the necessary enablement to walk above the negative forces emanated by the men in the society.

What do we learn from this? We learn that the adults in the society, especially the men, are the gatekeepers. If they would live in sexual purity, the spirit of immorality will find it hard to stay in the place. But when they are morally loose, it will be hard for the young ones to do right. It is not just about setting examples; there is a spirit that is introduced into the atmosphere by the deeds of the elders. They are the ones that are responsible. If they would repent and walk in righteousness, then the younger ones would have less of that Amnon-type spirits to battle with. I'm not saying that no one would ever do this wrong, but such persons will have to be children of *Belial* in themselves. It was the reason why God commanded stoning under the law of Moses. The fact is that if everyone was worshipping God and living in sexual purity, only the *very* bad would be found doing these things. These very bad ones would be the origin, rather than victims, and so they would have had to be excised.

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL



CHAPTER 4

Worship and Sex Control



Man vs Animals

Humans and animals are very similar to each other in their biology, especially when we consider what are called the higher animals. Our hearts, kidneys, lungs, livers, etc., function in almost identical ways with those of the animals. For this reason, atheists believe we are just a higher grade of animals. Think about it, chimpanzees, the closest of these higher animals to humans, are 96% genetically similar to humans, so we can understand why they might reason like that. Unfortunately, biologists make a mistake in this; it is not about genes but about the ability to have the life or Spirit of God dwell in us. That is what actually makes us different from the animals, not the genes.

We are much more different from the chimp which shares 96% of our genes, than the chimp is from the cow, which shares about 75% of the chimp's genes.

The simple reason is the all-or-none ability to carry the breath of God. All animals were created, and they lived automatically, but after making man, God had to breath into him the breath of life. That breath of life is not just air pumped into the lungs, otherwise He would have had to do it for all animals. That breath is a spirit given to man.

*But it is a spirit in man,
And the breath of the Almighty gives them
understanding. Job 32:8*

We are not different just because of our genes. Man is wired to receive the wisdom of God. That is why we can talk. That is why we have imagination and can design and invent like God. Animals, no matter how high up the scale, do not invent so as to develop their environments. What they did 100 years ago is what they are doing today. There is no life of God in them; they do not have His wisdom. The soul of man is different.

Instincts

All animals live by instincts. Man, however, even though he also has instincts, is created to live by wisdom. If a male animal gets the urge for sex, it



will take any female of its kind that is available and get about the business unless a jealous other male or the female itself fights it off. Sometimes the fight is till death. The needy male doesn't care nor can it recognize whether the female is its sister or even its mother.

On the other hand, if human beings get the urge for sex, they consider 1001 things, so to speak. Unless the person is possessed of an evil spirit, relatives are not considered. There are so many things to consider. They ask themselves such questions as, is the time right to stir up love; is there a willing partner; is there privacy or do I arrange for later; is it right according to the rules to do it with this individual, etc. If these things are not favourable, they kill the urge one way or another, or simply ignore it till it passes away. Now, that extensive consideration is what we call wisdom, and is what humans are supposed to live by, not instinct. I want us to bear in mind that even though it is pretty common, the wisdom is not natural; it is imparted by God into the society of mankind.

*But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker,
Who gives songs in the night,*

*Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth
And makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?*

Job 35:10-11

The more we have the wisdom of God, the more we control our urges. For example, those who have the fullness of the wisdom would ask a question when they get that urge, "Where is my husband/wife?" All other considerations are subject to a favourable answer of this question. Many have less of the wisdom of God so they have less restraints, but they still have a lot more than the animals who live only by their instincts.

Wisdom

The reason we do not sleep with our sisters or mothers is that wisdom. Dogs do it and don't think anything of it; in fact, they don't think at all. The reason normal men do not sleep with their daughters is called the wisdom of God. The same men can marry women as young as their daughters, but the daughters are not at all a candidate for their sexual satisfaction. All of this is wisdom from God.

Now, the further people remove themselves from

the knowledge of God, the more they live by instinct and the more they start behaving like animals. In societies where God is removed from their general knowledge, they begin to question the vestiges of simple wisdom that may still be present. A few years ago, I read an article in a magazine, and in it the writer was questioning the rationale behind nations outlawing incest. The writer, a young woman, told a romantic story of a man who was in a sexual relationship with his daughter. This was somewhere in Europe. You see, he and the girl's mother divorced while she was still young and so she grew up away from him mostly. One day she sought out her father and they got to meet, and according to the writer, it was love at first sight. After seeing each other a few times, they started having sex. She was about 20 years younger than him. The relationship had been on for about 2 years at the time of the article, and it is such a 'loving relationship' that the writer had to write to question what was wrong with it.

The writer brought up the issue of genetic abnormalities in offspring, which is an issue with consanguinity in couples, but she also argued that it can be tackled with in-utero testing or refusal to



have children. They have even coined a name for that kind of relationship, a name that is a total lie when we consider the meaning of words. Anyway, lying with words is always how it starts on the journey towards normalization and legalization. They call it *genetic sexual attraction* but there is nothing genetic about it, if the term 'genetic' is to be used in the proper way. All that happens is that people without the wisdom of God, who obey their sexual attractions without restraint, randomly become sexually attracted to a close relative, and they obey the animal instinct. It is lack of wisdom. That is all. Let us make a long story short, the society was being demanded to allow 'loving' incestuous relationships.

A few years ago, a professor in the USA was charged to court for having a long-standing affair with his daughter, and his lawyers argued that since they were both adults, they had the constitutional right to consent to such a relationship. They also argued that since persons of the same sex were allowed to have sexual relationships in the country, why not adults of the same family. They lost the case quite all right, but it is just a matter of time before such would stand, if

there is no spiritual revival. In certain countries in Europe, the proposal is already there to decriminalize consensual sexual relationships between first-degree relatives, like siblings, and parents and their adult children. Many countries already allow it anyway.

That is what happens when people depart from God and start living without His wisdom.

Perversions

Now, the lack of the knowledge of God does not only deny a people the wisdom of God, which makes us live wiser than animals, but it also brings forth darkness of heart and depravity as a separate consequence. Darkness and depravity sink us below the level of animals.

Lack of wisdom makes us behave like animals, but darkness of heart and depravity make us do what even animals do not do.

Lack of wisdom makes us live by instinct alone, but darkness of heart and depravity make us do things that cannot be explained on the basis of biology.

Lack of wisdom is a matter of being without any

spirit, while darkness of heart and depravity is about being influenced by demonic forces.

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil... Rom 1:26-29

Think of it; to want to have sex is a valid instinct but which we subject to control according to godly wisdom, but what kind of sex is a woman having with another woman, or a man with another man? Even animals, which we become like as we move away from the wisdom of God, do not do that. Scientists are always searching, trying to find homosexuality in animals but they constantly fail. They have not found it in higher animals, and they attempt to interpret some behaviours observed in cockroaches and termites as such homosexual

behaviour. The truth is that even animals do not do it. Essentially, only depraved human nature comes up with things such as that. This is beyond living by instinct; it is depravity.

Take another example, this strange thing called BDSM.* The persons involved derive sexual gratification from being tortured or torturing someone, in the course of intimacy. Some will want to be choked until they almost pass out just to get sexual gratification. Why should anyone derive sexual pleasure from being beaten and choked or from doing that to someone else? Why on earth should experiencing pain or inflicting pain on someone give anyone sexual pleasure? Animals do not do that. This is definitely perversion, a result of God giving people over to a depraved mind so that they do things that are not normal.

But why do these things occur?

There are three main reasons: One, absence of the knowledge of God; two, rejection of the knowledge of the true God; and three, worship of demons and other gods. These things provoke the wrath of God

*Bondage-Dominance-Sadism-Masochism

and open the door to evil spirits which corrupt mankind.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honour Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Rom 1:18-21

Not knowing God is where the problems begin. Once a generation walks away from God, they deny His wisdom and they drop down into animal behaviour. When they deliberately refuse to acknowledge Him or give Him thanks, then the situation worsens for the society as the spirits of darkness and perversion are commanded into the society. David Pawson used to say, "God is not angry with homosexuality; rather, homosexuality is a sign that He is angry."

CHAPTER 5

Idolatry



Demon worship in the form of idolatry is real. Now, every god that is worshipped imposes its method of worship on the worshippers. Let us note something from an incidence in Israel's experience in the wilderness.

"This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt." Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it... So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. Exo 32:4-6

This quote above describes part of the events that happened when Aaron built that well-known golden calf for the children of Israel after they gave him their jewellery to do so. Note the end of that verse. It says that, as part of the worship, the people sat down to eat and drink, and they *rose up to play*. I want you to understand that they were not playing

cards or jumping rope, and I don't think they came with their footballs. Actually, they rose up to start having a wild party which included unbridled sex. The Good News Translation is very explicit in its rendering, as follows.

The people sat down to a feast, which turned into an orgy of drinking and sex.

I am of the opinion that they did not intend that at the beginning, but as the celebration went on, the spirit of the calf moved over the congregation and that orgy of sex followed. It is an integral part of most forms of demon worship. There are many parties that men and women, young and old, attend, and part of the activities is sex play of different types. The people do not understand that they have come to a party where they are worshipping demons. Whether you see a calf or not, a party that involves sexual immorality is a deliberate insulting of the God of creation and is an offering to demons. Sex is a way by which we offer our bodies to God or to other spirits. The one to whom we are thus offering is shown by how we go about it. Sexual orgies is a way by which many demons and idols are worshipped. The demons



want it and they demand it of the lead worshippers; they also pour out the influences on other followers who thus cannot help but engage in it.

This is why God often likens idolatry to sexual immorality. The truth is that one is the physical manifestation of the other. In fact, when you hear the Lord describe Israel's following of other gods sometimes, you would think He is talking about literal sexual immorality. The following are examples.

You go to the high mountains to offer sacrifices and have sex. You set up your obscene idols just inside your front doors. You forsake me; you take off your clothes and climb in your large beds with your lovers, whom you pay to sleep with you. And there you satisfy your lust.

Isa 57:7-8 GNT

*My people consult their wooden idol,
and their diviner's wand informs them;
For a spirit of harlotry has led them astray,
And they have played the harlot, departing from their God.
They offer sacrifices on the tops of the mountains
And burn incense on the hills...
Therefore your daughters play the harlot*

And your brides commit adultery. Hos 4:12-13

See, the reason there is so much sexual immorality and deviancy in the world today is because there is so much rejection of the true God and much idolatry.

An Initiation Ceremony

I read a book many years ago on witchcraft; this book was written by a practising witch. I knew it was not a Christian book but I was just curious to see what she had to say. Her initiation process into the coven culminated in having intercourse with the chief priest. See, even though she did not say so, I understand that to be when the witchcraft spirit was passed into her. She was becoming one with the ruler of the coven, a demon spirit present in and represented by that chief priest. It was not just the physical act. That is one thing a lot of people do not understand about sex—it is not just a physical act. You have to be careful with it. When the word of Christ instructs you to do it *only* with your partner in marriage, there is a blessed reason for it.

Spirits are injected through sex. When you read through the Bible, certain terms come across once

IDOLATRY

in a while; you read of temples prostitutes, cult prostitutes, etc. These are women and men through who spirits are transferred into worshippers who come to worship in pagan temples. Through those sexual encounters, they receive the offering of the bodies of the worshippers on behalf of the demons being worshipped.

Demons are worshipped with sexual activity, especially deviant sexual activity such as homosexuality, and they pour out their spirits of immorality on people. Bear it in mind that those who worship false gods cannot help but commit sexual immorality of all sorts. The reason there is promiscuity, homosexuality and all manner of sexual perversions that are in the world today is that *the whole world lies in the power of the evil one*.^{*} Until people are delivered from under the power of the evil one, nothing will bring an end to sexual perversion and its effects in the society.

^{*}1 Jn 5:19

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL



CHAPTER 6

Union in the Spirit



The Two Become One

I need to quickly explain this union thing around marriage and sex which we find in the scriptures. I mentioned earlier about that woman who was initiated into witchcraft, and that she became one with the spirit over the coven by joining herself to the chief priest through sex. That is the way spiritual things work. I want to explain it further.

Sexual intimacy is not just a physical act. In the beginning, God made the man and the woman, his wife, and said the two shall become one. That oneness is initiated today in a marriage ceremony in which a woman is given in marriage to a man; it is then confirmed or *consummated* when the two of them join themselves physically in sexual intimacy. The Lord gave a hymen to the woman so that it would be broken in that initial act, causing blood to flow, so as to signify that they have entered into a

blood covenant. That is the plan of God.

Now, the scriptures teach us that things that are initiated and consummated often have to be re-enacted in smaller ceremonies. For example, Jesus actually was crucified and He died on a real cross at a particular time, but in the communion table which we participate in often, we declare the death of Jesus continually until He returns. Doing so brings the power of that sacrifice into our lives. In a similar manner, Israel had the initial covenant with God on Mount Sinai but they were to continually offer sacrifices every year to re-enact the covenant. So, the Lord gave the joy of sexual intercourse to the man and the woman; they are to continue to engage in it all the days of their lives. One of the purposes it serves is to re-state the oneness they are in. It continues to bind them together, strengthening that bond which started at the marriage ceremony.

Now, through understanding of the things of the spirit, Paul explains to us that the act of sex with anyone, even if you are not married to them, is designed to produce oneness.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and



make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "the two shall become one flesh." 1 Cor 6:15-17

As we learnt in Chemistry, there are weak bonds and there are strong bonds; bonds differ from one another on the basis of strength, but they are bonds all the same. My point is that anytime two people have sexual intercourse, a bond is formed between them. This bond is not an imaginary one; it is real. The significance of it is *control*. One of the parties exerts a level of control over the other person whether they think so or not, and whether they like it or not. If your sexual contact, who is not your rightful spouse, decides to take advantage of that control, then you are *in soup*, so to speak. 'One body' implies that the person now has spiritual right over your life. The person's petition before the judgment throne of God concerning you has been reinforced.

Many men have different women pulling them in all directions, and they don't understand where their problems began from. They can't seem to be decisive over anything; they are always falling sick with mysterious ailments, etc. The problem in the

lives of many of these men is the number of bonds they have formed with different women and these are tugging them in different directions.

A Bit of Witchcraft

Now, those who understand spiritual things can manipulate these things to control people, and that is one reason why it is dangerous not to maintain godly sexual discretion. Here is how it works:

When practitioners of the occult want to manipulate a man, they must have a road into his life. Those stories you hear, that they can use a portion of his hair or his stolen clothes are either not true or they are quite incomplete. You cannot petition the Judge of the heavens and the earth with someone's material things which you stole; it will have no effect. It is like when Jesus said that what a man eats does not defile him; physical things in themselves do not work. You need a connection that speaks in the realm of the spirit to be able to do anything. Sometimes when you read stories about witchcraft, you hear that a woman slept with a man and took his emission in a handkerchief to the shrine or coven, and that it was used to afflict or control the man. That is inaccurate reporting as it



focuses the mind on the physical object taken. What the woman took away is not the real issue; she may have taken it as a token; the real issue is that she joined herself to him and became one with him—that is the real thing. The fact that she could then lay claim to his body, having been made one with him, is what works in the spiritual control. Her petitions are amplified by the occultists, (they are trained accusers, or advocates, if you please), and yes, they do get results. If she were to steal that handkerchief from the man meeting his wife, it would be a waste of her time.

What I am saying is that when a man has intercourse with a woman, he exposes himself to her spiritual manipulation if she chooses to take advantage of it, and many men are thus controlled. Our iniquity is what gives power to the occult. If these men would not engage in any sexual activity outside their home, then the power of the occult in many lives will be broken. That is how many homes break. The man thinks he is having free sex with a woman outside his home, but he does not realize that she is taking that oneness seriously and is demanding every day in the spirit, “avenge me of my adversary,” so to speak. She lays claim to his



wealth, his health, his attention, etc. It is then unfortunate when the wife does not know how to do the necessary 'intercession' to deliver her husband. Maybe she even quarrels with him every day and so they hardly have sexual intimacy. That is it; the home is broken by the spiritual demands of an adulterous woman who lays claims through oneness, the oneness provided by the man's lack of sexual discipline. The man thinks he fell in love but it is not so; he is only being spiritually manipulated because of his lack of discretion. It is not love that is taking him away from his wife; it is spiritual manipulation by a woman who he joined himself to. Some would call her a witch, but it is his error.

The person you are getting sexually intimate with can control your life if she, or even he, chooses to. There is no free sex in this life; it is a door of the spiritual. You are tied to that person, and if they pull on that rope, you will feel it. You need to be careful.

A Detective Outsmarted

A story was once told me of a police detective who was assigned to investigate an occurrence in a white garment church of those days. You know, we



used to have these shrines that pretended to be churches and were notorious for always wearing white. They almost always were located near a river or stream. Imagine supposed churches offering animal sacrifices; the truth is that they were not Christians. They seem to have reduced in prominence in recent years.

Shortly after the man began his investigations, he converted and became a member of the so-called church. He was so dedicated to them that it became a problem in his home. All his money and spare time were spent on the church. He would sleep in church most of the nights. It was obvious the man had lost control of himself and had become someone's puppet.

When I heard the story, I told the person who told me that the man was bewitched. You see, this was a clear case of bewitching, and it goes on every day. I told the person I could deliver him but I would need a *locus standi* in his life. You do not go around delivering people who haven't come to you for deliverance. Of course, this man didn't realize he needed deliverance and would not come, but that was not much of a problem. I told the person to tell

the wife or his adult children, his wife preferably, to come see me, and I could help them. But I guess I looked too small those days (you know a prophet often is without honour when people are from his home). The lady who told me the story didn't take my offer seriously. I don't think she ever told them.

If the man's wife had come to see me, I would have instructed her with the word of God to stir up faith. Then, because she was his wife, and so had authority in his life, we would have taken that right of oneness before God the judge and asked Him to grant her requests over her body—her husband. Then we would have, in the name of Jesus, instructed the bewitching spirit to get out of his life, and he would have been freed. It's Christianity 1-0-1. The power of the name of Jesus in such situations is usually so dramatically manifested, but it had to be someone from the home who would stand for him. We did it those days but for some other types of circumstances and we saw dramatic results. I will not tell those stories now.

Please, the issue of how he could have been delivered is not why I'm telling that story. The main thing I want to bring out was how he got to be



bewitched in the first place. When I heard the amount of control these guys had over his life, I said this could not have been simply deception by false visions and prophecy. If they had grabbed him that way, it is likely he would have been able to carry his wife along. With false visions, they can persuade someone to follow them by instilling fear of death and such. But this was not a man walking in fear; it was a man who had lost control of himself. So, I concluded, it was more likely that in the course of his investigations, he got offered a bribe, which probably started with money, but somewhere along the line, it involved a woman they gave to him. That is what I understand in how these things work. He thought he was dealing with regular persons; he did not know he was dealing with masters of the occult who wear white and pretend to be Christians. They knew their craft, and he ate their bait.

Men, especially married men, when a woman winks at you, see a bait. If they try to seduce you, don't forget it is a hook you are about to swallow.

*For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light...
To keep you from the evil woman,*

*From the smooth tongue of the adulteress.
Do not desire her beauty in your heart,
Nor let her capture you with her eyelids.*
Pro 6:23-25

My brothers, it is *capture*. It is not worth it. If you want sex, go home. And women, please give your husbands plenty. Sink that hook of righteousness into him again and again. Do your part in keeping witches off your turf.

