



# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Wednesday Bible Study - 04:02:2009

Website: [www.victoriouschristianministry.org](http://www.victoriouschristianministry.org)

## **STUDY 7: THE PROCESS AND PROGRESS OF SIN**

James 1:13-15

Sin is a deadly enemy of the soul that cuts off sweet fellowship between man and God, hinders prayers, withdraws divine presence, invites God's wrath, keeps the sinner defeated (Isaiah 59:1,2) and ultimately damns his soul in hellfire. Temptations may abound everywhere (2 Timothy 3:12; Luke 17:1) but our text shows that every man is personally responsible for his sins. God's provision makes it possible for man to overcome all temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). In view of Satan's subtlety and the deadly nature of sin, it ought to be the desire of every Christian to identify the process of sin quite early and stop its progress before it ruins him - **PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.**

It is often said that one example is worth a thousand words. In this lesson, it is worth examining the process and progress of sin as illustrated in an event in David's life (2 Samuel 11). In a nutshell, at the time of the year that kings normally go to war, David decided to stay at home (avoidance of duty). It is often said the moment of avoidance of divine responsibilities is the time that the Devil will create tasks for the person. During a leisure moment, David saw a lady taking bath (a stray glance). Had David removed his eyes from her that could have broken the chains of events that eventually led to the downward spiral. The continual look resulted in enticement and conception of lust. Finally, David sent for and committed sin with her (birth of sin). When she conceived, David devised plots to conceal the sin – so as to maintain a reputation that is better than his character. This set the scene for the spurning of other sins. In this simple story, we see many steps similar to those in contemporary society, which lead to the downfall of the mighty.

### **Firstly, David did nothing when he should have been doing something**

2 Samuel 11:1

"... at the time that kings go forth to battle ... David tarried still at Jerusalem." The young prophet sat down when he should be on his way back, and lost his life in the process (1 Kings 13). The disciples slept when they should be praying and ended up succumbing to temptations. Peter sat down to warm himself when he should be following Christ, and ended up denying his Lord. And so the list continues. Idleness breeds temptations. The devil sows tares when men sleep (Matthew 13:25). Evil triumphs when good men do nothing. To do nothing when you should be doing something is inviting the devil to tempt you; and to do the wrong thing at the right time leads to calamity. By much slothfulness the building decays and through idleness of the hands the house drops through (Ecclesiastes 10:18). This was the root cause of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah - fullness of bread and abundance of idleness (Ezekiel 16:49). Leisure is time for refreshment and recreation, but if the Christian is not watchful, he might end up refreshing and recreating the sins he had once forsaken. Watch it - idleness and careless leisure kills more champions than hard labour! Sampson met his doom on Delilah's lap - what a leisure!

**Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern**

### **Secondly, David allowed a stray glance to develop into a prolonged stare**

2 Samuel 11:2

David was probably not waiting for an opportunity to watch a free "life blue film" when Uriah's wife would be taking her bath. What he saw at first was probably an accidental glance. His mistake was turning an accident event into an opportunity, by not plucking out the offending eye (Matthew 5:29). The eye is the window of the mind. What the eye focuses upon will ultimately infect the mind. As people generally move in the direction they look, a sinful focus will result in sinful practices. Job made a covenant with his eyes (Job 31:1). If victory is your aim, you must learn to counteract your natural focus the moment you realise it is on the wrong object. It is the set of the sail, not the direction of the wind, that determine the destiny of the ship.

### **Thirdly, David dwelt in his mind upon what he saw**

2 Samuel 11:3,4

He meditated and pondered over it. He mentally imagined being with Bathsheba, till he was so intoxicated with the idea that he could not help but sent for her. What is incubated in the mind will one day find an outlet. The unseen root of bitterness will one day shoot out into a visible plant (Hebrew 12:1517). Guard well the doors of your heart, for out of it are the issues of life. Many thoughts flash through the mind every day and most of them are sinful. It is not the accidental flash of an evil thought, but the dwelling upon it that reveals the state of ones mind and the probable path of one's life. A child only turns in his mouth over and over a piece of morsel s/he likes. You cannot prevent a bird from flying over your head, but it is foolish to allow it to build a nest thereon. Victory and failure start in the heart. Select your thoughts and you will be directing your life either for good or bad. The choice is yours and the consequences are great.

### **Fourthly, David devised plots to cover up the sins**

2 Samuel 11:5-27; 12:1-15

It was bad enough for David to have committed such sins. To have stopped there and repent could have ended the downward trend. Instead of doing so, he rather plotted to cover up the sins. The plots led to the killing of Uriah, temporary defeat of Israel and consequent death of many innocent soldiers. It always take greater sins to cover up smaller ones; and the process continues until "your sins shall find you out" (Numbers 32:23). As one good turn deserves another, so does a bad one as well. Trying to cover it up, or to patch it up does not lead to victory but a downward plunge into defeat. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whosoever confesseth and forsaketh them shall find mercy" (Proverb 28:13).

David continued in this downward trend until his sins caught up with him. Prophet Nathan rebuked him. He humbled himself, acknowledged his sins, repented and forsook them. God forgave him, but the scars stained the rest of his reign. No matter how far one may have gone in sin, repentance and forsaking them brings God's mercy upon the sinner. Should one choose to ignore God's mercy, then he cannot escape His wrath later "for our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29). This story reminds us of the wise admonition in 1 Corinthians 10:12 - "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall".