



# QUIT!

breaking the chains of sin



**KHOLISILE KOSANA**

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## Preface

I thank the Lord for the gospel of salvation He has given to the world through the blood of the Lamb. There is nothing that is as pure as the gospel of salvation that we have received through the apostles. This gospel is not only pure, it is the only thing that has the power to liberate all the spiritual prisoners.

I was lost and the power of the gospel located me and saved me from the path of self-destruction. Indeed, I have tasted the fruits of salvation, and I can testify about its power that could set free anyone who has been shackled by the devil. I am a living testimony of the wondrous work of the cross of Calvary, as it liberated me from all forms of unrighteousness, and for that, I would always be indebted to the Lord.

The gospel of salvation will always have the power to liberate any prisoner. Our father has preserved His word for all the generations. Anyone who is tired of serving the serpent would find rest in the word of God. The word of God is the power that the Lord has distributed throughout the world so that it could save many people from the bondage of sin.

However, it is disheartening to notice what is happening around Christendom. There is a lot that is wrong with us. The gospel has been repackaged by the devil. It is no longer the gospel of salvation, it is now the gospel of blessings and signs and wonders. We live in one of the most challenging periods of our time. Our faith is endangered, as it is very difficult to find true followers of the cross. Assuredly, there are many people who call themselves by the name of the Lord, but a lot of them do not understand how to be good students of Jesus. The faith they profess is weak, as there is a serious discord between what they do and profess with their own mouth.

Our faith is experiencing assault from all the angles, hence, many brothers and sisters are not following the Lord faithfully. The greatest harm is caused by our education system, the media and many ministers of the word of God. What many prophets and teachers of the word teach is helping the devil to steal us from the heart of God. A lot of these prophets and teachers are preaching in the church, but they take instructions from the father of lies, Satan. The devil is subverting the gospel and he uses those who profess to be working for Jesus to further his aims.

Satan is encouraging them to preach a different version of the gospel. They are teaching blessings, signs and wonders and omit to teach people about the righteousness of God. Anyone who ministers in the house of the Lord is supposed to minister the gospel of righteousness. Our kingdom is the kingdom of righteousness, and its gospel is the gospel of righteousness. God is holy and everything about Him relates to His holiness.

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you” (Matthews 6:33, HCSB).*

The key message of our gospel is salvation or being transformed into the likeness of God. We need to be saved from sinfulness or spiritual filthiness into the righteousness of God. We must be saved by the righteous blood of the Lamb so that we could attain the righteousness of Jesus.

Every child of God must always hunger for righteousness. We must always desire to be like God, and to be holy all the time. Our blessings and protection are in our likeness to God. Indeed, we could only access our blessings from the Lord when we are like Him. Our Father promises to bless and protect us when we abide in His holiness. The First thing we must desire is to be like Him, not to access our blessings. On the other hand, the devil promises to give us whatever we want, and he promises to give it very quickly.

The strange gospel that is preached around the world is serving the devil, as it is a gospel that encourages people to desire blessings and signs and wonders. People are being encouraged to strive for more material possession, regardless of their spiritual state. Not only are they encouraged to covet material possessions, they are encouraged to seek for signs and wonders regardless of their position in God. This is a twisted gospel, as it is trying to change the spiritual protocols of heaven. These spiritual protocols are fixed, and there is nothing that Satan could do change the will of God. The Lord wants us to be like Him, he wants us to be holy as He is. Indeed, our Father wants to prosper us in all respects, but He could only do that once we are holy as He is. Our likeness to Him would attract all the blessings God has purposed for us.

When prophets and teachers twist the order of things, they would not help us to access the blessings from God. Their message would destroy us, as it would encourage us to desire more blessings that God would not release to us. Our Father loves us so much, but He will not change His will. His will is for us to be holy as He is, and He would only release all the grace we need if we abide in His holiness.

Any message that encourages us to want things from Heaven without desiring the righteousness of God comes from the devil, and anyone who preaches that message has not been sent by the Lord. In fact, whoever preaches this twisted version of the gospel has been sent by the devil regardless of what they may think or profess. Our action reveals our hidden hearts, and when we preach what God does not preach in His gospel of salvation, we are preaching a message from the devil.

The twisted gospel is causing harm in more ways than one. It marinades us for the attacks from the kingdom of darkness. The devil is a liar who always promises to give us everything we want. And when these prophets and pastors preach the gospel of prosperity, they soften us for the devil. Their message would make us focus on the wrong things. It would shift our eyes from the righteousness of God, and when we desire what God does not desire, we would be easy targets of the devil. The devil would promise to give us all the things we desire, and when we fall for his lies, he would trap us into a life of sin. Sin would be presented as a solution to all our problems.

## Introduction

There are many Christians who are struggling to break free from the power of sin. What is the cause of this? There are many reasons for this, and sadly those who struggle to extricate themselves from the power of sin do not know why the devil has such a strong hold on them.

Sin is bondage and this bondage can only be broken by the cross of Calvary. Jesus is the power that helps us to overcome the power of the enemy. No one has the power to defeat the devil except the one who overcame death. Our Master conquered the ultimate power of the enemy, which is death, and because of this, there is nothing that could overcome Him. He is the only Over-comer who died so that we could overcome every powers of darkness.

Every person born of a woman exists within the spiritual terrain of warfare. There is a spiritual battle going around the universe, and there is no one who can escape it. This is a spiritual war between righteousness and evilness, between Jesus and Satan, between the kingdom of light and darkness. The superior kingdom of righteousness operates from heaven and the kingdom of sin operates in the world.

God's seat of power is in heaven, but the throne of the serpent is in the world. Both kingdoms are contending for the souls of people. The Lord wants to give us His righteousness, He wants to keep us pure, but the devil wants to make us dirty with sin. Jesus wants to give us His righteousness so that we may overcome all the powers of the devil. Satan wants to make us dirty with sin so that we may become spiritually weak. The serpent knows that when we are spiritually dirty, we would be defenseless against his attacks.

Sin makes us spiritually dirty and when we are dirty, we would chase away the presence of the Lord in our lives. Our God is holy and He cannot abide in a spiritually dirty environment. When we are spiritually dirty, we will lose the protection of God. The Lord protects us through His presence, and when His presence departs from us, we would be defenceless against Satan.

Sin is our number one enemy because it makes us vulnerable to all the attacks of the devil. Righteousness is the spiritual barrier that protects us from all the weapons of the enemy. We could only receive righteousness by loving the righteousness of God. In order for us to receive righteousness, we must believe in the Righteousness of God, Jesus. By believing in Jesus, we reject the devil and embrace God's holy nature, but when we reject Jesus, we reject righteousness, which is the only defense we have against all the weapons of the enemy.

The devil is very intelligent and he knows when and where to attack us. His main attack against us is to remove us from the righteousness of God. He knows that if he

tempts us to sin, sin would make us lose the spiritual clothes of protection we have put on. Sin is the most potent weapon the serpent uses to attack us. When we are married to sin, we would lose all the protection of heaven. Not only does sin makes us lose the protection of God, it makes us lose all the inheritance we have in Jesus. Indeed, sin makes us very weak, and eventually it would kill us.

This book details everything we need to know about sin and the righteousness of God. It reveals everything God wants us to know about sin and the power of righteousness. We would not remain in the heart of God if we do not understand the power of righteousness. If we do not understand the righteousness of God, we cannot please God.

Undoubtedly, sin is the enemy of righteousness, and we need to understand all the tricks the devil uses to hook us up with sin. If we do not understand sin, we will abide in sin, and when we abide in sin, we would lose all that we have. And if we do not repent of our sinful ways and run to God for forgiveness, we would eventually lose our Lives and we would also jeopardise the lives of those we love. Sin will not only destroy us, it would eventually destroy all the people we love. Everything that is connected to us would not escape the destructive power of sin. Sin is the cancer that destroys all that is good in us.



## Chapter 1



### Bird's eye view of the nature of sin

#### What is sin?

Sin is a spiritual bullet that the devil uses to fight against God. We are involved in a spiritual war not because the devil wants to attack us, we are taking bullets that are aimed at God. The devil is always involved in a battle with Heaven.

We are the proxy of God on earth, and as the representatives of God on earth, we are also fighting against the devil. The spiritual battle we are involved in belongs to our Master, Jesus. He is One who defeated the devil and chased him from heaven. And since the devil was chased from heaven, he is always trying to level the score by attacking the only thing that God loves so much, His children.

Every time a child of God succumbs to sin, the Lord is hurt. He is hurt because He loves us so much and understands the consequences of sin to us. Sin is darkness and death and anyone who loves sin will not escape the trap of death. Indeed, sin is death because it leads to a spiritual as well as a physical death.

The most important level of human existence is a spiritual existence. Jesus died so that we may have a spiritual life and to have it abundantly. When we are alive spiritually, everything that is called by our name would also be alive.

The Lord is our Father who wants us to prosper, and He is disappointed when we succumb to sin. He would be disappointed because He knows that sin would kill everything that is associated with us. Sin kills our joy, peace, prosperity, and it also robs us of our eternal life that God promised us through the death of the Lamb of God.

Sin is any action or thought that fight against the word of God. Surely, sin wants to undermine the authority of God over His creation. The Lord has the first claim over all His creation, and every created thing was created to glorify God. God's creation could only glorify Him when it is subjected to the authority of His word.

*“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for God's glory” (1 Corinthians 10:31, HCSB).*

The Lord's throne is in heaven, and He administers His Lordship over us through His word. His word is our blueprint of life, as it tells us how to live our lives the way God intended. But sin is the opposite of the word of God because its sole intent is to

undermine it. The word of God helps us to glorify the Holy name of the Lord, but sin is doing the opposite, it wants us to shame Jesus.

Anyone who sins rejects God's authority over his life. This is exactly what the devil wants when he tempts us to commit any sinful act. The devil wants us to fight against the only One who loves us so much. His goal is to steal us away from the heart of Jesus.