There are men who are in this kind of situation as that detective, but unlike him, they know they need deliverance. They know they have lost control of their own lives. The only way to get delivered is to confess their sins. Prayers will be offered and they will be delivered. God is faithful. But they must be ready to confess and to repent. There is no deliverance without that repentance.

Let's Get Back

In this chapter we took a digression to emphasize the importance, use and abuse of spiritual oneness; now let us get back to the origin of immorality, which is idolatry.

CHAPTER 7

Idolatry in Christianity



We have been speaking of idolatry as the foundation of sexual immorality and sexual deviancy in a society. The point has been that the more people move away from the knowledge and the worship of the true God, the more they move towards animal-like behaviour in which they live by instinct rather than by wisdom. Their sexual instincts control them rather than the plan of God working in their lives—the plan in which we are supposed to control our instincts. We have also seen that when people reject the knowledge of God, He gives them over to depravity, as a society. As a result of this giving over, we begin to see behaviours that cannot be explained by animal-like instincts. Sexual deviancy in which men lust after men and women lust after women begin to happen. These things happen because certain spirits, unclean spirits, are released into the air. As part of the operations of these

unclean spirits, men and women begin to derive sexual pleasure from pain and from inflicting pain. It is called depravity and darkness of heart. All these things are the results of idolatry.

At this point, we need to examine some important things to the end that Christians might be careful, that even though they think they are standing they do not fall.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. 1 Cor 10:12

When we speak of idolatry, we may feel that it is not our portion because, not only have we believed in God rather than following after vain idols, we have even given our lives to Christ; so we have the confidence that we are safe. In fact, we are safe, if we hold on tight to Him in whom we have believed.

As a matter of fact, sexual immorality should not be named among Christians, and it is pure ungodliness to even try to justify sexual perversion such as homosexuality in the way the world does it these days. The world tells us that it is the genetic make-up of some persons, that they were born that way. Well, the scientific evidence for that does not



exist and more importantly, the word of God does not so teach. We follow the word of God with our whole being.

Beware of Complacency

Now, I believe the most important reason why Christians get involved in sexual immorality is sheer indiscipline and refusal to deny the flesh. Many times, Christians just don't bother with their faith; they just live life as common people and only go to church as a routine. They are cold in their faith. They think that life is all about having peace and prosperity around you. They just want to enjoy life; they forget that they are at war with a ferocious enemy. This kind of state is common with a generation raised in peace and prosperity. They have seen little of spiritual war, so they are relaxed. A zealous Christian who makes 'dangerous' choices is such an abnormality to them. They are so conformed to the world that you wouldn't know they were Christians except that they go to church. Because of the presence of rudiments of the faith, Jesus calls them lukewarm, and He finds them nauseating.* They are the ones who bow to the

*Rev 3:16

pressures of the world in many things. They get involved in discussions about whether they should ordain homosexual priests and perform same-sex marriages. Some keep away from adultery, or at least they try, but fornication as a word no longer exists with them. They believe with the world that sex between unmarried persons is not really wrong, as long as the parties are 'in love' or if they are hoping to marry. The world is in them, and yet they are supposedly Christians.

It is so sad, especially when grace is so readily available to overcome the world.

No matter how much grace is available for us to walk above sin, if we do not take hold of it with diligence, it will be as if we are without help. Discipline is part of the activation of grace. Paul had to write to teach this to Timothy who was a young man. He instructed him that he should discipline himself for the purpose of godliness.* We must be disciplined to pray, to speak specifically to the flesh to abstain from sexual immorality; we must be disciplined to put the flesh under, like Paul admonished.*

*1 Tim 4:7; 1 Cor 9:27

There are people who once were so disciplined, but over time they have become complacent. They have become like Solomon in his old age. He had prospered so much and for so long that he became tolerant of everything. That tolerance occurs sometimes among us Christians. It is one of the dangers of prosperity. This is illustrated in the life of the church in Laodicea, which the Lord rebuked in the book of Revelation. They were rich, but had become complacent. In complacency, we get to the point where we do not even believe that God judges these things or that we will be held accountable. It is called the complacency of fools, and they are destroyed by it.* Jesus will judge. Yes, He will.

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. Rev 3:15-17

We must be wary of complacency. It is a dangerous thing in life. We get so secure in many areas that we

*Prov 1:32

are not zealous anymore to take hold of God.

Sometimes we are aware of so much evil going on in the world that we begin to think that our little righteousness, being so much better than that of the world, is good enough. We forget that it is wrong to judge one's holiness by the sin of others. We therefore become careless as older Christians, and the young ones drink of that spirit of laxity. It is a common thing for a firebrand generation to be followed by a cold one, but it should not be. Let us be wary of complacency leading us to sexual immorality. From one generation to another, the fight for godliness in our lives and around us must not slacken. Let us be like those who finished strong, people who endured to the end.

Now, what I want to explain here is beyond the matter of complacency, which is easy to overcome once we stir up our spirits. We can do that simply by recalling to mind what manner of persons we ought to be and by feeding extra on the word of God. What I want to explain is about how we open doors for the evil spirits which push and compel children of God into sexual immorality. When these spirits operate, it will be as if it is beyond the

ability of children of God to resist temptations. Just as we have already seen, what causes this is idolatry; the problem however is that we often do not recognize idolatry in us since we are not bowing down before any physical image. But idolatry does not necessary involve graven images and visits to demonic shrines; for the believer in Christ, any form of the love of the world and walking in unbelief constitutes idolatry.

Little children, keep yourselves from idols (false gods) — [from anything and everything that would occupy the place in your heart due to God, from any sort of substitute for Him that would take first place in your life]. 1 John 5:21 AMP

The Love of Money

The first idol we will look at is money. Paul addressed it in his letter to Timothy.

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced

themselves with many griefs. 1 Tim 6:9-10

Money is the most important idol that Christians chase. The love of it leads to all sorts of evil, sexual immorality included. The unfortunate thing is that, in recent times, the love of money has been normalized in many Christian circles so that people no longer recognize it as such. I will try point out what constitutes the love of money.

A person who loves money does not kiss and hug currency, nor do they necessarily sit down to admire the bank balance; the test of the love of money is what the person is willing to give up for the sake of getting money. Will he break his word to earn more money? If the answer is yes, then he loves money. Will he forsake the practice of truth so he will get more money? If so, he loves money. Will that preacher twist the word of God just a little bit, or omit preaching some truths, so that the offering may increase? If so, that preacher is trapped by *mammonic* love.

The person who loves money changes jobs any time he can get more money, even if he has to disappoint people, mess up other people's plans, or break an

agreement. That is the love of money in operation.

The interesting part is that Paul defines the love of money in very simple terms, so simply that we easily overlook it. A look at his definition shows that many of us are guilty of it. Here it is:

...those who want to get rich... 1 Tim 6:9

It is as simple as that. That desire to have money, and the resultant chase after it in taking decisions daily that further the ambition, is the love of money; it is idolatry for a Christian. It has led many on a pitiful downward path. The desire for riches leads Christians into all sorts of evil, including sexual immorality.

Now, many times, what actually opens the door for sexual immorality in our lives is something which we think is innocuous and so we indulge in it, but it conceives sin for us and we fall into sin. We try to resist the sin but we do not realize that it has already been conceived. See, once sin is conceived, it is extremely hard not to commit it. That is how the love of money is; it leads into sins but we do not readily connect both. We will examine more about

this issue of the conception of sin later.

The love of money is a root of all sorts of evil. It means that once we don't resist the love of money, many times it conceives adultery for us; we fall into it and we can't believe it. It is a force that was released but which we do not realize came as a result of the pursuit of money.

There is this supposed preacher who decided to get in touch with familiar spirits; his aim was to impress his listeners at meetings with what would seem like the word of knowledge by the Holy Spirit, but it is all divination. It is with a python spirit just like that slave girl in Philippi who Paul cast that spirit of divination out of.* Now, that is a very common thing these days; a lot of supposed preachers use familiar spirits to peep into people's lives and to get information. They pretend it is the Spirit of God. These people prophesy money out of your pocket — that is their main work.

This preacher was into the familiar spirit thing, and it brought him much gain. He would sometimes receive as many as two or even three cars from a

*Acts 16:16



congregation as offerings, and that is just in one meeting. But one thing made him seek for deliverance from a pastor I know (which is why I heard the story): it turned out that every time he operated those divination powers, after the meeting, an irresistible urge to sleep with a prostitute would come upon him. He would spend that night, after preaching, in the bosom of a harlot. He could not help it, and that was one reason he sought help. I think he also sought help because the spirits started talking to him all the time, even when he didn't want the information. I saw that as a spirit of madness being invited in.

The solution I recommended for him was easy, but it may be hard for some. I told the person telling me the story, who he had gone to for help, to tell him that if truly he wanted deliverance, he should burn those cars, and the house or houses he built with divination money. If he does that, the harlotry spirit will leave him once prayers are offered. But if he thinks he would keep the goods and still be prayed for to be delivered, he is fooling himself. You see, those spirits rode on the back of his love for money. The sin of sexual immorality was not the



primary sin; that was born out of the presence of the defiling demons that had entered his life. Remember that disobedience attracts unclean spirits, and unclean spirits attract one another. There is no point trying to resist those ones pushing him to meet harlots; it is sin already conceived and must be born. His way of escape is to burn off the love of money and the goods it produced in his life.

The Idol of Success

The quest for material success is the bane of the Christian walk in the lives of many. Success has been described for them in material terms, and they have accepted it so. But unfortunately, this is nothing but idolatry and mammon worship. Success for the Christian cannot be measured materially. If you are measuring it by material parameters, then you are confused. In the world, a man's net worth is measured by adding up the value of the money and material possession he has; but such a calculation is a lie. A man's real net worth cannot be thus calculated. Real worth is mostly invisible, as it is spiritual. Many materially rich people are poor in reality. Just see again the assessment the Lord Jesus gave the church in

Laodicea and you will get the point.

... you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy..." and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor... Rev 3:17

You are poor if you are not daily pleasing God by your actions and decisions derived from faith. You are a failure if your personal relationship with Christ Jesus is not improving every day.

Success is the ability to keep faith in the midst of adversity.

Success is fulfilling God's purpose for your life.

Success is to keep pressing on *on* the path of God's calling, fulfilling the assignment of each season. That is what success is. Defining it the other way is idolatry.

When we define success wrongly, Satan soon gives us the opportunity to gain success through his methods. Unless we change our definition, it is just a matter of time, we will fall for his temptations.

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL



CHAPTER 8

Wrong Doctrines and Immorality



We are speaking about idolatry in Christianity, and I have been trying to show that there are many ways we depart from a close walk with the Lord, and that all these ways are effectively forms of idolatry. Now let us look at the issue of false doctrines.

I am of the opinion that this is about the strongest cause of immorality among Christians. False doctrines are so dangerous that we do not see any of the apostles of the Lord Jesus who wrote scripture for us address them with levity. Let us look at the words of Jude.

Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's

marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Jude v3,4NLT

You see, to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, and to bear fruit in every good work requires His grace. We can do nothing of ourselves; all we do is by the power of Christ in us. Any person can descend to any depth of moral depravity if the restraining power of God is removed from their lives. So, if we want to walk morally upright, we must connect always with grace. The power of God for us to walk in victory is what grace is, and it is kept in His word. Notice here how Peter talked about it.

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 2 Pet 1:2-3

Grace is tied to true knowledge. The more we are removed from *true* knowledge, the more we are removed from grace, and the tendency increases

for descent into moral decadence. It seems to me that Satan knows this and so he seeks to promote falsehood in our doctrines, so that we can be trapped by fleshly lusts. Wrong doctrines lead to bondage, and often the bondage is of immorality.

The Lord taught us a spiritual principle when He said that trees are known by their fruit.* A tree is called a mango tree, not because of the beauty of the leaves or the trunk, but because it bears mangoes as fruit. What I am saying is that many of the false doctrines that we come across do not produce righteous lives, even though they sound so good to the ears, which explains their popularity. On the contrary, we have observed that licentiousness and immorality usually characterize the congregations that hold on to these doctrines. I have known of large pentecostal and faith teaching denominations that are renowned for their immorality and dishonesty. I remember a sister telling me that she wanted to join one of these churches because she loved the services, especially the praise portion; her problem however was that they were too immoral. Yet everyone there is talking faith.

*Luk 6:44

Our doctrines are ultimately proven by the fruit they produce. If the doctrine is pure, it will produce godly character; but if the people who hold on to a particular doctrine do not show the development of godly character, it is likely the doctrine is wrong. Paul explains to us as follows:

For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation — the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ — for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Phil 1:10-11 NLT

The fruit of our salvation is the righteous character produced in us. If our doctrine is not producing it, then something is wrong with that doctrine. Anytime you see immorality being pervasive in a congregation, check what they are preaching. More often than not, that is where the problem is.

The Loss of The Fear of God

One of the major defective doctrines I have seen in modern Christianity is that which throws away the fear of God. We deliberately teach that it was in the Old Testament that God was to be feared, and that

the New Testament God is a God of love. We are therefore supposed to love Him and not fear Him, proponents of this doctrine say. I do not have the space here to teach in details about this, but let me say that though it sounds so romantic, that doctrine is not based on scriptures, both in the New Testament and in the Law and the prophets.

As a matter of fact, people were taught to love God under the Old Covenant which Moses brought on Mount Sinai, and at the same time they were taught to fear Him. Loving God is not at all peculiar to the New Testament. Men and women of old loved the Lord. Moses loved the Lord. David loved the Lord. Samuel loved the Lord. Joshua loved the Lord. And they taught the people to do the same.

*Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! **You shall love the Lord** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Deut 6:4-5*

*So take diligent heed to yourselves **to love the Lord** your God. Josh 23:11*

Let me quickly point this out: loving God and fearing Him are not mutually exclusive. It is not that you would choose one and leave the other. As a

matter of fact, the love of God and the fear of God are two sides of the same coin. No proper relationship with God is functional or valid unless the two sides of this coin are complete. We cannot effectively love God unless at the same time we fear Him. It is absolute fallacy to say that New Testament saints are not to fear God. The fear of God is taught all over the New Testament. Please just search 'fear of God' or 'fear of the Lord' in your New Testament and see it all over the place.

*So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in **the fear of the Lord** and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase. Acts 9:31*

*...let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in **the fear of God**. 2 Cor 7:1*

*...and be subject to one another in **the fear** of Christ.*
Eph 5:21

John Bevere told of when he went to visit Jim Bakker in prison. Jim Bakker was before then the number one televangelist in the US. He was watched in many households all over the country. Then sometime around 1988, a major scandal broke out concerning finances and some other issues,

including paying money to silence a young woman he had committed adultery with. There were so many issues, but there is no need to discuss them now. The end of it was that the ministry shut down, and he was indicted on many charges, tried and sent to prison. While he was in prison, his wife divorced him and married his contractor and friend. It was while he was in prison that he told John Bevere something all Christians should note.

John Bevere asked Jim Bakker how he could have been involved in many of those wrong things. He was an icon for Christianity, working hard day and night for the Lord. John Bevere wanted to know; “Did you not truly love the Lord from your heart?” Jim Bakker answered, “I loved Him; I just did not fear Him.”

When people do not fear God, they do things that are not pleasing to Him. Fear of retribution and of consequences is one of the reasons we do what is right. It is just like that. We sometimes teach that Christians are supposed to do right because they love the Lord and do not want to disappoint Him or hurt His feelings. Yes, there is some truth to that, but it is not all the truth. Unconsciously, we know that

whatever hurt we give the Lord, He is big enough to fully recover from it. Let us not fool ourselves; love or no love, we know He won't hurt much, and so that motivation has not been strong enough in itself. The other reason we obey the Lord and do things pleasing to Him is the knowledge of the consequences of disobedience. It is not even about God's active punishment; just knowing that your sin will injure you and many people connected to you is part of the reasons you obey righteousness.

Many times when this is discussed, I hear it taught that we should not fear God the way we fear a rattlesnake. Well, since we usually agree the saints of the Old Testament feared the Lord, we should note that they did not fear Him the way we fear a rattlesnake. They feared Him properly. The fear of God is reverential, most certainly, but it is fear all the same. Jesus said,

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt 10:28

I think we should fear God more than we fear any other thing or person.



Okay, I understand that we should not withdraw from God. A rattlesnake indeed has no good for us in it, but God has all the love and all the good we can ever need. He is full of love and full of mercy for us. He cares for us with all His heart and watches over us as the apple of His eye. That is why we can draw near to Him. He wants us to draw near to Him, and we should, but we should never forsake the fear of God, especially since it is prescribed in the scriptures and the Lord Jesus expressly commanded it.

The Fear of God

Sometimes people try to substitute reverence for fear, and some modern Bible translations do that in many verses. But I object to this practice because I understand it to be watering down the scriptures to fit our self-created image of God. The word the original authors used is fear, and we should leave it as fear. There is a difference between reverence and fear. Reverence means to have deep respect which is close to worship, but fear goes beyond that.

What is the fear of God?

It is simple—it is to know that disobedience to Him



has consequences, even though He is loving. To fear God implies that I know that He is present everywhere, He sees everything I do and hears all my thoughts, and that He is both my Rewarder and my Discipliner. He will punish me if I transgress.

God is our loving Father, but being a loving father is not mutually exclusive to being a God that is to be feared. God has many aspects to His person; to speak as if the loving-father side is the only side to Him is to live in deception. That is one reason people walk in sin—something deep inside them says there will be no consequence. They are taught that God is loving, but they misunderstand, thinking that is all He is. God indeed is a loving Father, but He is at the same time a fearsome Judge of the whole earth.

To illustrate, I have children, and my children know I love them. They are free to come into my presence and my room anytime. We talk freely; we joke, we dance together, and they are free to ask me for anything. But they also know and understand from experience that there is a side of Daddy that is to be watched with care. You are not allowed to flout his instructions; you cannot do so and not

expect a just recompense of reward.

Once, while my daughter was still a little girl, she did something wrong and my wife said, "Come, let us go and see your daddy;" the girl just started crying. She knew that the love of Daddy does not at all rule out his discipline side. Yet in that same season, a day came that I dressed to go out; when she saw my movements, she wanted to know if I was going out. I said yes. I had stayed at home late that day to watch over her because she was ill. You see, my wife and I had a policy that one of us must be at home with any of the children that might be sick. That morning, my wife had to go out first, and she was then on her way back. When the little girl heard I was going out, she asked if she could come with me. I said no, especially because I was heading to work. She protested, "I never get to go anywhere." I reminded her that she goes to school, to church and to quite a number of other places. She replied, "But I never get to go to work!" Very funny; she just wanted to go out with her daddy. So you see, she feared and loved at the same time. Daddy loved her very much but he was strict in discipline when he had to be. That is the way God is. He loves

us so much He gave Jesus up for us, yet the Bible says,

And have you entirely forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you, his children? He said,

"My child, don't ignore it when the Lord disciplines you, and don't be discouraged when he corrects you.

For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes those he accepts as his children."

As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Whoever heard of a child who was never disciplined? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children after all. Heb 12:5-9 NLT

If anyone says God does not punish His children, ask which Bible he or she reads. I have heard it said that God only chastises His children with words, and I wonder what that means. What could it mean that He flogs with words? If it is just words, how come the Bible calls it punishment? How come in verse 11 of this portion quoted above, the King James' version says it is *grievous*? Anyway, when we don't want to believe even the Bible, we can twist it any way to fit our doctrine.



Many continue in sin because they have come to believe there will be no consequence, but I tell you there will be. God will apply it Himself, and it is grievous.

Some think they will simply go and confess and then be forgiven. Now, that is true, provided it was not a plan before the sin, otherwise it would be mockery, and He will not pardon without punishment. God is not to be mocked. We cannot take His kindness and willingness to forgive for granted and go about flouting His rules.

For there is no longer any sacrifice that will take away sins if we purposely go on sinning after the truth has been made known to us. Heb 10:26-27 GNT

Forgiveness is for those who are confessing so they can change. Confession is not just for the sake of forgiveness. If you have not come to change, please do not bother coming to the place of confession because you will not be forgiven. When we confess our faults and errors, we are at the same time asking for help to change. Notice that John tied change to forgiveness in his epistle. He said, "He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to

cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* That cleansing must be part of what we come for, otherwise we are simply mocking Him.

Learn to Fear God

Please let us learn to fear God. There is a reason David admonished the saints to fear the Lord.

*O fear the Lord, you His saints;
For to those who fear Him there is no want. Psa 34:9*

A lot of God's holy people treat Him as if He is just a blessing machine who never punishes anyone. When He starts to punish, they will say it is the devil, and they will start their senseless rebuking. Sometimes, when my wife and I would analyse some things that even pastors do, she would exclaim, “Don't these people fear God?” That statement is deep. It means, do they not know that one day He will arise and punish all these things? You hear of pastors sleeping with young girls who came to work in the Lord's vineyard. They have forgotten the sons of Eli, that it was the same sins that killed them. They assume that God is love, and He

*1 John 1:9

no longer punishes like that, but they are so wrong.

I heard a teaching some time ago that Ananias and Sapphira were not Christians, and that *that* was why they died for lying to the Holy Spirit. The person was trying to support the doctrine that God never punishes Christians harshly for iniquity. When I heard it, I knew we were in serious trouble and needed to pray away wrong doctrines. See, if we are to go by the testimony of scriptures, they were Christians; the Bible called the gathering, "the congregation of those who believed."* It didn't say more.

What I understand from the scriptures is that this couple had lustful eyes and were controlled by their flesh. They had refused to be changed when the Holy Spirit tried to correct them in secret. I say this because God doesn't usually punish the first time people err. At that time the church was pure, and so their iniquity could not stand. Peter issued heaven's judgment against them and they died. The reason why many are surviving these days is because there is so much iniquity in the church. We

*Acts 4:32

have a similar situation as in the days of the woman brought to Jesus after being caught in adultery; we explained earlier that she could not be punished because there was much adultery in the spiritual climate. The church today has much iniquity and so our *Ananias* and *Sapphiras* thrive. But one day, the Lord will arise and begin to purify His people.

Anyway, instead of bickering over whether they were born again or not, why don't we focus on the most important message, which is that lying to the Holy Spirit may result in your premature death. I wonder why anyone would want to give assurance to the children of God that lying to the Holy Spirit does not have grievous consequences, especially when it is not true. Ananias and his wife lied to the Holy Spirit, and they died. Concerning that there is no controversy. Let us leave it there. Let us learn the fear of God.

I remember a minister I once heard of; it was reported to me the kind of thing he was doing to collect money from people in the church where he was the pastor. It was pure deception. Another pastor was reported to have spoken in reaction to it that, "What this man is doing is wickedness." A few



months later, without any report of illness, the preacher doing those things sat in his car and died. A very mysterious death indeed, but not far in likeness from that of Ananias.

I remember Kenneth Hagin telling similar stories. In one, he told of a young minister who the Lord told him to warn. The man would not listen. The Lord told him the minister would die the Sunday after he, Hagin, leaves the church. You see, Kenneth Hagin had been ministering in that church for days, and the man, who was the host, had not been to a single service. He was busy supervising a building project. When the visiting prophet told this host pastor he needed to repent or he would die, he said he would rather die than admit he was wrong before the people, and that sitting in any one of those meetings would tantamount to admitting he was wrong. He refused to accept correction. The following Sunday he fell over right there on the pulpit and died. There are many such stories.

If we learn the fear of God, much of the fornications and adulteries in the church will vanish. Many more people will learn sanctification and how to possess their vessels in honour. They will keep

themselves pure. Let me restate these warnings from the scriptures by quoting the relevant passages here:

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. 1 Cor 6:18

*For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter **because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.** 1 Thes 4:2-6*

Many Christians are suffering in different areas every day, and someone keeps telling them it is the devil, as if the devil is not subject to any control. They are not told it is their sexual immorality. They have not stopped sinning because they do not tie it together. Some have stopped sinning but only because their infirmity makes it impossible for



them to continue; they have not truly repented, and so they continue to suffer. Prayers have been offered but the hearts of many are hardened; they do not accept and confess their sins, and so the prayers have no effect. Their focus is on the devil and their supposed enemies; they do not give any room for the judgment of God.

The Lord's people have denied him and have said, "He won't really do anything. We won't have hard times; we won't have war or famine." Jer 5:12 GNT

Many Christians speak of grace as if it is the excuse God gave to them to continue in sin. But grace is not God's cover-up for sin; it is rather His power to make His children walk above sin, and it is available.

See, people of God, we have a duty to keep ourselves pure sexually, otherwise we will be judged by God. Be warned!

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL



CHAPTER 9

Walking Away from The Plan of God



We are still examining different forms of idolatry which lead children of God into sexual immorality. Remember that there are so many subtle things that we may get involved in which actually constitute idolatry because they move us away from that close walk we are supposed to have with the Lord. One of those things is walking away from the plan of God.

A Black Spot

One of the most beloved persons by the Lord in the whole Bible was David. He loved the Lord and he loved His word. David sought the Lord with his whole heart, and the Lord loved him. But there is a hitch in the testimony about David and the works he did before the Lord. What was this black spot on such an otherwise spotless career?

...David did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded

him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite. 1 Kgs 15:5

We remember the story of Bathsheba, how David saw her bathing as he walked on his palace roof. He sent for her, and despite being told she was the wife of one of his loyal servants, Uriah, and despite having many wives and concubines, he went to bed with her, and so committed adultery.

Remember that at the beginning of this book I explained that human behaviour many times can only be explained by a spirit or Satan pushing people.* We saw the behaviour of Amnon. In that light, I believe that the behaviour of David here cannot be explained by lust only. There must have been a satanic influence working in concert with his lust to blind him to the things that should have stopped him. He had beautiful wives and he was told that this was the wife of a faithful servant and warrior, yet he went in and defiled himself with her.

Now, to make matters worse, the fertile young woman became pregnant from such a short affair,

*Luk 22:3



despite the fact that she tried what she could to prevent it from happening, but God was working to catch someone. How was she to explain this as her husband was away from home, fighting for David?

She told the king of the pregnancy, he panicked, and decided to cover it up. We remember that the first thing he tried to do was to make it seem like the woman's husband, Uriah, was responsible for the pregnancy. David had Joab send Uriah to Jerusalem to see him. He then told Uriah to go home and relax, hoping that he would have relations with his wife in the process, but the Spirit of God, working with the man's faithfulness, made him too stubborn to accept to go home, even after being made drunk. He stayed put right there with David at the palace.

When David saw that the strategy was not working, he decided to have Uriah killed. His plan was carried out tactfully by Joab, so that Uriah died in battle. The Lord took note of the murder and punished David severely for it. That was the black spot on such a beautiful walk with God.

Now, my reason for bringing it up again, even though we took a look at parts of the story earlier, is to bring out a lesson from how it all began.

How did it all begin? Essentially, we can say David was in a place he was not supposed to be. Yes, I know there is the issue of the iniquity in the heart which was what germinated, but let us focus on this lesson of location at this point in time.

Kings at War

*The following spring, at the time of the year **when kings usually go to war**, David sent out Joab with his officers and the Israelite army; they defeated the Ammonites and besieged the city of Rabbah. But David himself stayed in Jerusalem. 2 Sam 11:1 GNT*

I would have loved to think that such a small thing should not have been responsible for this black spot, but if the Holy Spirit was careful to point out this detail to us, then we must take note of it. David was supposed to be at war, but rather he sent Joab and his officers, while he stayed in Jerusalem. That was how the trouble started.



In his idleness, he was walking on the wall. The spirit of grace that normally helped him had gone to battle, while David was left alone. He was powerless against the spirits of lust and adultery. The woman was not the problem, it was that Satan entered into David because he was wrongly located.

David was a ruler among the people and a prophet in Israel—he was a man of God, essentially. So my message in this chapter is directed mostly at ministers of the gospel, though every Christian should take heed to the principles being explained.

We are examining the issue of sexual immorality and how idolatry is the foundation of it. A major reason why ministers of the gospel fall into sexual immorality is when they depart from the ordained plan of God for their lives. What leads them away most times is a form of idolatry.

Mammon and Covetousness

You cannot serve God and (mammon). For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Matt 6:24-25



Mammon, in that verse above is rendered in other translations as wealth or money. I like the word mammon because it presents the wealth and money as a god that people may serve, and indeed it is such.

Serving mammon or wealth, is one of the most subtle forms of idolatry that exists. Many Christians equate serving mammon with covetousness, and since they do not judge themselves as covetous, they do not think they are serving mammon. But covetousness and serving mammon are not the same, even though they may go together. Covetousness is wanting to have more and more, and wanting something someone else has. It appears so evil to every religious person. Serving mammon on the other hand is just the desire to have the basic things of existence; it is “what will I eat, what will I drink, and what will I wear?” It is about bare necessities. It is very reasonable to serve mammon; unlike covetousness, it does not appear evil to most religious persons. It is so reasonable that most persons in the world today do it, including many Christians.



To serve mammon is simply a matter of unbelief — not trusting that the Lord will take care of things. You are serving mammon when your decisions are made so as to secure your food, clothing and other necessities. When you choose a job or a city of location primarily because of the guarantees presented in meeting your basic needs, you are serving mammon. It is so subtle. We are not looking at that in details right now, we just need to see an application of it.

Why many ministers depart from the place where God wants them to be is usually the desire for financial security. Let's take as an example, a minister who is called and sent with the apostolic and evangelist anointing; he is to go from place to place, organising evangelical outreaches, visiting churches, and maybe reaching out to new terrains in rural areas. Many times, such persons are counselled that they need a base from which to operate. A base in this context is usually a local assembly that will provide a steady financial support to the minister. Many have found this necessary from experience, so they start a church.

I remember when my wife and I started Kingdom-Word Ministries; I explained to some senior brothers that the plan was to have a teaching centre, to produce printed teaching material, to record and distribute audio messages, and also to go from city to city organizing seminars. When I told them this, I was told to just start a local assembly or church. I explained that I was not so led by the Spirit of God. The counsel from one of these persons was that without being the pastor of a church I would not be respected in circles of ministers. I told the person I was not doing it for respect. (By the way, I have been respected plenty over the years, much more than I expected).

Another person told me all I needed was to add a Sunday service and turn the ministry to a church. You see, at Kingdom-Word Ministries, our regular teaching meetings are on Saturday evenings, and a prayer school holds on Tuesday evenings. He said to me that adding a Sunday wouldn't be much extra trouble. Well, I also told him that such was not in the plan and I didn't see the need. He said the fact that God has sent us does not mean we would not use our own *sense*, that I needed to be able to collect the tithes and offerings of the people by starting the



Sunday services. He warned that people are generally not so kind, that they would feed from the word I am teaching on Saturdays free of charge, and then will give all the money to their various churches in tithes and offerings on Sundays. He felt that the result would be that I and my ministry will be left with little.

He was senior to me and so I couldn't answer him, but I remember thinking in my heart that the people can go with the money. I understood that God will cause prosperity to flow towards us by Himself. Our money, if sent by God, is our money and no one will take it elsewhere. You see, over the years, it has turned out that most, maybe more than 80%, of the money we have gotten in Kingdom-Word Ministries have come from persons who are not even in our city. I would have disobeyed God for nothing, if I had followed that counsel.

Satanic Counsel

We must be very wary of satanic counsel which leads us to disobey God. Satanic counsel is very deceptive and one can easily get carried away. One thing that you will notice about the counsel of Satan is that it is always focused on your welfare or the welfare of

people; it does not focus on the will of God.

He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's." Matt 16:23

That was the Lord Jesus, after He told His disciples that He would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the Jews and be killed in Jerusalem. Peter had then taken Him aside to reprimand Him for saying such *evil* things. "Heaven forbid, Lord, this will never happen to you!" Peter had said to Him. But to Jesus, this was falling away from the plan of God because of your emotions concerning the need of man.

Once the counsel someone is giving you does not have the will and the plan of God for your life in the centre of it, then it is satanic counsel, no matter how nice it sounds. Satanic counsel is usually very nice sounding and compassionate; the only problem is that it is all about the interest of man. It is about "How will your family survive?" "What about your aged parents?" "You also need some comfort in your life." It is always about such, but it is all satanic counsel.



Many of us parents are full of such satanic counsel for our children these days; we claim to be Christians but we have never asked God what He wants for the lives of these children which He, by Himself, sent into our homes for training. We are so occupied with securing them for the future, usually in a safe country and a safe job. Very few ever think about the children becoming something such as missionaries.

Missed Placement

This is the reason for which many ministers miss the place where God ordained for them to be. There are pastors who scandals bedevil their lives and their ministries; when I hear of some of them, I simply discern from understanding that it is a problem with placement. There are times I simply understand that the problem was that the man started a church; the large congregation that he is known for is actually the problem. He is not supposed to be superintending over a church.

Sometimes you see a man who God put power in his hands to reach the lost and to work miracles, signs and wonders among the people, but he has

been caged into preaching to Christians every Sunday and during mid-week services. He is now a chief counsellor and administrator, and so the grace and glory departs. It is as if, like David, the grace to walk in righteousness begins to get eroded, so that he is exposed to the whims of tempting spirits.

We must be careful to follow the plan of God as ministers. Seek Him concerning what you should be doing. Don't do what someone else or everyone else is doing. Seek Him concerning where to be located. Constantly cast all your cares on Him so that the cares of the world will not lead you into *hearing* Him say what He never said. God's place of assignment is not defined by comfort, so be prepared to endure some hardship.

Take [with me] your share of the hardships and suffering [which you are called to endure] as a good (first-class) soldier of Christ Jesus. 2 Tim 2:3 AMP

The Idolatry of First Place

Sometimes, the problem is not mainly about departing from the place the Lord wants us to be in; the issue is often the matter of priority.



And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." Luke 9:59-60

Many have not done the will of God but have put money first. They want to make money first and afterwards come to do what they know is the will of God. I have heard people say they want to retire from business into ministry, that is after they have properly established the business. Some say "I will come when I have reached the peak of my career," as if the work of the Lord is something to do when you have nothing else more pressing to do. I look at such persons sometimes and I say in my heart, "I hope you are not actually called into ministry." My reason is that if the person is actually called, then the consequences of such delays could be dire. You cannot leave fulfilling the will of God for your life until it is convenient; that would be idolatry.

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL



CHAPTER 10

Weariness of Soul



There is a recurring theme about the renewal of strength which we find in the scriptures. We read of mounting up with wings like an eagle, of running and not fainting, and other such expressions.

*Yet those who wait for the Lord
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.* Isa 40:31

Even the old man is supposed to have the strength of youth as Caleb and Moses demonstrated clearly for us to see. The remark was also made about the strength of Moses, that though he was 120 years old, the strength did not abate. Caleb was as strong at the age of 85 as he was at the age of 40.*

*Deut 34:7; Josh 14:10,11

I believe that there is a spiritual reason why the Spirit of God puts emphasis on this matter of preservation of strength, and I believe it is because we need spiritual strength to continue to follow the Lord. Those who are not careful to preserve their strength are in special danger of becoming backsliders. In this life, we all have to be wary of people and things that needlessly deplete our strength; we must learn to cut them off.

Failing in Old Age

There are certain stories in the Bible that just break your heart, and one of them is the story of Solomon. Solomon started out so well; we read the story of how God gave him a blank cheque to fill, and all he wrote in it was to receive wisdom to be effective as king over the great nation of God. God was so impressed that He gave him the wisdom, and with it all the other things he omitted to ask for. He is reckoned to be the wisest man who ever lived before the time of Jesus. He was rich—very rich. Some have called him the richest man who ever lived, even till date. It was such a beautiful life that is so encouraging, except for the things that happened at the end of his life.

For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully, as David his father had done. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab... and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. 1 Kgs 11:4-8

I know the problem began when he was still young, in that he married women from all the places where God had said that His people should not marry from, and he married many. The Bible tells us that he loved many strange women. He ended up with 700 wives. Even though he laid the foundation for the future backsliding earlier by the multiple marriages, yet these strange women could not turn his heart away from fully following God while he was still young. In effect, they had to wait till he was old before they could turn him away from the Lord. Why did they have to wait? It is simple: while he was young, he was full of strength, but when he

became old, he had become weary, and the women took advantage of his weariness of soul. I dare to say they contributed immensely to wear him out. See, it is not just age that makes people weary, it is the accumulation of troubles faced and the depletion of soul energy that are actually responsible.

A similar sad story in the Bible is that of Asa.* Asa was also an illustrious man of faith. He followed the Lord fully and won battles for the people of God. The Bible tells of how he did what was pleasing and good in the sight of the Lord. He zealously removed all forms of idolatry from the land. He commanded the people of Judah to seek the Lord, the true God, and to obey His laws and His commands. As a result, the kingdom enjoyed a period of peace. During those years, he was able to build up the fortified towns throughout Judah. No one tried to make war against him at this time, for the Lord was giving him rest from his enemies. There was a time that the Ethiopians came against him with an army much larger than his own, and they were supported by the Libyans; even though

*2 Chr 14, 15, 16



he had a sizeable army, yet he relied on the Lord, and the Lord routed the Ethiopians for him. Oh, it was such a life of faith. But what about much later?

By the 36th year of his reign, Asa had become weary. Nothing is said about his love for women as in the case of Solomon, so I am inclined to think what wore him out was administrative work. By the 36th year, he was oppressing people. When an enemy came against him, instead of relying on the Lord as he did before, he took precious articles from the house of God and used them to bribe a gentile king to come to his aid. The prophet that was sent to bring him correction was thrown in prison by him and put to torture. O, we must never despise correction. By the 39th year he fell sick, but instead of turning to the Lord, he turned to his heathen physicians. Two years later, he was dead.

He displeased the Lord in his latter life—a very sad conclusion to an otherwise beautiful story. His faith was weakened, and idolatry set in *in* his old age. That was a result of years of gradually wearing out.

People do wrong things when the soul is weary. As soon as Moses showed the first sign of weariness of



soul, having carried the children of Israel for all those years, the Lord removed him from service. Please know that when the Lord removed Moses, it was not actually because He was angry; it was rather because He saw that Moses was tired and if he was left there long enough without new strength, one day he too might just build a calf for the people to worship. That was the main reason the Lord retired him and took him over to the other side.

Weariness is dangerous; when people get weary, they lose their ability to withstand temptations, including temptations of sexual immorality.

