

1—Sin is Independence from God—Crafting A Holy Life With Prayer

Mark 7:21-23 *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, [22] thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. [23] All these evil things come from within and defile a man."*

1 Peter 2:11 *"Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts (passions of the flesh) which war against the soul..."*

Think of Vices Present and Virtues Absent from Your Life: Psalm 139:23 *"...search me Oh God and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts, see if there is any wicked way in me."*

Identify the enemy... Diagnostic tools. Tools for self-examination. In general: The Word of God. It is like a mirror.

- **Galatians 5:19-21**
- **Colossians 3:5-9**
- **Ephesians 4:25-31**

- **Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)**
- **The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-14)**
- **The Love Chapter (1 Cor. 13:1-8)**

Hold your life up to the mirror of God's Word. Listen to your friends and even your enemies. Not the voice of condemnation but the voice of conviction: Anger, gossip, pettiness, prejudice, selfishness, sinful self-indulgence, dishonest words, dishonest practices. Mis-use of money. Sexual sin. Impure thoughts. Words that don't please the Lord. Slothfulness. Over-indulgence. Idolatry. Sinful attitudes.

- Thoughts**
- Attitudes**
- Words**
- Deeds**
- Motives**

Some Things to Think About When You Are Tempted to Sin:

- **You are about to hurt the people who depend on you.**
- You are about to **become addicted to sin**—to take a step toward bondage-enslavement to sin.
- **You are about to give Satan and others a means of accusation.** [handle on back]
- You are about to **damage or destroy your testimony for God and your personal reputation.**
- You are about to **discredit your God.** Our private sin is an open scandal in heaven.
- You are about to **forfeit eternal rewards.**
- **You are about to break fellowship with God.** Your purpose in life, your joy, delight, and satisfaction in life, your continued ability to defeat sin require fellowship with the Lord.

Do you know the enemy?

Do you know his ways and means?

Do you hate and fear and despise and see them as hideous?

Do you know the vices present and the virtues absent. (write down initials)

We can craft a holy life. We do have a way to escape temptation. We can be partakers of the divine nature.

2 Peter 1:3-4 *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

1 Corinth. 10:13 *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

Now Let's Get At Crafting a Holy Life: See Sin as Independence from God and Craft a Holy Life with Prayer. Jesus himself taught his disciples this in the garden. He said; **"...watch and pray lest you enter into temptation."** (Mark 14:38)

1—PRAY ACKNOWLEDGING THE SINS OF YOUR FOREFATHERS. 1

Cor 10:13 *There are ways to escape temptation... temptations are common. We all face them.*

- **Nehemiah** “*And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers*” (Nehemiah 9:2).
- **Jeremiah** “*We acknowledge, O Lord, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee*” (Jeremiah 14:20).
- **Daniel** “*O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beg you, let your anger and your fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, your holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us*” (Daniel 9:16).
- **Isaiah**—*man of unclean, dwell among...*

2—PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE. Pray for deliverance from temptation and evil. “...lead us not into temptation ...deliver us from evil...”

3—CRY OUT TO GOD IN PRAYER—DESPERATE PRAYER. Pray crying out to God. **Psalm 50:15** “...call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you and you will glorify me.” **Psalm 55:17** “Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.” **[s]** **The night I prayed for a new level of moral purity—given a foothold to the Devil.** (**Ephesians 4:27**) “...give no opportunity, foothold, to the devil...”

4—PRACTICE UNCEASING PRAYER. (**1 These. 5:17**) “...pray without ceasing...”

—Assign prayer targets to temptations. When tempted to lust pray for the moral purity of your children. When tempted to use your tongue in a wrong way, pray for proclaimers of the gospel.

—Turn Your Bed Into An Altar of Worship and Prayer. Watch my site and FB. This is powerful.

—Take prayer walks and prayer drives.

—Have prayer meetings with friends.

—Journal your prayers. Write them down.

—Use “Prayer triggers” When you see certain things or hear certain things let them always trigger prayer.

—pray lest you enter into temptation... “...watch and pray so you will not enter into temptation...”

when you are tempted to **criticize**—pray

when you are tempted to **complain**—pray

when you are tempted to **condemn**—pray

when you are tempted to **covet**—pray

5—MAKE A HABIT OF PRAYERS OF CONTINUAL CONFESSION.

“Walking in the light...” (1 John 1:7-9) Lord’s Prayer... “...forgive us our debts...”

What do you do when you sin?

- Excuse it...**
- Minimize it...**
- Partially confess it...[s] empty the barrel and scrape it out...**
- Blame...**
- Remorse for the consequences of it...**
- Admit it but continue in it...**
- ...everything but admit, confess and repent... (Psalm 51)**

Acknowledge and Confess your sin. Repent and be through—[s] oaken barrels of sin needs “power washing”

Confession brings springtime to the soul. Psalm 32 (ill) It is April 8th and it was 16 degrees this morning when I woke up.

PROVERBS 28:13 *“Whoever covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will find mercy.”*