When the devil has succeeded in stealing us from God, we would live in an environment of spiritual death, and everything that is connected to us would be covered with darkness which is death. We might still be alive bodily, but God would see and define us for what we would be, He would see us as walking dead people. When we are in this sad spiritual space, sorrow, death, and failure would characterise our lives. Failure and death would not only affect us, it would affect our families as well.

### **Two kinds of fellowship with sin**

Sin is connected to temptation, but the two are not the same. Temptation is bait that the devil uses to trap us into an abusive relationship with sin. The devil could tempt us to sin, but if we do not fall into his bait, we are innocent of any wrongdoing. It is only when we decide to bite the bait of sin that we would begin to have fellowship with sin.

Those who have a relationship with sin have fellowship with it at two levels. They either have fellowship with it because they have been deceived into that relationship, or sin is their idol, it is part of who they are and because of that, they cannot live without it.

**Sin is a consequence of temptation.** This is how many people begin their relationship with sin. Many people have been duped into a relationship with sin through temptation. The devil could use anything to tempt us to fall into a relationship with sin.

He could use those who are close to us to bring us into his kingdom. Anyone who lives in sin worships the devil. Indeed, more often than not, the serpent will exploit our weaknesses in order to trap us into a relationship with him. He could use our ignorance of the word of God to lie to us, he could use our needs to bring us into his fold, or he could exploit our weak character or personality to put a ring of sin in our finger.

If we are not honest or if we are impatient, the devil will use these weaknesses to make us commit sin. In fact, the devil could use any weaknesses that we have to lead us into sin. When we have a weak character, the devil will succeed to tempt us with sin.

The serpent also exploits our ignorance of the word of God to make us do what we are not supposed to do. When he uses our ignorance of the word of God against us, we

will commit sin without realising the impact and consequences of our actions. Undoubtedly, many people commit sin out of ignorance of the word of God.

You cannot please God if you do not know how to please Him. The word of God explains all the expectation of God for us. If you do not know the word of God, you are already living in sin. You might not know this, but it is the truth. You might be having a relationship with sin without realising that you are living in opposition to the word of God.

**Sin is an idol.** After the serpent has trapped you to commit one sin, he will make sure that sin becomes your permanent partner. When you have developed a permanent relationship with sin, you would have backslid. Not only would the devil marry you to one sin, he would make sure that you are wedded to any kind of sin he wants to hook you with.

When the evil snake encourages you to commit one sin, he is actually introducing you to his vast world of sin. In due course, he would marry you to all kinds of sin, and as a result of that, you would not mind doing any sin. At this stage of your life, you would have forgotten about God and the authority of His word over your life.

When you have a permanent relationship with a particular sin or a number of sins, you would not be able to live without those sins. Anyone who cannot live without sin has made sin his god. Indeed, when sin is your lord, it becomes the most important thing in your life.

When sin is your idol, your behaviour would always be influenced by it. Sin is bossy and abusive. It knows how to issue instructions to people, and it would always compel them to do what it has instructed them to do. Anyone who listens to the instructions of sin has really made sin his idol. This person would worship sin the way he would worship God. Sin would take the place of God, as it would be the number one thing that determines his behaviour.

Sin is addictive and due to this, it will tell you what to do, how you must do it, and when you should do it. When you are addicted to sin, you would prioritise sin over anything, including your own family and health.

When you are wedded to the bottle or nicotine, you would drink, or smoke even though you might not feel like drinking or smoking. If you are married to fornication or adultery, you would also be controlled by these vices. You would do all that sin tells you to do, and unfortunately, you would disregard anyone who holds a different view.

Any person who is wedded to fornication or adultery is prepared to fight with anyone who wants them to break free from these sins. He would be prepared to break his marriage for the sake of sin. A fornicator or adulterer is willing to do everything to

satisfy his lustful desires. He is prepared to waste his money and energy for the sake of the sin he is wedded to.

The same is true for those who love money. The love of money is sinful, and anyone who loves money would do everything to have it. He is prepared to risk everything to get money. He would risk his faith, his life and health for the sake of getting a few dollars. Anyone who loves money is ready to do anything as long as it brings them money or wealth. They are prepared to die, to be imprisoned, or to be sick as long as they could have money. To them, everything is rosy as long as they have money.

Not only would anyone who is involved in sin be prepared to do anything to stay in the abusive relationship with it, he is prepared to die for it. Sin has killed many people and it would continue to do so as long as there are people who worship it.

Those who idolise sin have also associated their names with it. When a person has associated his name with a particular sin, people will associate his name with that specific sin. Indeed, when people think about that sin, it would remind them of the one who is associated with it.

When a person has associated his name with a particular sin, he becomes an active agent of the devil. This person would become the advertisement board of the devil. He would become the walking advertisement for sin, and the serpent would lure others into a relationship with sin through this person.