Why

How do we become weary? It is simply because we are too busy, especially with the things that are not ours to be busy with. It is also because we do not take time out to regain strength through following the Sabbath principle. Many times, we are guilty of self-idolization, and by this I mean we can turn ourselves to a sort of god without whom nothing can go right. We have the idea that we have to do everything and be present at every activity. We



think what is going right is because of our strength. We proclaim like Nebuchadnezzar, “Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?” We think we are everything. We work from morning till night. And then we become weary. It is a common temptation of good and righteous people.

Let me quickly add that the temptation of good people is usually good things, but we must resist them all the same. A man *on fire* for the Lord will usually find his temptations in executing that fire. He may get involved in pulling tares because of the zeal of righteousness, when the time of the harvest has not come.* As an example, we saw Moses going out to use his strength to deliver the people of Israel, but that was just moving before the time. Such a one may put his hand out to touch the ark of God because it is about to fall, like Uzzah did.** No matter how good the intentions might be, a wrong thing is still a wrong thing, and the judge of what is wrong or right is the Lord, not us. Uzzah's action is so right in the eyes of man, but it kindled the anger

*Matt 13:29 **1 Chron 13:9

of the Lord against him, so much that he died. Like it has been said, a good idea is not necessarily a 'God' idea.

So, people wear out many times thinking they are working for the Lord. They work so hard even in the matters of spreading the word of God, but sometimes the hard work is not necessary and is not what the Lord wants them to do.

The Spirit of the Sabbath

There is a reason why God gave the Sabbath. Now, just as it is with most of the express commandments given under the Old Testament, there is no such express commandment given to the church, but we must learn to follow the spirit of every law. When Paul said we are to walk in the spirit, in his letter to the Galatians, he was not saying we should be listening out for voices or speaking in tongues all the time; he was rather saying that the law has a spirit and that Christians must know the spirit of the law. We are to walk by the spirit of the law, and do not need to religiously adhere to the letters of it. So, Christians must learn the spirit behind the law of Sabbath and walk by that spirit.

The spirit of the law of Sabbath is rest. It is to observe what Solomon in his godly and prophetic wisdom instructed:

*It is useless to work so hard for a living,
getting up early and going to bed late.
For the Lord provides for those he loves,
while they are asleep. Psa 127:2 GNT*

The NASB renders that last line, as “*For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.*” That makes it so clear. He was not saying not to work, but to know that too much work is rejecting the provision of God. As Christians, we must learn to enjoy the grace of God, and that grace is the power of God working towards those who believe. It is tapped only by faith, and it is a sign of faith to take your adequate rest. When people refuse to do this, they are idolizing themselves even though they may not realize it, and it leads to weariness.

When we are weary, we start disobeying God, and we lose the power to resist sin. Many men of God started out so well—on fire for the Lord, and the word of God and the zeal for His house bore fruit in their lives. As a result, the ministry blossomed, the



crowds came, and they were compelled to begin to build a structure to handle it all. The work became enormous as the ministry grew. They began to combine much administrative and oversight functions with the ministry of the word. They worked hard, slept little, disobeyed the counsel of Solomon, and they began to wear out. Then the troubles started—one scandal after another, including those of sexual immorality. Please feel sorry for them as they were not wicked; they only became weary.

CHAPTER 11

How to Prevent Weariness



Let me add a few words of advice here on how to prevent weariness, even though we cannot go into them in much details. My advice mainly focuses on ministers but it is applicable to virtually everyone in every sphere of life. Let the wise take time out to meditate on these things and may the Holy Spirit give you deeper insight.

Remember all these tips are to be practiced with prayer. As children of God there is nothing we can do on our own; we need the power of God to execute even the simplest of wisdom; we must constantly pray about these things. In fact, one could say a crucial principle in preventing weariness is to remember to pray about everything, committing our activities into the hands of the Lord.

So, the following are a few tips on preventing weariness.

One

First, *know the assignment that is yours and focus on that.* Reduce to the minimum your involvement in other things, even though they may appear necessary and good. Oswald Chambers explained thus:

“Watch the things that exhaust you, and you will find you are doing something outside God's arrangement for you. There are things for which His life supplies no energy and we get spent right out. If we are doing things inside God's arrangement for us, the natural exhaustion is so quickly recuperated by the resurrection life of Jesus that we do not feel the exhaustion.”*

Learn to delegate to other people the things that are not your primary assignment. We can see that the apostles of the Lord Jesus understood these principles.

But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

*Oswald Chambers in *'The Psychology of Redemption'*



So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word." Acts 6:1-4 NLT

Notice here that the Twelve understood that taking over the administrative duties of the church was going to be a major distraction for them, so they appointed deacons. That way they would remain effective in their primary assignment and avoid getting weary pursuing what God did not give them grace for. There are times when you are not in a position to appoint deacons from among your own people; the wisdom is to outsource the operation. Pay someone else to do things so that you will not have to do them. As a minister of the gospel, stick mostly with the ministry of the word and prayer.

Two

Our second point in preventing weariness is this: *don't be afraid of what will happen tomorrow*. That is actually an express commandment from the Lord Jesus.

So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matt 6:34

The world has crept into the church and so we have normalized worrying about tomorrow. It has been rebranded as wise planning when it is nothing more than worry. See, God has partitioned our lives into segments, which are called *days*. These days are not necessarily 24-hour periods; they rather represent different seasons of our lives. As an example, a semester can be seen as a day for a university student. In certain contexts, for the same person, the whole period of four years of study in the university may be considered a day. Now, we are allowed only to plan for and strategize for the present day. We do not know what the next day will be like and so we cannot plan for it. Learn to recognize the different days of your life and fulfil the will of God in each one. For many of us, money has not been enough because the money sent by the Lord for this day is being stretched into the worries of tomorrow. Many of us will be amazed when we see our money worries vanish because we came to recognize the day we are in and to focus on solving only its problems. God provides energy for each

day's assignment; trying to solve the next day's issues depletes our energy and we become weary.

Three

The *third* word of advice that I will give on avoiding weariness of soul is this: *learn to leave dead things alone.*

What are these dead things? They are the disappointments of the past; investments that have gone bad; relationships that are gone; goals that could not be reached, etc. All such things are dead things. Many times, we just don't want to have the feeling that we lost out; we want to make good of that bad investment. Many of those things were killed by the Lord Himself in trying to free us to move forward in life and we will be foolish to keep trying to hold on to them. Let us emulate Paul's attitude.

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude... Phil 3:13-15



Dead things which we stay with can only inject death into the things of today. Lot's wife died because she did not want to leave the things that God had killed. You should never spend good money chasing after the bad. Pray for God to give you the wisdom to identify that which is dead, give thanks for it, and let it go. If a thing appears dead but is really in the plan of God, then He will by Himself inject resurrection power into it, but that will be at His own time. We do not decide what He resurrects so we cannot put any hope in dead things. When we leave dead things behind, God makes even the deadness of the past work for our good.

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God... Rom 8:28

Four

The fourth word is this: *Separate yourself from people who wear you out.*

Some people are a drain on one's soul. Some of these people do this by infecting you with worry. They are expert worriers themselves and so they spend a lot of time talking about problems. All they



see around them are things that indicate doom and gloom. Among these are those that are experts in criticizing government and almost every form of authority around. They can't seem to see anything good in anything. Like someone has said, they seem to have a problem for every solution. Once you are done talking with them your spirit is low. You feel the drain. Such persons must be avoided as much as possible. Exit chat groups that are dominated by such persons. Separate yourself from them; don't let them wear you out.

Another type are the persons who by themselves are a persistent problem in your life. Every time you see them, they introduce one form of trouble or another. You have to be wary of such persons. It is likely they do not belong in your life. Let us learn a lesson from Abraham. There was a time he realized that Lot was going to be a recurring problem in his life. This is not to say Lot was necessarily a bad person, but the relationship was not working, so he chose to end it nicely.

So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. "Is not the whole

land before you? Please separate from me. Gen 13:8-9

The man had a destiny to fulfil and striving with Lot was going to be a constant occurrence, something he could not afford, so he acted wisely. He neatly separated himself from Lot. Some of us would rather spend more energy trying to see how they would get along with Lot and in the process end up becoming enemies.

A number of times I have counselled brethren who are supposedly engaged to be married. The ones I am referring to now are those cases in which the couple never seemed to get along, and you wonder what the attraction was in the first place. One brother told me that any time he sees the lady in question, they almost always close the meeting with a quarrel. He said he realized at a time that the only way to prevent such strains was not to see her. He decided to end the relationship and he came to me to check if it was the right thing. Of course, it was the right thing to do.

Unless you are bound together by God, such as in marriage, you have to learn to cut spiritual drains out of your life. There are people that work in

places and are the source of constant strain among workers; they generate a toxic atmosphere in the place. No matter how skilled the person is, please let the individual go, if you are the employer. Their skill is very unlikely to compensate for the spiritual drain they are to that establishment. Let them work from a distance if possible.

We must be careful to remove spiritual drains out of our lives.

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL



CHAPTER 12

Consequences of Sexual Immorality



One of the reasons why people engage in sin is that they do not understand the consequences. Ignorance is a dangerous thing. We only see people deliberately drink poison if they are suicidal; otherwise no one ever consciously consumes anything poisonous. When people consume something that an expert such as a doctor says is bad for them, it is because they do not really believe it is bad, or because they consider the immediate or long-term benefits as much higher than the deleterious effects. Sometimes the immediate gratification is quite great, as in the case of addicts, so that they can hardly think of the long-term effects. These are the reasons why people consume dangerous things, otherwise ignorance is usually the reason.

What I am trying to say is that Christians often do not understand the consequences of sexual immorality, otherwise they would find more

strength to resist it or not even allow themselves to be tempted.

Let us take for an example, a young man about to have intercourse with a co-worker in his office who he has been *eyeing* for a while. He says his sexual drive is high, that he cannot wait any longer. Yes, he is now seriously driven, and it seems he is no longer in control. The passion of the moment is hot. Assume that just before they get into the act, the woman says she wants to tell him something she feels he should know, and she goes on to tell him she tested positive for HIV a few days before and will soon start treatment. What do you think will happen to all the driving passion he was under? Yes, everything will disappear quickly, and his senses will return. The knowledge of the risk of getting HIV will force sense back into his head.

The truth is that when we disobey God, it is a reflection of our lack of faith. We may profess one thing, but the actions of our lives are only true indicators of what we really believe. Many may profess the omnipresence of God, but deep inside they believe that they can hide from His presence when they go to the house of the girlfriend or

manfriend. You see, deep inside them they feel He sees only through the eyes of the brethren, and if they can effectively hide from the brethren, then they have successfully hidden from the presence of the Lord. They remind me of Jonah.

But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. Jon 1:3

How mistaken he was. The Lord met him on the boat he was using for this flight and arrested him. Let us read this beautiful poem from David, something he learned partly the hard way:

*You see me when I travel
and when I rest at home.
You know everything I do.
You know what I am going to say
even before I say it, Lord...*

*I can never escape from your Spirit!
I can never get away from your presence!
If I go up to heaven, you are there;
if I go down to the grave, you are there.
If I ride the wings of the morning,
if I dwell by the farthest oceans...*

*I could ask the darkness to hide me
and the light around me to become night —
but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.
To you the night shines as bright as day.
Darkness and light are the same to you.*
Ps 139:3-12 NLT

God sees everything we are up to; we will give account before Him, and He will judge.

Yes, He will judge. He doesn't judge the unbelievers alone; He also judges His people.

Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. Heb 10:26, 27 NLT

Sexual immorality has consequences. Indeed, there are consequences, and they are inescapable. The only escape possible is through obtaining forgiveness through the power of the blood of Jesus, and this can only be obtained through confession of sin and genuine repentance.

Physical Disorders

Now, even though there are physical consequences to sexual immorality, I will not say much about these as my teaching is from the spiritual angle. I will not bother much with consequences such as sexually transmitted diseases, disruptive unwanted pregnancies, embarrassment when discovered, and such other physical consequences. However, let me discuss a little about HIV.

Many lives have been lost to HIV/AIDS;* at the height of it, in the 90's, there were towns and villages in parts of Nigeria and southern/eastern Africa where the strength of the society was gone. Almost all young men and women were dead; all that were left were their aged parents and the children the dead left behind. It was as if everyone in those places was either very young or rather old; the people of middle years were gone. A man gave a report that

*Human Immune-deficiency Virus and Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome. The former is the microbe that is transmitted and the latter is the disease caused. It can be present in the body for years without any signs. During this period, a test can detect its presence. AIDS, on the other hand is the disease that is caused by the long-standing HIV infection. It is a condition in which many infections and also tumours afflict the person, eventually leading to premature death. HIV is spread mostly through sexual intercourse, but other modes of transmission include blood transfusion, sharing of needles and mother-to-child during delivery.

when he got to one of those places, it was as if most adults had gone to some sort of work away from the place, and only the old and the young were at home. But it was not work, he later discovered, it was the grave they all went to. HIV was that devastating. I saw a report on TV recently* that the HIV positivity rate in a particular southern African country is about 25%! That is such a serious problem. Thank God that now there is effective treatment, but it remains a deadly disease without a cure.

The funny thing about HIV is that it is propagated by one main thing, and that is sexual promiscuity, but the world never focuses on controlling that. They rather talk about providing condoms and drugs. I remember Elton John being interviewed on CNN; he said that preaching abstinence does not work, but what would he know anyway? He belongs to the group of those who absolutely reject the knowledge of God's laws. The truth is that there was scientific evidence it worked. Why would the Lord preach it if it did not work? The problem is that we do not dare to preach it. A young minister told me once that in the town somewhere in the middle-

*Year 2021

belt of Nigeria where he ministers, if you preach against fornication and adultery, your church will become empty. The people do not want to hear it. But hearing they must, otherwise God will send wasting diseases into their flesh, especially those who have been to the house of God but rejected the truth for the love of the lust of the flesh.

Another interesting disease in that regard is cancer of the cervix, which is the second most common cancer of women, after that of the breast. It is a disease of sexual promiscuity in the society. It is caused by a virus that is spread through sexual contact. That cancer can be eradicated if young men and women are taught to practice biblical sexuality, which is *'sexual intercourse only with your partner in marriage; none before marriage and none outside marriage'*. It is interesting that men do not get cancer of the cervix (they don't have a cervix), but they can spread it to their women, so both men and women must be educated. Now, the world almost never talks about this; they would rather talk condoms and vaccines against HPV.* The idea of sexual continence is forbidden for them; it is as if to submit

*Human papilloma virus. This is the virus which some of its strains cause cancer of the cervix.

to such is to submit to the knowledge of God, but they would rather worship the flesh. Actually, that is the way it is — the flesh and its passions rule over those who do not acknowledge God. Sexual continence is a fall-out of worshipping the true God; it is actually a doctrine of God. The world cannot submit to it.

...because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Rom 8:7-8

The more I study and observe the world, the more I respect the wisdom of God and understand that indeed man, walking without the knowledge of God, is foolish. Man will create a problem by his actions, and then spend billions of dollars and much effort trying to get a solution. Meanwhile he stubbornly refuses to acknowledge his error, which is the cause of the problem, but insists on continuing in his ways. O God, deliver us from such a tragic life!

You know, sexual immorality is the cause of a lot of mental illnesses, but this is hardly taught in



medical science, because they do not know it, and also because the so-called scientists do not *want* to know it. Many times, they make it seem as if it is Christians that are anti-science, but it is so untrue. Many so-called scientists are simply working to support their atheistic faith, and they are the ones that are deliberately opposing Christian values.

Christianity is actually quite scientific if properly understood. Those who are against faith would not promote anything that supports the doctrines of God. Just as they do with HIV and cervical cancer, so they do with mental illnesses. They refuse to study the link between these things, and when some do, the truth is not promoted if it sounds like it is promoting morality. They want a sexually free world, which is the place where the devil can rule.

Society and Sex Scandals

We are still looking at the physical consequences of sexual immorality, howbeit briefly.

From ages ago, few things destroy careers, ministries and homes like sexual immorality when exposed. No wonder David wanted to cover up his deeds with Uriah's wife. It was going to be headline

news in the newspapers of the nations around, and in the underground newspaper of the rebels in Israel, so to speak. It would have caused a fierce *twitterstorm*. The topic would trend on all social media platforms. So, David decided that if Uriah was dead, no one would know and he would be spared the scandal. Well, it worked for a while, until Nathan showed up with information to show that God was watching it all. And we know the rest of the story.

Ministries have closed because of sexual immorality. Churches have split because the pastor was involved in such. I remember a pastor in a southern African country who died for it. He had accidentally sent a picture of his erect manhood to the church chat group, intending to send only to a woman with whom he was in an adulterous relationship. He bragged to her in the text which accompanied that it was all hers for the weekend because his wife was out of town. That was before WhatsApp made it possible to delete messages after sending. The church members got the message and realized the kind of thing the pastor was up to. He killed himself shortly afterwards because he could not stand the shame.



The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it. Pro 6:32

In recent years in Nigeria, university teachers have lost their careers and even gone to prison. Miniaturised recording devices, smartphones and social media made it easy to expose these persons. Incidentally, the two persons I have in mind were church leaders at the same time as university teachers. Such a stain on the body of Christ it was. In those cases, I am so certain that God had given them time to repent, but they would not, so He disciplined them by the rod of men.

Let me quickly add that it is better to repent than to try to hide and continue the iniquity. God will expose every such person eventually. I say to men especially: If you want sex, please get married, and discipline yourself to enjoy your wife alone. There is no need for variety in sexual partners. These things are matters of the mind. Forget the twisted saying that likens women to soup in which a man cannot stick with one soup. The French have a saying: "Love many women, you have loved none at all; love one woman, and you have loved them all." I think the French have a good enough

practical background to utter that. I heard the story of a famous American sports celebrity, a sex addict; he was said to have slept with thousands of women. He was later reported to have said, "It is better to sleep with one woman a thousand times, than to sleep with a thousand women." This was what Solomon discovered long before him when he said, "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity. It is like chasing after the wind." So he also said,

*Let your fountain be blessed,
And rejoice in the wife of your youth.
As a loving hind and a graceful doe,
Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;
Be exhilarated always with her love. Pro 5:18-19*

I think it is obvious here that after much experience in polygamy, and 'poly-concubinage', the man preached monogamy. That is just by the way.

CHAPTER 13

Spiritual Consequences



More important than the physical consequences of sexual immorality are the spiritual consequences.

Sometimes we see some grievous punishment meted out by the Lord for some offences, and people have often thought in their hearts that the Lord is quite harsh. For example, God ordered the killing of all the men who participated in visiting the Baal of Peor at a point in the journey in the wilderness, and also the man who was found doing some work on the Sabbath, shortly after the Sabbath was instituted.*

He might seem harsh but the Lord is actually akin to the doctor who excises parts of the body because if he does not do so, there will be grievous consequences for the sick person. Sometimes the person does not appear sick to others, yet the doctor

*Num 25:4; Num 15:35

proceeds to take a drastic action. He does this because of what he knows. Take as an example a woman who goes to complain about a small lump in the breast at the clinic. The doctor sinks a needle into the lump to get a small piece of it, and he has that piece examined by another doctor (a pathologist), who then issues a report on the examination conducted. The first doctor, upon seeing the report and the diagnosis given, goes on to remove the whole breast in this woman.

Now we all know what breast cancer is, but try to imagine the reaction of someone who does not know anything about breast cancer and how it usually starts as a small lump. Such a person would think the suggestion of removing the whole breast because of a small lump is rather harsh. It is very likely she would reject it and go elsewhere. Doctors in Africa see this reaction almost every day—the patients simply abscond. Think of it, the woman is not sick—it is just a small lump, but time would prove that she was wrong in rejecting that suggestion. Except for divine healing, such a lump is likely to grow bigger, then spread to other parts of the body, and eventually cause the death of the person.

Since the matter of breast cancer is now common knowledge, no one thinks it a crazy idea to remove a whole breast because of a small lump in an apparently healthy person. That is how God does too. Let us see His judgment in this case:

While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab. For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel joined themselves to Baal of Peor, and the Lord was angry against Israel. The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel." So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you slay his men who have joined themselves to Baal of Peor." Num 25:1-5

Why did God order this execution of the people? The answer is that He was behaving like a surgeon; He was excising the cancer from the people of Israel; it has just started to grow, but the small lump would grow and eventually destroy the whole nation, a thing that Balak of Moab wanted.

The Spirit of Balaam and Moab

Many of us do not know the true background to this story. It was not an accident that the people *played the harlot* with the daughters of Moab. It was a strategic move for war. We all know that Balak had hired Balaam to curse the nation, but that had backfired in that Balaam only ended up blessing them. He could not curse a people who the Lord had blessed. Balaam was a man of deep spiritual understanding; he understood that only sin and offending God could take away the protection of this people. So, he counselled Balak to have his girls come near the camp, entice the men of Israel through sex, and to lead them into participating in Baal worship. Remember that we have already established the relationship between idolatry and sexual immorality.

"But I have a few complaints against you. You tolerate some among you whose teaching is like that of Balaam, who showed Balak how to trip up the people of Israel. He taught them to sin by eating food offered to idols and by committing sexual sin. Rev 2:14 NLT

The men did not start out trying to worship Baal; they mainly fell for sexual temptations as the daughters of Moab enticed them, but that led them to being joined to Baal of Peor. The cancer had begun to grow. The heavenly surgeon looked and had to excise the serious disease.

Those men did not only sin against themselves, they were also introducing evil into the camp. Like the Bible says, a little leaven leavens the whole lump. They were relatively few in number when compared with the whole camp, but we are told God was angry with Israel as a group, not just the few. Their deed was removing the power of God from their midst and was allowing the devil into the camp.

Sexual immorality is one of the major ways the devil gets a hold of Christians. It removes spiritual cover over people.

Let me talk about Balaam again. The spirit of Balaam and the daughters of Moab is out there even today. It is trapping people every day and destroying destinies. I said earlier that there is nothing like free sex; once you join yourself to a

woman, you are one body with her. Pray that she does not decide to take advantage of that. Many men have had the hook of the devil sunk into them because they slept with a daughter of Moab, but they do not know. Witches are not old women in the villages; many of them are pretty young ladies in the cities, and they are nothing more than the agents of Baal, aiming to sink the hook of the devil into the hearts of people. Sexual immorality breaks down the spiritual cover over people.

There was a time I was told the story of a woman whose husband was actually enticing her to commit adultery, for whatever excuse he was giving. It was quite a strange one. When I heard the story, I understood what was going on and I sent a message to her immediately. I realized that the man had tried through occultic activities to have the woman killed, and like Balak, the 'Balaams' he consulted tried but realized that there was no chink in her amour through which they could pass. They needed an entrance into the sphere of her life. Like Balaam, they found that no enchantment was working, and no divination was effective. Also, like Balaam did with Balak, he was told he needed to

crack that armour. He hoped the woman would fall into temptation, but she did not, and he decided to pressure her. I understood she may not have been the type to accept to do such, but I wanted to fortify her determination to resist, and so I sent the message to her, and she received it with appreciation.

How did I know? Some may say it was a word of knowledge, but for me it was a word of understanding, one which the Lord had granted me before then. Now, let me offer a little proof that I was very likely correct. See, shortly afterwards, I was narrating the story to a brother, a man of understanding also; I only got to the point about a certain woman being enticed into committing adultery by her husband when he interrupted. "Bankie, let me tell you, they want to kill that woman; the man is an occultist," he said. He neither knew the woman, nor her husband, nor did I get to tell him my opinion before he affirmed what I suspected.

The point I am making is that sexual immorality is an open door for the devil. Let us look beyond the physical consequences, which many people think

they can escape through human craftiness. The truth is that the spiritual consequences are not escapable through human manipulation. More on this will be explained in the next chapter.

The Loss of Strength

Let us quickly see something about spiritual strength. There is a certain quantity of life which the Lord gives to each person. This life is a spiritual force by which we survive, work, resist diseases, keep our sanity, and generally thrive. This energy is limited; if you waste it needlessly in one area, you may find yourself lacking in another area of need. God does renew our strength if we wait on Him and walk with Him, but any person walking in sexual immorality is definitely not walking with God and not waiting on the Lord. Such a person will survive only by his or her own inner strength, but this is the very thing that sexual immorality depletes.

*Do not waste your strength on women,
on those who ruin kings.* Pro 31:3 NLT

Many people have wasted their strength through involvement with multiple sexual partners. They do not realize that they leave a part of themselves

behind when they get tied to any person. Bit by bit, but certainly, they lose their strength. That was the problem with Samson.*

There are times we think of Samson and we wonder why he told Delilah the secret of his strength. Every time we read that story, like a movie, we keep wishing he would not tell, not minding that we know he actually told thousands of years ago. It is just that painful. Unfortunately, the truth is that he *would* tell a thousand times over. The decision to tell was not a mistake; it was the result of lost strength. Just like Solomon lost the strength to resist those his idolatrous wives, so did Samson lose his strength to resist Delilah's pressure. Delilah was not the problem; Samson's loss of strength was the issue.

*If you fail under pressure,
your strength is too small.* Pro 24:10 NLT

How did Samson lose his strength? It was the same way Solomon was to do so too later—because of many women. Samson was slightly different from Solomon in that he went into harlots. It seemed like

*I wrote extensively about this in my book, *'Beyond Gifts and Talents.'*

the main thing he saw in any city he went to was a woman to have.

Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her. Judg 16:1

That was his custom, and that was where his strength went. No wonder Lemuel's mother was later to warn him: *"Do not deplete your strength on women."** These things waste spiritual strength.

The world tries to paint it otherwise; they make James Bond a hero and a womanizer. James Bond sleeps with every woman he can lay his hands on, including the spy who supposedly loved him, and yet he is indestructible. But it is a lie. James Bond is an imaginary figure who does not depict real life. Samson is the real story. Promiscuity kills men and women. They lose their inner strength and never become what God created them to be. It even depletes their ability to have faith. It connects their souls all the time with the core of hell. It is evil.

*Prov 31:3

CHAPTER 14

Gatekeepers



This and the next chapter feature *portions* of two different articles I wrote previously on themes related to the subject of this book. They are included because they are so appropriate at this point in which I am explaining the spiritual consequences of sexual immorality.

Gatekeepers

Gates are the entrances into a fenced city or estate. Gatekeepers are people who watch over these gates. In the realm of the spirit, we also have fenced borders, and there are people who watch over the gates into these zones. Let us take an example of what it means to be gatekeepers.

A home is an example of a fenced city; here, parents are the gatekeepers. Parents are the ones who have the authority of the Lord concerning which spirits can dwell in the house. They decide which

blessings they want in or which demons they would keep away. They decide this by how they live their lives, how they speak the word of God and how they pray over their home. A man who is an adulterer does not just cheat his wife by giving what belongs to her to another; what he is actually doing is throwing open a wide door for evil spirits to enter into their home. Once the spirit of adultery takes hold in that house, it opens the door for other spirits. Remember that disobedience attracts evil spirits and evil spirits attract one another. Notice that when the Lord Jesus was casting out demons from that man in Mark 5, only one demon spoke but it said 'we are many'. What had happened was that the speaking one was the first to possess that man and he afterwards called the rest and allowed them in. Demons love the company of other demons. The Lord Jesus told us that a demon seeking to repossess a place from which it had been expelled would go and look for seven spirits more wicked than himself to accompany him back.*

So, a spirit of adultery will bring in a spirit of rebellion. It will call in spirits of distrust, thievery, anger, division, enmity, etc., into the home.

*Luk 11:26

Children in such a home are thus exposed to certain spiritual influences so that the boy goes to school and joins a cult; the girls become loose, and the boys too. A home scatters when a man lets into it evil spirits through his works of adultery. It is even worse when the woman, instead of working to keep the children sanctified through her faith,* is faithless and commits such iniquity herself.

The Lord says, "Wine, both old and new, is robbing my people of their senses! They ask for revelations from a piece of wood... They have left me. Like a woman who becomes a prostitute, they have given themselves to other gods... As a result, your daughters serve as prostitutes, and your daughters-in-law commit adultery. Yet I will not punish them for this, because you yourselves go off with temple prostitutes, and together with them you offer pagan sacrifices. As the proverb says, 'A people without sense will be ruined.' Hos 4:11-14 GNT

We have seen that this was the reason why the Lord Jesus did not condemn the woman who was caught in the act of adultery. He dared the men to show they were not adulterers. He was saying to the men that their adulteries and the spirit of harlotry which

*1 Cor 7:14

they had introduced into the atmosphere were mostly responsible for the iniquity of the woman. They, the men of the community, were the gatekeepers and they had let in the spirit of immorality into the environment.

Many of us are wondering why our children are misbehaving; we have disciplined them so as to remove the native foolishness that is bound in their hearts; what they are doing now is iniquity, not just foolishness, and we are wondering, “where did this child come from?” God is saying, “The lying and stealing you the parent are involved in is what brought the spirit of rebellion into the home.” A woman who lies to and deceives her husband is also letting in an evil spirit into the house. These things may be hidden in the heart, but they are spiritual forces that control the portal into the realm of the spirit. Demons ride through those gates when disobedience to the Lord opens them.

I remember a story told by John Alexander Dowie (he lived over 100 years ago). A couple brought their little boy to him to pray. They were desperate. The reason was that the boy seemed to have a murderous tendency, and he was something like

four years of age. He loved to kill things. He would kill a kitten, or a puppy, and the parents couldn't understand why. The straw that broke it for them was when he was caught smothering his infant sibling in the cot. It became obvious this was not normal. That was when they grew desperate and came to this fiery man of God. The man told them the boy was possessed with a murderous spirit and it would need to be cast out. But first, how did it get in there? He needed to get that sorted out otherwise ministering to them would be futile.

“We don't know,” they said to him when asked how the spirit got into the boy. “O yes you do,” he countered. He had discerned by a word of knowledge that they had tried to terminate the pregnancy when the boy was in the mother's belly. They did not want a child at that time and had tried to get rid of the pregnancy. They failed in their attempt but by the action they had allowed a killer spirit into the unborn infant. Like John the Baptist, but on the evil side, he was possessed with a spirit from his mother's womb. The gatekeepers had opened the door to a vile spirit. Who knows what he would have become in life if the parents had not

sought help. This is definitely an example of the making of a serial killer.

The parents admitted and confessed their sins before the Lord. Then the man of God prayed with them and proceeded to cast the spirit out of the little boy. It was a real demon as the little boy displayed so much strength that the big man that Dowie was had to put a knee on his chest to pin him down. He cast out the demon in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the boy went limp and silent as if dead. He slept for a while and, to the glory of God, woke up a brand new boy.

God in heaven has given us the right to decide who passes through these gates; our decisions are made through a life of faith and righteousness. It is important we bear in mind that the devil doesn't have the power to do just what he likes anytime; we have to give him the room. If we, by our actions, words and relationship with the Lord, say to the devil, "you can't come here," he simply cannot. We have the power to give or deny him space. We deny him space by simply submitting to God in all we do.*

*Eph 4:27; Jam 4:7

I said something earlier about adultery being the opening of doors for home-wrecking demons. That is a fact. Another area of sexual immorality I should mention is that of sexual perversion.

Sexual perversion is a powerful door opener for evil spirits. The Lord made the earth and all the occupants, and He gave strict rules concerning certain matters. He called homosexuality and bestiality abominations, and there is a reason for it. Sexual intercourse is not just a physical act; it is a physical expression of a spiritual statement. Sexual perversion and promiscuity are physical expressions of spiritual idolatry. When these things are rife, demons swoon in on the earth. Demons of mental confusion and psychiatric disorders make their way through those doors. Many people do not realize it, but that is the way by which demons of serial killings, psychopathic actions, etc., enter the society. No wonder Paul warned Timothy to flee these things.

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. 2 Tim 2:22 NLT

Instead of keeping these doors closed, what the modern godless society has done is to open as many of the doors as possible in what they term marriage equality (which is the fancy name for legalized same-sex marriage), equal rights for all forms of sexuality, etc. It is unfortunate but these people are asking the land to be filled with evil. Then they will turn around and use the consequences of their pollution as proof that either there is no God or that He is not loving or powerful enough to save. They will start asking where God was when calamity broke upon them, as if His primary job is to defend those who deny Him. They do not realize that justice is the foundation of His throne and He will not compromise righteousness for the safety of people. When their actions justly deserve certain calamitous judgements, they would get those judgments no matter how painful they might be.

It is the duty of parents to cover their children with God's mercy obtained by true worship and by prayer; it is not God's duty to always defend children even though their parents are sworn to the hatred of God and are doers of iniquity.

Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin. A man must not defile himself by having sex with an animal. And a woman must not offer herself to a male animal to have intercourse with it. This is a perverse act.

Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, for the people I am driving out before you have defiled themselves in all these ways. Because the entire land has become defiled, I am punishing the people who live there. I will cause the land to vomit them out. Lev 18:22-25
NLT

The nations are celebrating even as hordes of demons are passing through the gates into the earth. Countries celebrate as they legalize same-sex marriage and the rights of mentally sick people to propagate their madness in doing things that defile their flesh. They also celebrate as it is legalized for women to sacrifice their unborn babies to Molech without realizing it in what they called 'choice'. Men mutilate themselves because an unclean spirit entered into them and told them they are women. The only thing the typical transgender person will say when asked why he or she is not the natural gender is, "that is how I *feel*." That is clearly

demonic activity. These things are filling the earth with demons, and the Lord will have no choice but to visit the people with His indignation, if the earth is to be preserved. In this generation, it will happen.

So, we see that sin and righteousness are not just matters of religion but about which spirits live with us on the earth. The angels of blessings can't ride into places of iniquity; only evil spirits and the Spirit of the wrath of God can pass through into those areas. Sin is a poison but righteousness is a defence.

CHAPTER 15

The Corruption in The World Through Lust



...His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.
2 Pet 1:3-4

What I want us to see in this portion of Peter's second letter is where he said there is corruption in the world, and that it comes by lust.

The word 'corruption' here refers to a state of ruin or destruction; it implies disintegration or degradation as occurs when the power of life is removed from a thing, place or people. It does not here describe the moral state of affairs but the effect of the decadent moral state on the lives of people

and the condition of the society as a whole. It includes the effects it has on the physical earth on which we live. Lust, on the other hand, is what describes the moral state of things on the earth.

What Peter was telling us in summary is that the problems in this world are caused by sin. Let me state it again: *Sin is not pleasure; it is sugar-coated poison.* The sweetness of sin is the deception in it, and this is why we are warned to look out for one another lest Christians become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.* Sin is deceitful; it promises you pleasure, and you will certainly experience the pleasure for a moment, but afterwards your mouth will be filled with gravel.

See, life is controlled by spiritual forces. But let us not think that some spirits somewhere simply come and impose their will upon us and upon the earth. No. Actually the most important control of what happens on this earth is the spirits of people. There are spiritual forces that emanate out of us who live on the earth, and that is the most important control over the affairs of life. Mankind literally has the power. By our actions, we allow

*Heb 3:13



other spirits into our spheres. We can invite demonic forces, or we can repel them. We can invite the spirit of the blessing of God and the carrier angels, or we can hinder these.

People do not realize that more important than their prayers are the works they engage in which allow different kinds of spirits into the earth. That is the principle of sin and righteousness. Sin and righteousness are the keys that unlock the doors for the entrance of evil or the coming of the Spirit of God, respectively.

When we sin, we open the doors for Satan and he comes in with his horde of spiritual wickedness in heavenly places and with demons; these begin to wreak havoc. One of my hobbies is watching the news and current affairs of this world. I sit and I laugh at the futility of nations and leaders. They fight with all their might—political, economic and military might; they fight the very things they are creating by their laws that permit certain moral lifestyles. If you have spiritual eyes, you would have laughed except that it is not a joking matter. The destiny of men and nations are at stake. The

same government fighting terrorism and economic crises uses the same zeal and energy to fight for legalization of homosexuality, same-sex marriage and the right for women to kill unborn babies for just about any reason. It is simply laughable. The things they are working to legalize are the very things creating the problems, but by a route they do not understand. It is like trying to mop the floor dry without turning off the tap. Just because you refuse to look in the direction of the tap as the source of the flooding of your floor does not mean it is not. Spiritually blind people cannot connect these things.

The cause of the problems of the world is the lust therein. Sometimes we can see the direct connection, as we see in how greed in men creates economic turmoil, but most times the connections are spiritual. The truth is that the state of the earth is dictated by the moral lives of the people that live on it.

Do not practice homosexuality... It is a detestable sin. A man must not defile himself by having sex with an animal. And a woman must not offer herself to a male animal to have intercourse with it. This is a perverse act.



Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, for the people I am driving out before you have defiled themselves in all these ways... I am punishing the people who live there. I will cause the land to vomit them out.
 Lev 18:22-25 NLT

For example, any nation that practices homosexuality, kills unborn children, and neglect to take care of the weak in the society will be destroyed within a few generations. The reasons why many have not been destroyed is because of what the Lord Jesus called the salt-effect. The salt of every society are the ones for whose sake God is withholding His judgment on the land. Imagine that the Lord had found the ten or more righteous people that Abraham suggested in Sodom and Gomorrah; He would have spared the entire population at that time, and those righteous ones would be described as the salt of those cities. Many nations are currently being spared from major judgement because of the righteous people of God that are in there. Unfortunately, those righteous ones are under attack in many apostate nations, and their numbers and zeal are reducing. This is making the nations closer to judgement.

WORSHIP AND SEX CONTROL
• • •

CHAPTER 16

Keeping Yourself Pure - 1



Having seen all we have so far, what we now need to address is, *“what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and god-lieness?”*^{*}

It should be clear to all at this point that the only answer to that question is that we are to be people determined to live a life of sexual purity as a sign of our true worship. Our worship is of the true God, who is our Father, and of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. This call applies to both single and married folks.

The foundation for the life of purity is being born again. To be born again means that one has given his or her life to Christ. There is no strength to live a pure life outside Christ. All the deliverance that we will see in this book applies only to the life that belongs to Christ.

^{*}2 Pet 3:11

The problem sometimes is that people want to get something from God but not live totally for Him. Sometimes, folks want deliverance from a wrong lifestyle, because indeed the feeling is not good, when you know you are oppressed and in bondage. It is a weight on the soul. There are people who are sexual perverts or who are into loose living, but who actually cry every night wishing for a different life. They know they are not in control and they want something different. Defilement never feels good; people just act happy for the public most times. People are in bondage. These folks also want beautiful homes with godly partners. That is why many come to church and try to learn the method of deliverance.