Indeed, this person would be a point of reference for those Satan wants to trap into a life of sin. If your name is associated with a particular sin, the devil would encourage others to follow you. He would fool them by making them concentrate on the advantages of sin. Sin has no advantage because it kills. But the devil would use your success or fame to lure others into a life of sin, with the promise of fame and success.

If you are rich and live in sin, the devil will connect your riches with sin. He will make people concentrate on your riches, in order to give them the impression that sin has made you rich or famous. This is how the devil would use those who have fallen into sin to lure others into the same trap. Assuredly, when your name is associated with a particular sin, you would be net that the serpent would use to lure others into his evil corner.

## Chapter 2



### **The relationship between sin and man**

It is difficult to understand sin without understanding the relationship between God and man. The Lord desires to have a perfect relationship with us, but sin is the tool of the devil that fights against this noble aim of God.

Sin does not fall from the sky, as it has a context. It is a device set up by the devil to steal us from the heart of God. The devil has been cast out of heaven because he wanted to be God. The serpent uses sin as a tool that would make sure that he has ‘a company of the rejects’. He has fallen out from the heart of God, and he uses sin as a tool that could make us fall from grace.

### **The relationship between man and the word of God**

*“May the glory of the LORD endure forever, may the LORD rejoice in His works”  
(Psalms 104:31).*

The relationship that man has with the word of God flows from the relationship that man has with God. It goes back to the reason God made man. Our God created everything that inhabits the universe so that all His creation could glorify Him. We were all created for God’s pleasure. Man was created to glorify the Lord in all things.

Every living person born of a woman was born out of the will of God, not because our parents wanted to have children. We were not born because our parents have prayed to the Lord, seeking for children. Indeed, some of our parents gave birth to their children after they have asked the Lord to bless them with children.

God has a will that predates the formation of the universe, and that will gave birth to all the children that were born. If the will of God was not to give birth to a child, that child would not be born regardless of the number of prayers his parents might direct to God.

A prayer for children is just a spiritual act that parent do in order to align their will with the will of the Father. The will of the God predates any prayer. In fact, it predates the birth of the parents. The Lord foreknew us before we were conceived in the wombs of our mothers. He is the one who made it possible for us to be born, and it is for this reason that every created person was born for God’s pleasure. We were born so that we could all glorify the Holy name of the Father.

The Lord delights in us when we behave in a manner that He approves. He has given us His word so that it may help us to do things according to His expectation. The word of God is a spiritual tool that helps us to glorify our Father in heaven. When we do according to the word of God, we put a smile on His face, but when we act in

opposition to His word, we shame His holy name. Anyone who acts in opposition to God and His word behaves sinfully. Therefore, sin is a tool that Satan uses to make us dishonour God.

Assuredly, sin is the number one thing that makes us fight against our Father. Sin stands against all that our God stands for. The Lord is holy and He wants to have a relationship with those who abide in holiness, but sin has the opposing aim, it wants us to move away from the heart of God.

A sin is an act that fights against the word of God. Indeed, sin could never be defined outside man, because it is related to him. Sin is an action or thought that is undertaken by man in opposition to the will of God.

The Lord rules man through His word. His word expresses His perfect will for man. His word is a blueprint that helps us to please our God. It sets boundaries of what man could do and what man is prohibited from doing. When we do according to His word, we glorify our Father, but when we fight against His word, we act in opposition to His authority over us.

### **How did the relationship between sin and man start?**

*“Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden’?”*

*The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’ ”*

*“No! You will not die,” the serpent said to the woman. “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil”  
(Genesis 3:1-5).*

The relationship between man and sin started in the Garden of Eden. It started when the devil started to appear on the scene. Formerly, man only had a perfect relationship with God. The obedience of man to the word of God kept his relationship with God perfectly.

Before the devil appeared in the picture, man trembled at the word of God. Man did not see anything wrong with the word of God. It is only when the devil started to cast aspersions on the word of God that man began to question the authority of God.

The word of God is the authority of God over man. It is a tool that the Lord uses to assert His control over us. When we reject the word of God, we reject His authority over us. In the Garden of Eden, God used His word to give man permission to do everything God wanted man to do. What was God’s word that He gave to man in the Garden of Eden? God’s word to man was simple, and man could understand it very clearly. This is what the Lord commanded man to do and not to do:

*“And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die” (Genesis, 2:16-17, HCSB).*

In the Garden of Eden, the word of God related to two things, not a thousand of commandments. Man could eat all the fruit of every tree, except the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Not only did the Lord give man His commandments, He also gave Him the consequences of not obeying His word. What was the consequence of undermining the word of God?

*“for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die”  
(Genesis, 2:17).*

Indeed, it is clear that the consequences of not obeying the word of God were given to man so that God could save him from death. The commandments of God to man are good, even though they may appear rigid and unreasonable. They are given as a grace to warn man of the consequences of undermining God. These commandments flow from the heart of God that overflows with love for His creation.

If God did not love us, He would not care about the pains we may suffer as a result of our rejection of His word. His word warns us about taking the path that fights against God, and everyone who does not obey His word will realise the foolishness of doing so.