But I must emphasize that there is nothing of such on offer. God's deliverance is in Christ; it is only available for those who belong to and abide in Him. To partake of God's deliverance, you must give your life to Him completely. You must say to the Lord Jesus, "Take my life and use it. Be my Lord; I believe in You. Forgive me of my sins; save me and own me." That is a simple prayer to become born again.



He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. 2 Cor 5:15
NLT

Having become born again, we focus on living a life that is pleasing to God through the power of His grace. Sex, and how we use it, is a manifestation of worship.

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. 1 Cor 6:18-20 NLT

We must determine to live holy in this regard. No matter how much we do supposedly for God, and no matter how much we pray, if we are not pure in our sexual lives, we are walking in deception. I have heard of many ministers who labour in preaching or in pastoring, and of Christians who are very committed and generous givers, but their lives are marked by sexual immorality; I want to



say to such persons that their sacrifices are not acceptable unto God because they are being offered with tainted hands and bodies. Our first offering must be of the body as a living sacrifice; if that is not done, the rest is of little value.

I know of a young man who would spend his energy, money and time preaching the gospel, but he confessed that sexual lust is a serious problem to him. When I considered his story, I began to seriously doubt if he had truly given his life to Christ. See, it is possible to be apparently serving God without committing one's life to the Lord Jesus. Let's remember that the Lord Jesus spoke of people He never knew but who were prophesying, casting out demons and doing miracles, all in His name. Unfortunately, the young man I'm referring to was attending a church which preached that what you do outside does not matter as long as your spirit is pure and you have the Holy Spirit. Also, they taught that once you have given your life to Christ, you can never lose your salvation for any reason. But how can one say his spirit is pure when his works are not pure? Their teachings, in my opinion, gave this young man boldness to continue living the way he was, when in reality, he is



heading for a surprise.

Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

Mat 7:22-23

When the Lord Jesus said this, He was actually addressing ministers of the gospel. Note that the laymen of those days did not prophesy or do miracles; only those in ministry of some sort did. He was speaking into the future and sounding a warning to us. I suppose He had people like many ministers of today in mind. We hide behind the plenty labours which we are doing for the Lord, and we assume the labours will cover up for our lives of sexual immorality. There are pastors who routinely prey on church women sexually. I have heard so many stories, and these men will proudly mount those pulpits and continue to declare the word of God.

See, the Bible tells us that the stories we read in the former writings of the Bible were recorded for our

learning, therefore we must take note of the story about the sons of Eli. They were ministers in the temple, but were called sons of Belial, who did not know the Lord.* All that concerned them were the offerings the people brought and sleeping with the women who ministered in the 'church'. It is sad that many ministers these days are just like them. They forget that the God who judged those men still judges today. Instead of repenting, they will rather pay attention to the inaccurate doctrine which says that the God of the Old Testament was harsh but the one of the New Testament is love and so does not judge His children. What a lie! That God will come and will do to them exactly what He did to the household of Eli.

He is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness

And the peoples in His faithfulness. Psa 96:13

In one day, Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, died.

Let me point it out again: your sexual purity is a sign of your true service. It is a sign of spirituality. It is

*1 Sam 2:12



easy to abstain from food in what we call fasting, but to abstain from ungodly sex is a more important test of spirituality. Persons who fast but who do not abstain from sex outside marriage are only mocking themselves. The true fast cannot start until you have stopped what is spiritually illegal. A man or woman cannot say they truly love their spouse unless they give them exclusive use of their body. If you join your body to another person apart from your spouse, you are stealing what belongs to someone and giving to another. It is theft and is the opposite of love. There is no gift you can give to your wife like the confidence that she knows that your body is hers alone. Please make sure you give that 'offering'. Adulterers are not capable of true love.

Before you can offer anything that will be acceptable to God, you must first of all offer your body as a living and holy sacrifice. It is only after this that your offerings will be acceptable. If you are ministering with zeal but are sexually impure, know that you are being deceived. You are actually a worker of iniquity. The Lord is calling you to repentance. Right now, true worship is missing in your life. Please let me emphasize, this is not only for preachers, but for every believer. Our offerings

are impure if our bodies are not pure.

I want to present a few steps that I believe will help any Christian who truly desires sexual control to attain it.

Step 1: Agree with God

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
Rom 12:1

One major tool of the devil is deception. A major deception he uses is to tell people that a sexually pure life is not possible. I told earlier of the young pastor who ministers in a major town in Nigeria; he told me that in that place, almost no church preaches against fornication or adultery. He said that if you do so, the church becomes empty. You see, that is in an area where sexual immorality is rife, and where HIV did a major clean-out, and yet the church is not preaching against it. Meanwhile, preaching is how the grace or power for victory is released. The major reason they don't, I believe, is that Satan has deceived people that it is not possible to live holy. The world inundates us with sexual



immorality—it is on TV, in music, on the internet, etc. All of what they call dating sites are connections for sexual immorality, and most countries do not outlaw or even regulate these sites. These are the reasons why many believe that sexual purity is not possible. But it is all a lie.

See, it is not only possible to live holy but many people are doing it. Many men and women are living holy in the world of today. Yes, there is abundance of sin and temptations to sin out there, but the Lord has already made preparation for such a time.

...but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.
Rom 5:20

Grace is the power of God to resist sin, and we have an abundance of it right now available to us. All we need is to tap into this abundance, and to do so what we need to do is to agree with God.

But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.
Rom 5:17 NLT

God has given us the ability to live in triumph over sin. No matter how plenty the temptation is, the grace of God working in us is more than enough to overcome it all. God does not demand something that He does not supply the power to perform. Simply because God demands something means it is possible. And because He commands it, we must do it. All you need to do is to say to Him, "I will." No need to discuss whether you can. When you say "I will," the Spirit of God will enter into you and give you the ability to do. That is the way it works. That is what is called grace. It starts with agreeing with God, which is what is called faith. Faith activates grace.

Therefore, right now, say to the Lord that you have chosen a life of sexual purity, as an offering of worship to Him. Remember, it is an offering to God, one which He specifically requests.

Here are a few more of the scriptures that we must agree with. Please read them carefully and let them enter into your heart.

For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God,

your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God.

1 Thes 4:2-5

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals... will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. 1 Cor 6:9-11

As we can see, the Lord expects that true believers will no longer be fornicators, adulterers, homosexuals, or any form of sexual pervert, after becoming born again. Those things do not go with being a believer. It is abnormal for a believer to be involved in them. The body of the believer is to be used in a manner that glorifies God.

Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. 1 Cor 6:13

...present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of

worship. Rom 12:1

I like this instruction of the Lord Jesus, and I believe right now that it is for every Christian. Even though it was spoken to that woman, yet now the spirit is saying the same thing to believers everywhere.

I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more. John 8:11

Remember He was talking about the matter of sexual immorality. He forgave the woman, and then empowered her to walk above sin. He was not advising her; He was telling her, and now telling us too, that “I hereby release the grace to walk above sin into your life.” To receive that grace starts by just saying ‘Amen’ to His words. It is not about how we feel, or what the society tells us, or what struggles we might think lie ahead; it is all about what He says.

We Are Empowered

I think I should emphasize again the fact that God has given us the ability to walk above sin. Whether we feel like it or not, we must understand it as the truth. If you are truly a believer in Christ Jesus,



know that a new nature was put into you when you gave your life to Christ. It is possible you have neglected it, but it is there.

Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ..., he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! 2 Cor 5:17 AMP

What you need to do is to focus on it by meditation, and feed it with the word of God; you will see the clean nature of God in you begin to show up.

As a child of God, you have the seed of God in you. That seed of God gives you the ability to resist sin. You are not a slave to the flesh but a slave of righteousness. You have been given the gift of righteousness, which means that the Lord Jesus accepts you as a member of the family and as a friend. To everyone who has received that gift of righteousness from Him, He has also given the ability to walk above sin.

Agree with these truths presented so far and grace will be activated.

Avoid False Doctrines

As part of agreeing with God, it is very important to avoid false doctrines. We saw in one of the earlier chapters that false doctrines constitute a major cause of sexual immorality among Christians. I cannot at this time start addressing all the unscriptural teachings that go around, but let me just point out two we should watch out for; this is in addition to the one we examined earlier concerning the loss of the fear of God. Remember that to say that God does not punish His children is not true; the blood of Jesus and the grace or mercy of God does not cover sins we persist in doing. God does judge our sins, and if we continue in fornication, adultery or perversions, there will be consequences.

Now, the following are two major false doctrines we must watch out for.

One, there is a doctrine that says that nothing we do outwardly matters, but only the things that are '*in the spirit*'. Such a doctrine is false. I have heard of people saying things like it is their body having sex but that their spirit is pure so they cannot be guilty of fornication or adultery. As stupid as this sounds, people actually believe it and live by it. They live by



a belief that the seed of God is inside them and since they are spirit beings, it is only what their spirits do that matter. The result of this is that they live carelessly. I remember the case of a young man who was locked up in a room with a woman and apparently they were engaged in some intimate activities; when he was accosted by brethren, he said the problem was that those brethren did not have the Holy Spirit and were only seeing in the flesh. He obviously believed the rubbish of a doctrine. It is a terrible doctrine and only those who actually love iniquity will even think it reasonable.

God gave us His instruction by Paul:

...let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Cor 7:1

God does not only care about the spirit, He cares also that our holiness manifests in our flesh, and He particularly singles out sexual purity, as we saw earlier in the epistle to the Thessalonians.

...this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality...

Another way this false doctrine manifests is that

people try as much as possible to narrow down to the tiniest limits what actually is sexual sin. As a result, a man is allowed to lie naked with a woman in bed, engaging in all sorts of bodily contact but being careful *not* to penetrate the woman. The doctrine is that once their conscience is not disturbing them, they have not yet committed any sin. (I once read a Christian book which teaches this, so it is not hearsay). It would have been laughable except that we are dealing with a serious matter.

Please, let us not mock God. Petting or heavy petting,* as such activities are termed, are nothing but indulging in the lust of the flesh and are sins, if engaged in by unmarried partners. A married man thus petting another woman cannot go home and tell his wife he is not committing adultery, and so can a woman being *petted* by another man not tell her husband she is not a sinner. Unmarried people should get their bearings from that illustration. Please let us not throw away common sense because we want to indulge our flesh. This is the

**Petting*: kissing, caressing, and other sexual activity between partners that does not involve penetration of the female by the male organ.

Heavy petting: intense petting that involves mutual stimulation of the genitals but without penetration of the female by the male organ.



way young people are being deceived. It is a false teaching.

Resisting Temptation

Let me at this point explain an important principle concerning resisting temptations. A lot of other points made in this book speak to the *reason* to resist and *how* to resist, but here I want to address a crucial issue about *when*.

You see, Paul gave us the impression that virtually every temptation can be resisted by the child of God. He said,

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. 1 Cor 10:13

This assertion by Paul is often not the experience of Christians. Some temptations come, especially in the area of money and sexual issues, and it is as if they cannot be resisted. There is no way of escape, it would seem. "I could not help myself" is an all too common excuse given. Now, does it mean that Paul

was not speaking by the Spirit of God when he made the statement in the quote above? I wondered for a long time, until the Spirit of God gave me understanding, and here is the understanding.

You see, there are stages in temptation and the production of sin. James explained thus:

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin... Jam 1:14-15

Notice that our desires or lusts first entice and lead us, then this is followed by the lust becoming pregnant, and finally it gives birth to sin.

Now, God's design is that the time for resisting sin is at the earliest stage. Once the sin pregnancy has formed, it is hard to abort; most times, it will give birth to that sin. Unfortunately, most of us do not realize we are being tempted and should resist at the earliest stage of being enticed. We sit down there as we are being enticed, then when we see sin right before us, we want to resist, but at such times the thing is already conceived, and the sin will be born. Solomon said the clouds have become full



and must give birth to rain.* This is the reason many young Christians fall into sexual sins. Most times, they do not intend to do it, but they love the attention, the gifts, the caresses, and the 'nice' things. Everything seems so nice, and it doesn't appear like sin, and they are right that it might not be—just yet, except that sin is being conceived. By the time they realize this is sin loading, they try to resist, but it is either too late emotionally, or it is physically too late. They are already in a place where they cannot turn back. So you see Christians feeling bad while committing a sin and yet can't turn back. That is the reason.

This is the reason why the teaching which says that petting and heavy petting are not sins, since it is not a sin until a man actually penetrates a woman in sexual intercourse, is a silly, wrong and dangerous teaching. Like I mentioned earlier, it would have been laughable if we were not discussing a serious matter. It is sad that any Christian can even begin to believe that lie, especially since the Lord Jesus has told us that He counts it as sin even when you do it only in your heart.

**Eccl 11:3

You know, when God wants to answer mockers, He too cracks His own jokes. So, I know of two cases in which the ladies involved in these acts actually became pregnant. Both were 'virgins' with intact hymens, but they were pregnant, and it was not at all by the Holy Spirit. The necessary seed was put outside because the men and the ladies involved did not want to commit a sin, but the seeds swam hard enough to reach the tubes of the womb and fertilize the eggs. Please let us not fool ourselves.

"You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matt 5:27-28 NLT

Ed Loius Cole, in his days, told of a young man he was counselling concerning his relationship with a certain lady he was engaged to. The couple were Christians and so supposedly kept away from sexual intercourse, waiting till marriage. Ed Cole said that as the young man spoke, he saw they were having problems that happens only with couples who are having sex. So he asked the young man, "Are you two having sex?" The man answered, "She's still a virgin." But the more the young man



spoke, the more Ed Cole was convinced that those were problems of a couple with sex in the relationship, so he repeated his question, “Are you having sex with this woman?” Again the young man replied, “She is still a virgin.” Ed Cole got angry and told the him, “You haven't answered me. Are you having sex with her?” He was not about to be fooled by the cunning answers which focused on the fact that her hymen was intact while they were actually involved in all sorts of sexual intimacy. The young man admitted the truth—they indeed were having all the sex in the so-called heavy petting but avoided the penetration. That is pure tomfoolery.

Please it is a lying doctrine that seeks to permit such passionate expressions and still lay claim to innocence because they left one part out of the process. Like I used as an illustration earlier, would we be right if we were to say it is not adultery for a married woman to be in bed with another man, kissing and having all forms of passionate body contact, but avoiding the penetration? Tell that to a normal husband and let us hear the response. See, that would still be adultery, and not just in the heart.

I went into the above in trying to explain that we are

often late in trying to resist temptation. What I am saying can be put in another way, that what we often are trying to resist is no longer temptation but the first-fruits of sin, after it has been conceived. Sin is in labour and we are trying to prevent the birth, and there is usually little resistance we can offer to the force of labour. The time to resist is before it is conceived, while it is just a temptation. Conceived sin was not what God promised that we would have a way of escape from; He only helps us with temptation.

So you see, the word of God is actually true, that for every temptation He provides a way of escape. We must learn to resist temptation before sin is conceived. Stop in your tracks when you are beginning to enjoy another woman's company more than your wife's. Stop giving out suggestive signals to a man who is not your husband. That passionate smile is going too far. There is a proverb from western Nigeria that says, "What a man does not wish to eat, he should not sniff."

False Doctrine – 2

To look at the second false doctrine we are to avoid,



I want us to first see the following admonition from Paul.

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. 1 Cor 10:11-12

What were 'these things' that Paul was writing to the Corinthians about? They are there in the preceding verses of that chapter in the Bible. Paul was showing that even though Israel experienced a type of baptism and participated in a type of the communion by eating of the spiritual food given to them and drinking of the rock of Christ, yet they still perished in the wilderness when they displeased God. He was teaching that the fact that the people had entered into a spiritual relationship with Christ, so to speak, did not immunize them against the severe judgment of God. He therefore warned Christians not to do the things the erring Israelites did lest they be judged in the same way those fellows were judged. He specifically warned against immorality.

And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of

them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day.
 1 Cor 10:8 NLT

So, Paul was warning Christians against being complacent in their faith, assuming that nothing could go wrong. That was why he wrote those things. He ended with the admonition that, “let him who thinks he stands be careful, otherwise he might fall.” This sort of warning is found all over the New Testament. The Lord Jesus gave such a warning, and all the other writers gave similar warnings. They all warned believers not to take their faith and the resultant salvation lightly. They should guard it jealously as something precious that might otherwise be lost. As much as they gave assurance of the present salvation, they also warned that it is tied to continued faith.

So then, dear friends, as you always obeyed me when I was with you, it is even more important that you obey me now while I am away from you. Keep on working with fear and trembling to complete your salvation. Phil 2:12 GNT

This is why I join the apostles to say that any doctrine that promotes complacency in the life of a Christian is a dangerous doctrine.



So, the second false doctrine to avoid is the one that says that if you ever gave your life to Christ at a time, no matter what you do, your salvation is intact and your name cannot ever be removed from the book of life. According to one preacher, salvation does not require you to continue to believe; once you believed at a time, your salvation cannot be reversed, even if you were to renounce your faith, deny Jesus Christ as the Son of God and your saviour, and start living for all intents and purposes as an unbeliever.

Yes, a preacher said this, and many Christians believe it. How anyone can believe this baffles me! It is not only totally unscriptural, it is also so illogical. It is like saying that once you are born, no matter what you do, you will remain alive. Some have even said that since we are not saved by our works, we cannot be condemned by our works. Again, that is illogical. It is like saying that since I was not responsible for my birth, I cannot be responsible for my death. Of course, that is not right; you can kill yourself deliberately or by careless living.

Certainly, we are not saying God is going to cancel

you for every sin you commit; that would be another extreme in itself. That thought will conflict with the spirit of the forgiveness of sin and the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus. But to say that denying Jesus and continuing to live a life of sin provides no risk to our 'eternally secure' salvation is to preach something that John, James, Peter, Paul, and even the Lord Jesus, apparently forgot to tell us. Their own words were rather full of warnings.

He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life. Rev 3:5

If names could never be erased, I wonder what Jesus would have been talking about by making this statement.

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. Heb 6:4-6



Like I said, the Holy Spirit did not teach us that every sin leads to eternal death; however, there is a problem with little sins; if they are not tackled, they have a tendency to lead to hardening of the heart and searing of the conscience. That is the problem.*

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 2 Pet 2:20

If it was true that even after being entangled again and overcome, they remained saved and eternally secure, how would it make sense that the last state is worse for them than the first? The truth is that Peter was not aware of this our modern doctrine.

Now, I am aware that those who hold on to this doctrine have so decided and I am not likely to succeed in persuading them otherwise; so, my

*Let me at this point recommend the book, 'The Triumphant Church' by Kenneth E. Hagin. In the book, Brother Hagin told of a prophetic encounter with the Lord Jesus in which the Lord showed him how demons operate and how to deal with them. In the vision, he saw how a woman, who was a pastor's wife and a minister herself, was enticed by demons and by worldly wealth and fame. The woman left her husband and she ended up in a life of adultery. The Lord was always willing to take her back despite all her sins, but when she would not repent, the sins hardened her until she openly rejected Jesus and crossed the point of no return. It is a true story which illustrates sound biblical principles.

teaching is directed only at those who seek the life of holiness. I want to tell these seekers to please note the warnings and keep up with their zeal for perfection. Do not let anyone give you the impression that you are wasting your time. God has given you a new life in Christ and He desires that you live up to that new life. You are not a dog that returns to its vomit; you have been washed with the precious, most precious, blood of Jesus, and you must show Him respect and gratitude for such a sacrifice by keeping away from sin.

Apart from saying ‘thank you,’ the way you can prove to the Lord Jesus that you appreciate what He did is to keep away from sin. You cannot say because His blood is so powerful, you will wallow in the mud like a pig. That would be utmost disrespect.

Point 1 Summary

We have expounded extensively on the first point on how to keep ourselves pure as saints of God, and the summary of it is that we must strive to believe the truth of the word of God with a sincere heart — a heart which abhors sin and aims for the perfection of holiness. Agreeing with God in sound teaching leads to a life of righteousness and holiness.

CHAPTER 17

Keeping Yourself Pure - 2



Step 2: Confession of Faith

We are not entirely done yet with the matter of grace and agreeing with God, but this second step is intricately woven with the agreement thing, so much that I have to quickly get to it.

One major manifestation of agreeing with God is to speak in agreement with what He says. This is a major area where Christians often lose to Satan. They sometimes think that they need to speak their 'reality' so as not to lie. But once you speak against God, you are already lying. When the word of God comes to you, your duty is to accept it and start speaking according to it. If He says you have been washed, then say "I have been washed." If He says, "present your body to Me as a living sacrifice," you are to answer daily that, "I lay my body down on the altar of God as a living sacrifice." Don't wait to

have your experiences tell you that you are washed; accept it as the final truth because it is indeed the word of God.

Let me emphasize again: on no account should you at any time agree with what the world, or even your feeling, is saying. Don't for a moment agree with their opinions of sexuality.

I found out from experience that it is easier to control your mouth than your thoughts. All kinds of thoughts can enter your mind without your permission or desire, but it is harder to take over your mouth without your permission. God has asked us to control our whole body with our mouths. Therefore, our most important battle in the pursuit of holiness is to take over our tongues for the Lord. James explained that if you can succeed in controlling what you say, then you have succeeded in controlling where the whole of your body goes.

If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. Jam 3:2

So, give your mouth and tongue to God, and the rest of your body will follow. Don't agree with the world in any area of life. When they say being a



homosexual is normal, no matter how you feel, open your mouth and declare that it is a perversion and an abomination.* That is what God says. The world has tagged the celebration of homosexuality as progress, and you are progressive if you accept their point of view. But the word of God teaches us to know better. If you accept their point of view as progress, then you are as progressive as people in Sodom and Gomorrah whom the Lord judged, and that is as far back as the days of Abraham. The iniquity is not new; the Lord told Israel a few hundreds of years after Sodom that it is a sin, and He spoke through Paul thousands of years after that, *that* it brings forth the wrath of God.** So, don't let anyone make it seem like it is modern; just declare the opinion of the Almighty, and make it your opinion too.

Let me talk about grace some more. Grace is not a *method* of overcoming; it is the power of God to overcome. It will not require your smartness or hard work to overcome even sexual addiction or demon possession; the grace-power will propel you into overcoming. When the Lord Jesus said to

*Lev 18:22 **Rom 1:26-28

that woman, “Go, and sin no more,” He was not advising her; He was actually infusing her with the ability to resist the sin in the environment. If she would just attend to that word, then adultery was over in her life.

With our mouths, we declare what we have agreed with as the word of God. By this declaration we continually activate the power of grace. The use of the mouth in this way must be continuous. When provoked by discussions with others, we must respond with the word. Even when we are alone, especially when the flesh wants to manifest its lusts, the declaration must continue.

We will come back to the issue of confessions in a subsequent chapter.

Step 3: Attend to His Words

This next step is similar to the previous two, but the emphasis here is in the use of time to pay attention. The first step on agreeing with God speaks to our attitude concerning the word; in this step I admonish concerning how much time we spend paying attention to this word which we have accepted.



You see, the word of God is like food; the calories are contained therein but we must eat it regularly to benefit from the energy it holds. The word of God does not only give us divine information to accept, but it is also the channel through which God sends His grace into our lives; that grace is like energy from food. Just as we eat food regularly, we must also pay attention to the word regularly. Without the constant infusion of the word, we will lack the power to resist sin.

*My son, give attention to my words;
Incline your ear to my sayings.
Do not let them depart from your sight;
Keep them in the midst of your heart.
For they are life to those who find them
And health to all their body. Pro 4:20-22*

If you want to walk in holiness, know that you do not have the power in yourself, but only in Christ. It is only as you abide in Christ that you will have the power to walk in holiness. The way to abide in Christ is by making His word dwell in you continually. You must make feeding on the word of God a habit. The word must be your constant companion—as you listen to preaching and

teaching, in reading, in music, and in every other possible way. The word of God is the food of victory. Spiritual victory is not a chance occurrence; it is deliberately procured by paying attention to the word.

Sometimes you ask a Christian to read a book or listen to a message, but he replies that he has read that book before or listened once to the message. Now, that is cause for concern. I remember a man who told me he does not read a book more than once. I was concerned for him, especially since he was a preacher. As a matter of fact, the word of God does not work that way; you cannot say you have read the gospels or a particular epistle before and so there is no need to read it again. No, it is not to be so.

The teachings of the word of God are given for constant meditation. They are like songs which we sing the verses thereof hundreds of times without becoming weary of them. We deliberately drink from that fountain regularly. You can never finish reading a book of teaching or complete listening to a particular message. The word is like songs; you can't ever say I have finished listening to a song. Such a concept does not exist. You listen again and



again. That is how to tap the power in the word of God.

The Lord showed the importance of being occupied with the word when He gave a unique rule for the kings of His people, and that was even before they had a king.

Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. "It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes. Deut 17:18-19

Think of it for a moment; the book the king was to copy and read was not even as big as the Pentateuch we have today. It did not include Genesis. It means therefore that it was a rather small book that the king was to read all the days of his life. This means he would read the book literally hundreds of times. That is how important the repetitive approach to the word of God is. There are messages I have listened to hundreds of times. I have read portions of my Bible scores or hundreds of times. There are books I have read again and again. That is the way it

is supposed to be.

Anytime I feel like I need to improve my spiritual walk or revive myself in a particular area of life, there are books or messages I go back to. Many times when I have needed to make decisions or make adjustments in my approach to ministry, I would listen to '*Answering the call*' by Kenneth Hagin. I have come to realize that it is not the letters or words in themselves; it is a spirit that I connect with when I listen to the message. The Lord Jesus said that the profit is not in the sound or letters, but is rather in the spirit which these words carry. It is that spirit that imparts divine ability to us.*

Anyone desiring a life of holiness must form a habit of constantly reading and listening to the word of God. We thank God for the technology of today that has made it very easy to take the word of God with us everywhere, and we must take advantage of the technology. Our smartphones and tablets now can carry hundreds of books and such large numbers of audio messages; it is God's way of helping us. Let us cooperate with Him by attending to His word always.

*John 6:63



I recollect the story I heard from the prophet, Kenneth E. Hagin. He told the story of how a man came with his wife to see him. They came because the man had developed a devilish attraction for little girls. The man had been caught a few times molesting some girls and his wife was about to leave him as a result. As they spoke, the man of God perceived that the man had two demons afflicting him, which he had acquired as he spent time reading psychology books on sexually criminal minds. He told the afflicted man that he could cast out the demons but that it would do no good as they would come back with more demons and make his latter state worse.* He however agreed to do so on the condition that the man would pray everyday, feed on the word and confess it daily. That was in addition to burning all the books he had been reading. The man accepted these conditions. The man of God proceeded to cast out the demons, and the man became totally free. Years later the man was still free of the deviant sexual tendency.

I've told the story here because it helps to illustrate that the power to sustain ourselves in purity is not

*Luk 11:24 – 26

in us but is tapped from the Spirit through the word of God. Anyone truly desirous of a chaste life has to be addicted to the word. Make sure you are always reading a Christian book and listening to a particular message each period of your life. You should try not to be more than 24 hours removed from the last time you paid attention to reading or to listening. Have your life surrounded with your Bible and with books, magazines, and audios/videos of Bible instruction. Be a *word-addict*.

Step 4: Watch Your Company

A major way to walk in holiness is to avoid wrong company and to keep the right ones.

*How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! Psa 1:1*

*Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals.
1 Cor 15:33*

*Iron sharpens iron,
So one man sharpens another. Pro 27:17*

It has been said that your character reflects the kind



of persons you spend time with. It is important you abandon friendships that do not value the standards of the word of God and cultivate ones that do. As an example, I tell married women, especially young ones, not to keep company with older women who speak about husbands and marriage with disdain. It is obvious they are not happy, and they will inject that spirit into the young wife. There was a time a young man I know began to notice a strange behaviour in his wife. She was a good woman who he did not have any trouble with, that is until then. So he thought about it, and he noticed that she had started to keep company with a certain woman in their neighbourhood. The woman was a divorced and bitter person who decided to spread her feminist views to 'oppressed' women. This man had a discussion with his wife, pointed out the problem, and she ended the relationship. That was the end of the strain that had come into the home.

In the celebrated case of Jim Bakker years ago, which I referred to earlier in this book, it was a certain 'pastor' who enticed him into having the iniquitous encounter with that young woman, a

thing which was partly responsible for the fall of the ministry.

Do not keep company with even supposed Christians who do not hold the high moral standards of the word of God.

...actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person... — not even to eat with such a one. 1 Cor 5:11

Wrong company is a way by which the seed of lust may be planted in our hearts. We have already seen that we must overcome the seed before there is conception of sin.

Step 5: Watch Your Entertainment

Entertainment is very important, and is one of the most important ways by which we learn behaviour and a crucial way by which we learn culture. There is a famous saying that, *“Let me make the songs of a nation; I care not who makes its laws.”*

The author was saying that the songs are more important than the laws in shaping the way people behave. That is very true.



Let me quickly clarify that the word ‘songs’ in that quote is representative; it was put there to stand for any form of entertainment. The easiest way to influence people is through their entertainment — through drama, movies and music. It is true that whatever entertains you *enters* you.

Satan is hard at work in this area. One of the manifestations of the fact that the whole world lies under the power of the evil one* is shown in the way most entertainment is produced, and who produces them. What the world has done is to make movies in which immoral things are made to look normal. Most times, these immoral things are not even related to the main story, but they are just dropped there as a normal part of life. The result is that after a while, a whole generation, who grew up watching those things, move and walk as if those things are normal. Currently, they have succeeded with sex among the unmarried as a normal part of life; they are fighting battles to make homosexuality and transgenderism normal too. In some parts of the world, especially in Europe, they have succeeded in that, but it is yet to be mainstream in the rest of the world.

*1 Jn 5:19

I notice that people wear tattered jeans all around these days. That people will consider rags fashionable is testimony to the power of entertainment. All that was required was for a famous star to call it normal, and men and women everywhere found it fashionable. James Bond was used to normalize sexual promiscuity in men. In those movies, he slept 'normally' with almost every damsel he tangled with.

Through entertainment, the power for worldliness is served, and a good Christian will cut off that flow as much as possible. If you want to walk in purity, you have to be careful about your entertainment. When it comes to music, I will recommend you stick as much as possible with gospel music only. Don't worry, you won't lose anything, especially if you already formed friendships with people of like passion.

Evil Pictures

Let us talk about pornography. Pornography is a major way by which the world tries to remove the sanctity around sex. Whether as still images or as a video, a Christian must never indulge in gazing at sexually arousing pictures, especially of naked



people, or of people engaged in sexual activity. It is a door for the spirit of lust; it is a method by which the seed of lust is planted in the hearts of people.

It has been said that lust actually does not start from the heart but from the eyes; there is a lot of truth to that. Remember that I explained earlier that sin is conceived long before the act of sin, and that *that* is why temptations may sometimes seem overpowering. I explained that the overpowering effect is because sin was already conceived and it is now in the process of birth, and labour is by nature intense. Pornography is a conception method. The aim of Satan is to trap people spiritually through that door.

Just as it is a way of conception of sexual immorality, pornography is also a way of feeding the spirit of lust. Every spirit operating must be fed or empowered. Pornography is produced of the worship of Satan; satanists actually deliberately release these things into the environment to strengthen the hands of the spirits of lust in the lives of people. Why do you think movies from Hollywood frequently have sex scenes? These acts are designed to promote lewdness in the world.

You find them in movies even when they do not contribute anything to the plot. It is a spice of Satan in the dish being served.

I have heard it argued before that pornography is not a sin, that the Bible never commanded against it. Now, let me remind anyone reading this that as Christians, we search so as to discern the mind of God concerning everything we do. We are not people of the letter in such a manner that if we cannot find an express commandment about something, it means that the Lord has not said anything against it. Rather, we are people of the spirit; we seek the mind of God.

The Bible does not have an express commandment against pornography because it is a modern iniquity that is a fall-out of advancement in technology. It is quite clear that even Israel, a people governed by laws, could not have had a law about it because pornography was not possible in their days—the technology was not there. Until photography was developed, pornography was not an issue. It was not a temptation in Bible days and so there was nothing to warn specifically about. The only lewd images, such as carvings and



maybe paintings, that they would have come across would most likely have been in pagan temples, a place they were already commanded not to go to anyway. However, we can see the mind of God from other things said.

The Spirit does teach us about what we do with our eyes. For example, Jesus said our eyes can cause us to stumble; John talked about the lust of the eyes as one of the things in the world, and Paul said we are to devote our members, which the eyes are part of, as instruments of righteousness.* Also, as I explained at the beginning of this book, sex as an act cannot be dismissed as acting only. Once you do it, you have done it. The point is that those who make sex videos are committing a sin while doing it; they are either fornicating or committing adultery, and a child of God cannot take pleasure in their act. If you do, you will partake in the judgment of God over those deeds.

...and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. Rom 1:32

*Mar 9:47, 1 Jn 2:16, Rom 6:13

God judges us as guilty when we approve what is wrong even though we are not directly doing the wrong. Saul did not cast a stone at Stephen, nor did he even lay a hand on him; all he did was approve of his death and guard the clothes of those who stoned him, yet he was guilty of the death of Stephen, as far as God was concerned. The point is that anyone engaged in watching pornography is as guilty in the spirit of fornication and adultery as those who make the pictures. The Lord will visit the iniquity of the actors on their customers too. Sex is sacred and we must treat it so. Anyone saying that engaging in pornography is not a sin is captive to the lust in the world.

These days, pornography is everywhere. Gone are the days when people needed to go look for it in secret places or hide it in special closets; it is now served freely on the internet. They even push it to you when you are not interested. The day I saw the statistics of how many Christians and even pastors use it regularly, I was alarmed.* No, that should not be.

So, how should Christians react to evil pictures?

*A US survey



We must follow the example of Job.

I made a covenant with my eyes, not to look with lust...

Job 31:1

We are to simply dedicate our eyes specifically before the Lord, as part of offering up the whole body as a living sacrifice. We are to consecrate before Him that we will not partake of this dish of the devil in any way. If we do that sincerely, He will make power available so that the desire for pornography will be gone and the images will become repulsive. Addiction is cured with that simple prayer of dedication prayed earnestly. Remember that *where sin abounds, grace much more abounds*.* We are not discussing methods to win by our strength and strategies, but how to win by the grace of God. That grace is available for us as believers.

The Soft Evil

Now, let me warn about what is called *soft* pornography.

Once, I walked into the shop of a major telecom

**Rom 5:20

company to do some transaction. They had a big screen there to entertain customers while they waited. I had been in this shop a few times in the past and so I noticed it again. I noticed that every time I came in, the TV was tuned to a particular music video channel. I called the attention of the customer service staff to the offensiveness of the display and I was told to speak with the manager.

I asked the manager why I had to see pornography every time I came to their shop. She protested that they were not showing pornography. Her protest is why I am telling the story. I told her simply that the shows fell into the category of soft pornography. Apparently, she was not aware. It was a music channel on Nigeria's biggest cable/satellite TV provider's service. All the videos are of scantily clad women, dancing in the most suggestive of ways and depicting all sorts of sexual activities. They left very little to the imagination. Unfortunately, the world has so shifted the lines that it is now acceptable to show such things in music videos.

Many times we feed ourselves with pornography in the name of music videos and we wonder what is



driving lust in us. These things are served to us in small doses and we do not realize it. Satan has a grip on a lot of entertainment served every day. I am advising Christians to make that Job-type covenant with their eyes, not to gaze upon any lewd thing that is presented in the form of entertainment. Christians should not allow their ears to feed on lewd lyrics, and never repeat the words of a song that glorifies the flesh. That is one way to preserve our walk in holiness.

There is A Sacrifice

Let me add something, especially for young people. You see, Christianity is a life of sacrifice. You must be willing to give up things, especially worldly things, to be able to walk with the Lord. Many times, we want to have the world and Jesus together, and someone tells us it is possible, but it is not true. A true Christian who wants to grow in grace cannot indulge in the pleasures of the world—pleasures which tempt to sin. For example, you cannot join your friends for all-night parties where they are drinking and being careless and yet want to live holy and pure. They will call you names but that is just how it is. You cannot be a

trending dresser in the world, be approved by them, and yet grow in grace; it does not work that way. Yes, you will lose out of what they call fun, but that is just the way it is. Sometimes we want to have the two and we end up actually only having the world while displeasing the Lord.

This Attire Says What?

It is a bit out of my scope to talk about dressing here, but let me quickly explain, especially to young people, that dressing in a seductive manner is ungodly. Christians often do this simply because they take their examples from the people of the world. Let us be clear that even though the primary place the Lord looks at is the heart, yet what we do outwardly also matters. What is inside the heart is actually what is showing outside. What you look like says a lot about the kind of person you are. Dressing matters, child of God. The first impression of you is formed by what you appear like in clothing. We must dress to reflect our godly values. Showing off excessive amount of skin, especially for women, and especially of parts of the body that are considered private, is evil. Keep your curves covered, and keep private things private. Cover



your breasts in their entirety; they are private parts.

Remember, you are to dress the way you want to be addressed, and remember also that the first opinion of your character is formed from your appearance. We understand that dress codes vary from society to society and from situation to situation; it is therefore not possible to give a one-cap-fits-all instruction, but we must all remember to apply decency *first* in all that we do.

Every apparel is designed with a purpose in mind. Try and imagine the purpose for which a dress is made and think of what it will say about you before you put it on and go out in it. Some dresses are cut deliberately to make a woman seductive in her appearance, and we don't have to talk to the Holy Spirit to know such a dress when we see it. A Christian should never be found in such clothing. Solomon told us that certain clothes are meant for harlots,* but these days women wear them even to houses of worship and one wonders what exactly they are trying to portray. Why should a child of God be found in the attire of a harlot? I am of the

*Pro 7:10

opinion that we should have a priestly mindset, and aim at dignity and real beauty.

Make priestly garments for your brother Aaron, to provide him with dignity and beauty. Exo 28:2-3 GNT

Dignity is to be first before beauty. Beauty without dignity is vanity and indulging of the flesh.

CHAPTER 18

Keeping Yourself Pure - 3



Believers in Christ Jesus are new creatures in Him. We are not to live like the people of the world because we are indeed a different species of human beings. The seed of God is inside us and God is working in each one of us believers to bring out His image. We must therefore cooperate with Him so that His work in us will be effective. That is the reason we are looking at these steps which we are to take in keeping ourselves pure.