When we cry because of our disobedience to the word of God, we would do so out of choice, not because God wants to harm us. His word is intended as grace that is meant to help us to choose the path that God wants us to travel in. This path is the path of peace and perfect fellowship with our Master, Jesus. But when we chose the path of disobedience, we will travel on the road of death and pain.

It is very clear that man understood the expectations of God. Man understood the expectation of God’s word because those expectations were revealed to man in the simple language that man could understand perfectly. Surely, man did not need university degrees to understand the expectations of the Father.

When the devil approached Eve with his evil plan to steal her away from the love of God, it was clear that Eve understood what God expected from her and her husband.

*“Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden’? ”*

*The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die’ ” (Genesis 3:1-3)*

Eve did not only understand the commandments of God, she understood the tree of knowledge of good and evil. She knew exactly where that tree was located. She understood it because the Lord showed it to them. As a result of this, Eve could not feign ignorance of what God said to them.

It is clear from this that when God gives us a commandment, He makes sure that we all know exactly what He is speaking about. It is for this reason that God commanded Moses to write the Ten Commandments, so that all the coming generations may know exactly what God expects from His chosen nation. Indeed, this is the reason we have a Bible that captures the will and mind of God for His children.

There is something that is interesting that the word of God reveals about the devil. The devil is more shrewd than any person created by God. He is shrewd because he understands spiritual issues far better than all of us combined. We could stand on the same path of understanding when we use the might of God's word, which gives us the wisdom of God. When we stand on the strength of the word of God, we could easily defeat any temptation from the serpent.

We can never defeat temptation on the basis of our wisdom because the devil is wiser than all of us combined. Our strength against him is the word of God, which elevates us to the wisdom of God. When we depend on the word of God to fight against temptation, we could overcome every temptation because we would act exactly the way God would act. In this regard, the word of God gives us the nature of God, a nature that could overcome every weapon that the devil may send our way.

It is wise to count on the might of God's strength, which is His word. His word is life and a light to all the children of God, as it helps them to see what they would ordinarily not see. It gives us the spiritual nature of God because through His word, all the spiritual mysteries are revealed to us.

Through His word, we are able to comprehend what a human mind would never understand on its own. When we embrace the strength of His word, we are also able to see what a naked eye can never see, and hear what no human ear could ever hear. We could do all this because the word of God has given us the spiritual nature of God. This spiritual nature makes us see all and know all. This is the spiritual ability that is not constrained by anything.

There is nothing that is more important to a child of God than God's word. God is your Lord only when you submit your life to His word, and He would cease to be your God when you decide to make sin your god.

Anyone who lives in sin worships sin, not God. It does not matter who you are, when you decide to undermine the word of God, you have chosen to define your life outside the influence of God. When you undermine the word of God, you are fighting against God, and you have made sin your new master.



Temptation on its own does not have any spiritual consequence. It is only bait or an offer that the devil dangles towards you in order to encourage you to insult God. Temptation would have a spiritual consequence only when you take that offer to insult God. Temptation and sin are not the same because temptation is a weapon that Satan uses to encourage us to rebel against the authority of God, and sin is the bullet that is released to harm the Lord.

When we accept the offer to undermine God, we have decided to leave the heart of God. Those who abide in the heart of God are those who incline their ears to the word of God. Surely, temptation is a weapon that the devil uses to steal us away from the love of God. And when we rebel against the Lord, we would be godless. In fact, when we reject God, the devil would be our god.

### **The intention of sin**

The devil uses temptation as bait that could hook you in an abusive relationship with sin. If you fall for the bait, you will surely die, and everything that is called by your name will be contaminated with a death of one kind or another.

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6: 23).*

You cannot understand sin without understanding the intentions of sin. Sin is doing the opposite of what God wants to do for us. The Lord wants to give us life and to give life to everything that is associated with us. His will is to resurrect our dead fortunes, and He has given us the righteousness of Jesus to further this aim.

When we gladly receive the gift of Righteousness, everything in us becomes alive. We receive a new spiritual life that joins us with God. And when we are one with Jesus, everything that is called by our name would receive new life. The blood of Jesus restores everything that was dead in our lives. It restores all the important relationships we have with others, and it also gives us unimaginable joy in the arms of the Holy Spirit.

The blood of Jesus also restores our hope of eternal joy that awaits all the children of obedience. When we are in Jesus, we have a new goal that we strive for. We want to receive eternal life that God promised to all who have forsaken the world of sin for the righteousness of God. In this regard, eternal life becomes the race that is set before all the children of God. And anyone who has run the course of his life in righteousness would one day receive his crown of victory, which is a permanent existence in God.

This permanent existence or peace would make us join the counsel of God, where we would no longer be called servants, as we would occupy the throne of righteousness alongside Jesus. We would be the fourth part that makes up the Godhead. We will live in God and God would abide in us forever. There would be a permanent union between God and all the children of righteousness. At that time, we would speak like Jesus when he said:

*“In that day you will know that I am in My Father, you are in Me, and I am in you. The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him” (John 14:20-21, HCSB)*

God wants to give us an abundant life, but temptation wants to hook us up with sin, which is an abusive partner. Anyone who loves sin has a new partner that would suck the life out of them. Sin is an abusive partner that wants to kill you and to kill your position in God. You may find sin attractive and delicious, but sin has not come into your life to give you goodies. It has come to destroy you, and every time sin tastes good, know that it has given you a sting of death.

You might not see the bitter side of sin because you might be so in love with it, but it does exist. You will only realise the consequences of sin when you start to cry or bleed because of it. Sin is death, tears, blood, sickness, defeat and stagnation. Every time you embrace sin, you have embraced all the above. The painful consequences of sin may not come to you simultaneously, but you would experience them all. As long as you love sin, you would cry more, sweat more, bleed more, fail more, be afflicted more, and stagnate more. These are all the fruits of loving sin, and anyone who embraces sin will be rewarded with them.

Indeed, when you love sin, you are involved in an abusive relationship. Sin is an abusive partner as it hates you and wants to destroy you completely. It wants to kill you spiritually and bodily. And these are all the areas of your life that sin wants to destroy: your health; your joy; your favour with God and man; your finances; your marriage; your peace and joy; and ultimately sin wants to steal the promise of eternal life that God made to those who believe in the righteousness of Jesus. There is no area of your life that sin does not intend to destroy.

Sin wants to destroy you completely, but it does not want you to know about this. Sin is cunning and it would always hide its evil intentions against you. It only presents the other side that seems to be beautiful or tasty. There is nothing beautiful about sin, but sin would fool you by making itself beautiful or delicious. Surely, sin may look beautiful and taste good, but this is only a spiritual camouflage. It masks its ugly and poisonous side by looking beautiful or by tasting good.

There is nothing that is as ugly as sin, and there will never be anything that is more poisonous than sin. Sin is more dangerous than any physical weapon you may think of, and it has killed more people than any weapon. It has killed more people than all the world wars combine, and it would continue to do so as long there are people who do not understand its evil intentions against them. Sin has killed more people than all the viruses and bacteria combined because sin is the magnet that attracts viruses and bacteria in your body. If you are involved in a relationship with sin, you would not be in good health, because sin attracts sicknesses.

**Sin is a tool that steals something from you.** Those who are in love with sin do not understand what they have put themselves in. The devil is a liar who would always tell you lies about sin and its consequences. In fact, the devil would do all to conceal how destructive sin is to you and everything that is linked to your name. Every lie from the serpent is meant to keep you blind to what is happening in your life. Sin is destroying the lives of many people, but these people are still in love with it because they do not realise that sin is responsible for the mess they find themselves in.

*“A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance” (John 10:10)*

The devil is a thief who steals from us by making us fall into sin. Sin is a repellent of blessings and all other good things. Where there is sin, there is barrenness. Indeed, sin does not only still your blessings, it still your joy and peace as well. Sin and blessings are mutually exclusive, where you find sin, you will never find any blessing. If you are blessed and live in sin, know that very soon, your blessings will develop wings, they would fly away from you.

All the blessings come from the Lord, and because of this, they are a product of light. God is the light and everything that comes from Him has His light. His light only abides in a spiritual environment of purity or holiness. You would never receive anything from God when you stay where darkness stays. Sin is darkness because it comes from the devil. Anyone who lives in sin has decided to forsake the light of God which brings blessings and breakthroughs.

Sin also steals our spiritual identity or our spiritual calling. Every person born of a woman has a spiritual purpose and this purpose would be achieved through their spiritual gifts. A spiritual gift is our spiritual hand that furthers the mission of heaven on earth. Our spiritual gifts are the gifts that God has given to His church.

A church is the centre of God’s influence on earth. It is a place that has been tasked with saving the lives of many. Our spiritual gifts are linked to the mission of the church, as we use them to advance the kingdom of God on earth. Our spiritual gifts are God’s solution to many problems that are experienced by people.

The world would be a poorer place if we do not operate in our spiritual gifts. Those who are sick would die because there would be no people who could pray for them. When those who have been blessed with the gift of healing pray for people, the Lord is able to heal them. The same is true for those who have been blessed with the gift of giving. Those who are blessed with the gift of giving are able to impact materially on the lives of many.

Many things that people seek from the Lord, would come from all those who have been blessed with different spiritual gifts. When we do not operate in our spiritual gifts, the church would lack the power to transform the world that hungers for the

power of God. The Lord has blessed us with various spiritual gifts so that He could use us to make a meaningful change throughout the world.

The devil knows that every person has been blessed with at least one spiritual gift. Satan is a destroyer, but God wants to bless the world through us. God has purposed us to be the instruments of blessings to others. Satan would always try to prevent us from being used by God as instruments of change. To prevent us from being used by the Lord, the devil would trap us into a relationship with sin so that sin could block us from discovering our spiritual purpose. If you abide in sin, you would not discover the purpose of God for your life.