Step 6: Visit The Throne of Grace

This sixth is the last step I am offering in helping us overcome the lusts of the flesh so we can walk in sexual purity. I think it is one of the most crucial, if not the most crucial. Everything starts here and comes round to end here too. It is about taking hold of the grace of God with prayer.

You see, everything we do, every step we take and every desire for holiness we have, can only be made

effective by joining forces with God in prayer. When the Lord Jesus was teaching His disciples to pray, He taught them to pray so as to overcome temptations.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Matt 6:13

To deliver us from evil means to deliver us from being overcome by the evil one so as to commit evil. He was teaching that it is by the power of God that we will overcome temptations. It is not by the power of our will or the power of our resolutions. He warned the disciples at another time thus:

Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" Matt 26:41 NLT

Prayer is an expression of faith. When our desire is truly to walk in purity, and we realize that it is God that will help, we go to Him in prayer. We pour out our hearts before the throne of God concerning all the things that we have learnt in this book so far. We are to lay them all out before Him. We ask Him to help us. We confess our sins to Him.



There may be times we feel so weak before a temptation which comes to us. This may be in different areas, including in the area of sexual immorality; such a matter is to be taken to God. We are to go to Him in sincerity and ask for help. I have heard it said many times, "I could not help myself." That is most often heard in the area of falling into sexual immorality, especially among younger Christians. But it is because we do not know how to draw near to the place of help.

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb 4:16

When the apostle spoke about need here, he was not talking about the need for food, clothing or other such material things. The context in which that was written is of temptation to disobey God. The time of need he was speaking of is when the temptation is too strong for our personal resolution. It is the time when it appears like you might lose control. It is such a time as when the children of Israel in the wilderness faced hunger and thirst, and so they wanted to grumble about their situation. It is such a time as when Amnon

could not cease thinking about his sister, a thing that was an abomination to the Lord.

I can imagine someone in Amnon's situation praying before this throne of grace when he begins to have those strong urges. He would crawl to God and say, *“Lord, please help me; I do not understand this strong attraction towards my own sister. This is an ungodly attraction but it is so powerful, it is making me sick. Lord, I come before you so as not to fall into such a temptation. Help me Lord and keep me from doing evil. I ask in the name of Jesus.”* It is such a time that Paul was calling the time of need. He wasn't talking about needing food and such material things.

If you pray with sincerity as I have illustrated above in that Amnon-type of temptation, you will see the power of God manifest. The sincerity and deep desire is important. God will show mercy and He will empower you to live above sin. The problem, a lot of times, is that many come only to make excuses for their sins, telling God to understand. They do not come with the conviction that they *must* not fall; their desire for walking righteously is not deep. That is often what the trouble is.



When the Bible says we are to pray in faith, it means we are to come, being convinced of the truth. As we have already seen, to be in agreement with God is what faith is. If the truth of God we have seen so far in this book is in our hearts, our prayers will most certainly be prayers of faith, and they will avail much. All thoughts and feelings of things such as homosexuality can be thus banished.

The main problem that hinders faith is that people hold on to the opinions of the world and yet come to prayer. As an example, deep inside them they hold on to the idea that they were born as homosexuals, which is the prevalent but scientifically unfounded teaching of the world, and that the church's standard of righteousness might be the problem. They come to God not fully convinced that the expressed word of God is the whole truth. Their prayer is thus not of faith but is only one of excuses; therefore grace is not released. That is why people often do not get results.

If anyone will go to God sincerely, eager to conform to the will of God, they will find that God is faithful. He will deliver every one who is bound to sin and the flesh.

The best time to draw near is at those quiet moments when you look over your life and you realize that your life is not conforming to the will of God. It is at such times when you realize that this is not how you want to live. Draw near in prayer and say, "I offer my life and my body as a living sacrifice to you O Lord. I am not my own; I belong to you." Then tell Him the area of temptation, and sincerely ask Him to help. Confess your sins to Him — all the deeds and all the evil thoughts. The result is that He will remove that force that makes you seem helpless, and He will empower you to walk above it all. He will let you see the way of escape which He has provided.

God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. 1 Cor 10:13

Approaching God in that manner cures addiction to sexual sins, to pornography and even addiction to drugs. There is no power greater than God's power to deliver from the clutches of the evil one. All we need is to go in desperation and in sincerity before that throne of grace and mercy. The problem

with a lot of us is that we are not desperate enough, but I hope by reading up to this point some have become truly desperate to be free. For such a desperate soul, freedom is right there to be taken in the presence of the Lord.

Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are under the grace of God.

Thanksgiving

Once you have prayed to God in the manner described above, know that He has heard you and He is working already in your life. This truth is regardless of how you feel. So, depend on the knowledge of the truth and not on your feelings.

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

1 John 5:14-15

Everything we have discussed up till this point is the will of God, therefore we know that if we make any request as a result of them, the requests are in agreement with His will, and He will grant them.

How I feel afterwards is not the issue—I know the truth. Now, an important sign that I know this truth is that I begin to give the Lord thanks.

Thanksgiving is a sign of our faith. If indeed we believe the word of God concerning our freedom in Christ, then thanksgiving will fill our mouths.

So, start thanking Him that you have overcome. Thank him that you are free in Christ Jesus. Thank Him that sin no longer has dominion over you because you have received the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness. Thank Him that you now reign in life over those temptations.

CHAPTER 19

Confessions of Faith



When we focus on the word of God, part of what we are to do is to speak to ourselves the words of victory; we are also to speak the words of warnings.

Christians who learn to confess the word of God often learn only the positive words, but the Lord did not stop with giving us those positive promises; He also added declarations of the consequences of disobedience. Israel had the mountain of blessing and the mountain of cursing. The curses were never the will of God but were given to serve as warnings against disobedience. Remember that these things were recorded for our learning.

Being redeemed from the curse of the Law does not immune us from the consequences of walking in disobedience. It is good therefore that when we declare the positive promises of God, we also remind ourselves of the consequences of sin. The

words of blessing and the words of warning are both to promote grace.

The words given below are for us to declare as often as possible. They are not just lessons to learn but words to speak out in confession of faith. Let us start with the words of blessings.

Words of Blessings To Declare

I am a child of God. I am a believer in Christ Jesus.

My flesh, which is the old man, has been crucified with Christ. My natural life is no longer alive. I have a new life now, and it is of Christ who lives in me. The life I live now is lived by faith in Christ Jesus, who gave Himself up for me. (Gal 2:20)

I am a new creature in Christ Jesus; this new self which I have is in the likeness of God and has been created in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph 4:24)

Because of my faith in Christ Jesus, I have abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness; for this reason, sin is beneath me. As it written,

“But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live

in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.” Rom 5:17 NLT

I understand that sin cannot have dominion over me. I have been set free in Christ Jesus. I walk by the Spirit of God and I overcome the works of the flesh.

I hereby present my body as a living sacrifice, dedicated for the service of God.

I do not conform to this world, but my mind is being renewed daily and I am being transformed into the express image of Jesus Christ.

*My body is not for sexual immorality; it is for the Lord.
(1 Cor 6:13)*

I realize that my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. God lives in me by the Holy Spirit. My body was given to me by my Father, God. I do not belong to myself; the Lord bought me with a high price. So I must honour God with my body. (1 Cor 6:19-20)

I honour the Lord Jesus by walking in sexual purity.

In the name of Jesus, I declare that I am a child of light. I belong to the day. Therefore, I live a decent life before God and before all men.

I do not participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness. I do not participate in sexual promiscuity and immoral living. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I clothe myself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. I will not allow my mind to think about ways to indulge any evil desires. (Rom 13:13,14)

I understand the will of God — my sanctification, and so I abstain from all forms of sexual immorality.

I agree with God that sex is for a married man and his wife, and for a married woman and her husband. Every other thing is against the will of God. I walk only in this will of God. I keep my body in sanctity to God for my spouse alone.

I make a covenant with my eyes, not to look with lust at a man or woman who is not my husband/wife. (Job 31:1)

I give my eyes to righteousness, in the name of Jesus.

The mercy of God is upon me. I am washed. I am clean. I am sanctified by the power of the blood of Jesus. Therefore, my attractions are purified and under control. I reject sexual attraction to the same sex, as it is against the expressed will of God. It is written,

“Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin.”

Lev 18:22 NLT

By the power of the Spirit of God, I possess my vessel in righteousness. I declare that the same spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead is in me and it is giving me life, making it possible for me to walk in victory above sin.

I am washed

I am clean

I am not defiled

In the name of Jesus.

Because of the victory I have in Christ Jesus, I break the power of any demon of lust or sexual deviancy; I command them to leave me, in the name of Jesus.

I receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and I declare the Greater One, the Holy Spirit, lives in me.

I am free.

Words of Warning to Declare

Satan is a tempter to destruction. His temptations will bring no good to me.

If I eat his fruit, I am giving myself over to his lordship and causing myself to be bound, after Jesus has set me free.

I recognize that falling for sexual sins opens a door for evil spirits into my life and into the life of my family. These spirits seek to wreak havoc in my home and in the lives of my children. I will not permit them.

Therefore I will resist Satan and all his temptations. I resist the lust of the flesh, in the name of Jesus.

I am a gatekeeper for my loved ones. I will not allow evil to come into their lives because of my desire for the passing pleasure of sin. Sexual immorality is a sin that cripples destinies. Mine will not be crippled because I will not fall for it, in the name of Jesus.

I understand that Satan is looking for a door into my life, so that he can accuse me before the Judge of the whole earth. He seeks judgment so I can fail, become sick, have a broken home and die before my time. But I will give him no chance.

I am not unaware of the devises of Satan. If I walk in adultery, fornication or homosexuality, I understand that I will not be able to inherit my portion of the kingdom of God, as it is written,

“...the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Cor 6:9-10

By the power of the Spirit I walk in the fear of God and do not indulge in sexual immorality; I understand that it leads to premature death, as it is written,

“And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day.” 1 Cor 10:8 NLT

I am mindful of the example of Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, how they indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire. I understand that this caused the Lord to burn them with fire, as a sign of His wrath. (Jud 1:7)

I understand that the one who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. (Prov 6:32)

I will therefore not follow the example of Sodom and those who commit adultery. Rather, I will buffet my body, and compel it to conform to the will of God.

Again, I yield my members as instruments only of righteousness; I will never allow the devil entrance into my life through yielding my members as instruments of unrighteousness.

I have a brilliant destiny which must not be cut short. The Lord made me for a special purpose. I understand that the devil can do nothing to threaten or frustrate my destiny unless I walk in sin, including sexual immorality. For this reason I will resist the devil, so that my destiny will be manifested as ordained in Christ Jesus.

I declare all these in the name of Jesus, and I walk in them by the power of the Spirit.

CHAPTER 20

Power in the Blood



There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit, which brings us life in union with Christ Jesus, has set me free from the law of sin and death.
Rom 8:1, 2 GNT

I think this is the most exciting chapter for me to write. We are now looking at the thing that is perhaps the most unique about Christ Jesus and about Christianity, and that is the power in the blood of Jesus. There is power in the blood of Jesus!

Power to do what?

You see, one way or another, we end up sinning in this life, and God understands that; David said He is mindful of our sinful nature.* Most of our sins come from ignorance and from the dominion of sin over the old man.

*Ps 78:39

*How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?
Cleanse me from these hidden faults.
Keep your servant from deliberate sins!
Don't let them control me.
Then I will be free of guilt
and innocent of great sin. Psa 19:12-13 NLT*

But excuse or no excuse, our sins do have consequences on us who commit them, on the environment, and on our relationship with God. These things cannot simply be dismissed without remedy. The remedy is beyond just superficial forgiveness, as in “don't worry about it; I won't take it to heart.” Even though God is willing to overlook the sin, yet the effect must be removed for forgiveness to be complete. Now, only the shedding of blood pays for sins.

...all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Heb 9:22

By the shedding of the blood of Jesus, our sins were atoned and paid for. The sin can now be legally written off and the effects cleaned away. There is power for forgiveness in the blood of Jesus.

For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. Eph 1:7 GNT

No matter what sins we may have committed, and no matter for how long, God has made forgiveness available in Christ Jesus.

Complete Forgiveness

As I mentioned earlier, forgiveness is not just to overlook a thing; with God, it involves the cleansing of the consequences of the sins. Without that, the forgiveness is incomplete. That was why the Lord Jesus came to Israel then with the anointing to heal all who were oppressed of the devil.* Please understand that their experience was called oppression because the people had been forgiven, but the devil was only taking advantage of their ignorance concerning their rights as forgiven people, and so kept them in bondage. If they had not been forgiven, their sufferings would have been appropriately termed ‘the just recompense of reward for disobedience.’**

So when Jesus came, He came to enforce the forgiveness of sins, a thing which the people had

*Acts 10:38 **Heb 2:2

obtained through being baptised by John, and some by Jesus in the early days of His ministry. Baptism was a sign of repentance which is for forgiveness.

And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Luke 3:3

The people were forgiven, and their healing, which Jesus began to administer, was a sign of that. What I am saying is that there is restoration attached to the forgiveness which we have because of the blood of Jesus.

Once we believe in Christ Jesus, the benefit of the payment is ours. It means that the devil has no power of accusation over us. It means the effect of sins in our lives is removed. It means that life for a former prostitute or whoremonger who gives his or her life to Christ has become new as if they are virgins. Even if sexual sins have damaged the body, there is restoration in the blood of Jesus. It means no one can raise a voice of accusation against such a one as if they are sinners. The Lord imparts the same blessing on the prostitute as on the virgin

woman. That is the power of the blood of Jesus.

Many people think that going to church is what being a Christian is all about, but that is so inaccurate. Christianity is the power of God to restore. It is the power of God to make everything new. Paul explained that if Christ is in you, though the body is subject to death because of sin, yet from the Spirit life will come forth into it because of righteousness. That is the word of God. In the next verse he said,

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Rom 8:11

The Spirit of God gives life to all bodies that have suffered the effect of sin, if only the sinner would repent, and keep faith in Christ Jesus.

Life is Working

Many times, you hear people say that God may forgive you but the consequences will remain. My opinion is that those saying it do not understand the power of Christ and the forgiveness that is in



His blood. They do not know the power of the Spirit of God which raised Christ Jesus from the dead and how it works now in our bodies. All those statements are statements of unbelief and they kill our ability to receive the power of God into our bodies. Just imagine saying such to Jesus as He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil. He healed many and told them to go and sin no more. That tells us clearly that their sin was responsible for their states, and yet He reversed the effect of the sin. That is the power of forgiveness.

Like I mentioned earlier, every effect of sin which you experience after you have repented and been forgiven is nothing other than the oppression of the devil. It is called oppression because it is no longer lawful. Once sin is removed, the devil loses his power over your life. You have the right to demand freedom because it is yours now.

A good marriage is your portion now.

Healthy and sound children, who love the Lord, is your portion now.



A restored womb has been paid for by the Lord Jesus.

HIV has been healed from your body by the power of Christ. All sexually transmitted diseases and their complications have been buried, washed off by the blood of Jesus.

Mental disturbance has been removed from you.

All afflictions as a result of sexual immorality are cured. That is the power of Christ.

Tapping into Life

So how does one receive this forgiveness and the power of life which is in Christ Jesus?

The first point is that it is available for those who have truly believed in Christ. We understand that to believe means to cling to Him, and we have seen that it is accompanied by repentance. No one can take this power who is not eager to walk away from sin. The power is released as we accept Jesus as our Lord and saviour and walk away from our sins.

Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will

receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

I recommend, as the scripture does, that each be baptized by immersion in water as a sign of the death of the old man and the birth of the new. I remember the testimony I heard of a young man who was afflicted by an incurable disease which he contracted as a result of sexual immorality. He was tested for some reasons and it was discovered, but the Lord revealed to him in a dream to go and get baptized. After being immersed in water in baptism, he went for a repeat of the test, and he was cleansed totally. God had healed him.

It is not the water itself that washes away the sin and the disease; the process is rather a connection of faith by which we accept that we are dead and buried with Christ Jesus and are being raised in the newness of life.

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Rom 6:4

Let me add that those who are already Christians must keep away from sin; it is a door for the devil

into our lives, and so we must not allow him. As soon as you find out that there is something wrong in your heart or you did something that you should not have done, quickly take advantage of the patience of God and confess your sins.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 Jn 1:9

Whether the sin is in thought or in action, it must be confessed so that God can forgive and cleanse. We cannot afford to allow the devil have a foothold in our lives. This is so important.

Words of Life on the Lips

Having given your life to Christ, you stand redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus. Now you must declare it regularly.

Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out!
Psa 107:2 NLT

Remember, we Christians do not speak according to how we feel or see; we speak according to what has been revealed to us in the word of God.

The scripture says, "I spoke because I believed." In the same spirit of faith we also speak because we believe. We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus to life, will also raise us up with Jesus and take us, together with you, into his presence. 2 Cor 4:13-14 GNT

Open your mouth and declare that you are forgiven, saved, healed, restored and whole, in the name of Jesus. Cancer, HIV, dementia, failed marriage, diseased womb, or whatever disease or affliction; none can resist the power of the word of God in the mouth of the redeemed child of God.

Laying on of Hands

Sometimes you may extend your faith by having hands laid on you by believing elders. Please note that they must be people who believe in the power of Christ to save to the uttermost. They must be people who are eager to see the power of God manifest in your life. They need to be people who are not satisfied with you just making it to heaven and escaping the fire of hell. If you must be prayed for, make sure the ones praying believe in miracles.

Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him,

anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Jas 5:14-15

Brethren, there is so much power available in Christ. What we need to do is to reach out for it and allow Him manifest His love and kindness in us. He is looking for hearts that trust Him so that He might show His power in them. He is a loving and forgiving God. He is a loving Father who truly loves His children but who is also jealous over them. Let us please Him by offering to Him a life of sexual purity.

POWER IN THE BLOOD
• • •



ABOUT

Kingdom-Word Ministries

The author ministers from the platform of Kingdom-Word Ministries, a non-denominational organization based in Enugu, Nigeria. Activities of the ministry include weekly Bible classes at the ministry office, publication of free teaching tracts, magazines and books, radio/TV/on-line broadcasts, and organizing teaching seminars in various towns and cities.

The audio messages digital catalogue includes many hundreds of messages; most of these are available on the website for download.

For more information and for free download of audio messages, books and short sermons, please visit **pastor.ng** (or **pastorbankie.org**)

Other Books by the Author

1. The Blessing
2. Here on Purpose
3. The Law of Life
4. Great Faith Can Be Yours
5. Choices, the Key to Destiny
6. By Faith Acquire Life
7. He That Believes
8. The Righteousness of God
9. Prophecy!
10. Your Greatness Has Been Prepared
11. What is God's Will Here?
12. Grace to Prosper
13. How to Work for God
14. So, Who Will Pay for This?
15. Should I Say Yes?
16. Fundamentals of Christian Marriage
17. Secrets of Increase and Breakthrough
18. Beyond Gifts and Talents
19. Don't Quit the Army
20. Someone is Controlling You.
21. The Mark of the Beast
22. Guided by The Spirit
23. The Habit of Faith
24. Living by Divine Wisdom
25. Worship and Sex Control
26. We Walk by Faith

For free download of these titles, please visit
pastor.ng