There is nothing that hides our spiritual purpose than sin. Many people have died without realising their spiritual purpose on earth. The devil is the one who trapped them into a relationship with sin so that he could hide the huge responsibility God has given to them. The Lord has huge plans for all of us, and we could only discover His purpose for us when we abide in His purity.

Satan does not only hide what we have been purposed for, he would fight those who know their mission on earth. He would fight them in order to stop them from doing what God has purposed for them. He would try to trap them to fall into sin in order to destroy what they are doing for the kingdom of God.

Those who are labouring for God through their spiritual gifts would cease to be effective in their ministries when they fall into sin. Sin decreases us spiritually because it chases the presence of the Lord in us. The Holy Spirit is the one who is responsible for our spiritual gifts, and as soon we fall into a relationship with sin, the Spirit of Holiness will depart from us, and we would not have access to His power.

Satan does not want us to make a meaningful change to the world, and he would wed us to sin so that sin could destroy our spiritual blessings. Anyone who has not discovered his spiritual calling would fail to do so as long as he is involved with sin, and those who are labouring for the Lord in their spiritual gifts would soon lack the power to minister the grace of God to others as soon as they fall into sin.

God has big plans for us, and the Lord has blessed us with different spiritual gifts so that we could be His agents of change on earth. Our spiritual gifts are so powerful and infinite for the one who has blessed us with those gifts is infinite. We would grow in our spiritual gifts when we abide in the holiness of God, but we will soon decrease when we make sin our partner.

Sin would steal what you have and what you stand to have. It steals the blessing you are currently enjoying, and it would steal those blessings that you are not aware of. When you live in sin, you would never discover the purpose of God for your life. A life of righteousness is the only thing that would open all the doors for you, it would open doors that you never imaged possible.

**Sin is a tool that Satan uses to makes us lukewarm.** The serpent is very cunning indeed. He would try to prevent us from realising our true potential. The devil would do all that he could do to make sure that we are not saved. He is preventing many people from discovering what Jesus did for them on the cross of Calvary. He would keep them occupied with sin so that they may not realise their need for salvation.

When the serpent has failed to prevent them from discovering the saving power of the cross of Calvary, he would do all to interfere with their faith, by making them weak Christians who are lukewarm. Satan knows that a lukewarm Christian is still wedded to him. Any person who is spiritually lukewarm has a confused identity because he does not know whether he belongs to Jesus or Satan. He is a spiritual fence-sitter. A lukewarm person does not know whether he is coming or going.

The spiritual rules do not permit this situation because the spiritual realm is the world of absolutes. You are either with Jesus or the devil because you cannot have it both ways. Anyone who is a spiritual fence-sitter belongs to the devil because the devil is the author of confusion.

Assuredly, anyone who is spiritually lukewarm is caught between two spiritual worlds. He wants to be with Jesus, but at the same time, the world still appeals to him. This person has not made a clean break with the devil as he still loves sin. Anyone who loves sin loves the author of sin, who is the devil.

*“So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth” (Revelation 3:16).*

God hates anyone who is spiritually lukewarm because the Lord hates pretence. Anyone who is spiritually lukewarm pretends to be with Jesus, whereas he is still in love with the devil. This is spiritual prostitution, which the Lord hates so much.

God is holy, and due to this, we cannot play spiritual games with Him. The Lord can distinguish between a genuine person and a fake one. Anyone who is lukewarm is not genuine about his faith. That person wants to be accepted by the world and God at the same time.

When you want to be acceptable to the world, you would not be acceptable to Jesus. Our Master expects us to be faithful as he is a faithful God. Anyone who blows hot and cold still has not found the truth. He has not found the way that leads to the cross of Calvary. That person may claim to be born again, but that would be a lie for that person would still be wedded to the devil and sin.

You may not realise that a spiritually lukewarm person loves sin because he may appear like any normal Christian. He may go to church every day, and partake in the activities of the church. Indeed, God sees the heart of a lukewarm person. A lukewarm person can hide from us, but he will never hide from the piercing eyes of God.

Anyone who is spiritually lukewarm labours in vain for the Lord, the Lord does not recognise what that person is doing. The Lord searches our hearts every second, and he knows the motives of our actions. Anyone who is lukewarm is just acting for other Christians.

That person wants to be regarded as a God loving person, but he still loves the devil. His heart is not with God. Indeed, his body may be in the house of the Lord, but his mind or soul would always be in fellowship with the devil.

The devil is not threatened by pretenders. Anyone who is lukewarm does not threaten the kingdom of darkness because that person is still controlled by the devil despite attending church every day. The Lord will never use anyone who has confused identities. Our Father can only use a faithful person who would be willing to die for His name's sake.

Any lukewarm person might like to be used by the Lord for His glory, but God is a very principled God. He does not use what does not belong to Him. If your heart is with the devil, the Lord would not use you.

If you want to be used by God, you need to confess your situation to him. Ask Him to help you with your confused situation. When your heart truly hates sin and embraces the righteousness of God, the Lord would help you to break free from the control of the devil. God is a pure God who wants us to be as pure as He is. He could only use us to glorify His name when we love His righteousness and reject sin and the devil.

Many Christians are spiritually lukewarm, and because of that, the church lacks people who may impact positively on the lives of those who still need a Saviour to free them from the bondage of sin. The church's strength is equal to the strength of those who attend it. If the majority of people who attend a particular church are spiritually lukewarm, that church would also lack the power to minister effectively to those who need the message of salvation.

God could only unlock our spiritual potential when we are hot and desire to be used by Him for His glory. We are born without understanding the spiritual treasures entrusted to us. When we are lukewarm, we will never realise our spiritual potential. Those who are lukewarm may die without realising what the Lord has purposed for their lives.

Those who are so in love with Jesus and loves what He loves, would one day realise all the spiritual treasures entrusted by Heaven upon them. These people are the ones who had found the truth about Jesus, and they want to be part of His righteousness. They realise that life is only meaningful when they abide in the holiness of God. This is the group of people that God would one day use to glorify His holy name.

The devil is a master schemer, who makes people spiritually lukewarm so that he could render them spiritually weak. Anyone who is spiritually lukewarm does not have a prayerful life, and they do not like to read the word of God. In fact, there is little that interests them about God. They may attend church daily, but their hearts do not burst with the love for Jesus. They are just content to be seen as normal Christian who attend church and partake in the normal activities of the church.

Those who are spiritually lukewarm can free themselves from this condition if they realise what the devil has done to them. God could set them free from any bondage of darkness, but firstly, they must realise that they are spiritually lukewarm because sin still appeals to them.

Their lukewarmness means they are still in love with the world and all its sinful pleasures. They need to repent of this and ask the Holy Spirit to set them freed from any tentacle of the devil. The Lord is faithful and when you ask Him to do anything for you, He would do it if you are sincere in your heart.

Undoubtedly, all lukewarm people do not have a stand on many issues. Not only do they lack a position on many issues, they do not know whether they are standing or seated. They will never take the side of the truth on all matters. Indeed, many of them would rather not say something about everything, as this is the safest route for them. They are afraid that if they reveal their true identity, people would know where they stand in relation to Jesus and His righteousness.

A lukewarm person is like someone who has backslid. The only difference between a backslider and a lukewarm person is that a lukewarm person has not found God. He pretends to have found God, whereas his heart is still trapped in the heart of the devil.

This person has not really made a choice between Jesus and the devil. He might go to church regularly and he might have confessed Jesus as his Lord and Saviour, but this is not genuine. He may have done that for any other reason, except the love of Jesus and His righteousness.

We confess Jesus as our Lord and Saviour because we have realised that sin has made us weak and dirty. But a lukewarm person confesses Jesus as the Lord and Saviour so that he may be regarded as a child of God. He has confessed Jesus as the Lord and Saviour because he wants to be in the company of other Christians. He has done all this to be in the company of other Christians, not to be in heart of Jesus. Anyone who wants to be in the hearts of Jesus loves the righteousness of God that radiates around Jesus

Indeed, the devil is very clever, he could fool you by making you believe you are saved whereas the opposite is true. Anyone who is lukewarm still has to be saved by Jesus, and before he could be saved, he must hate sin and love righteousness.

The Holy Spirit is the one who makes us realise what sin has done to us. He is the one who makes us understand how precious Jesus and His righteousness is. Undoubtedly, the Holy Spirit is the one who makes us desire to run to Jesus so that we may receive salvation.

If you are lukewarm, confess this to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to give you a new heart that loves Jesus. Ask Him to give you a heart that stands for all that God stands for. God is holy and anyone who loves God would love His holiness, and he would at all times want to abide in that beautiful state of holiness. Indeed, anyone who loves the holiness of God hates sin passionately.



## Chapter 3



### **Temptation as bait that hook you into a relationship with sin**

You will never understand temptation unless you understand how Eve was tempted in the Garden of Eden. The devil is a fool as he always uses the same strategy to tempt people to move away from the love of God. Indeed, when the devil tempts you, he will use the same strategy he used to tempt Eve. He might use different words to do so, but the strategy will always be the same.

#### **The strategy he used to tempt Eve**

The devil will tempt you so that you may undermine God and His word. This is exactly what the serpent did when he tempted Eve.

Why does the word of God call the devil the serpent? You need to understand what it as an angel and how angels manifest their presence to humans. Angels are spiritual beings, and because of this, it is difficult for a human eye to see them. There are different categories of angels and they manifest their presence differently. Some angels manifest their presence as human whilst others manifest their presence as beast or animals, and some as birds. Surely, some angels manifest their presence as humans with animal or bird's features.

Satan was once an angel who was loved by God, but he was chased away from heaven when he wanted to be God. The word of God is not mistaken when it calls the devil a serpent because the devil manifests his presence as a serpent. Indeed, the devil is very cunning, he might disguise his appearance by manifesting his presence as an animal or a bird, but he is a snake by nature. His spiritual nature is a nature of a serpent, and he has all the qualities of a serpent. He can camouflage his physical appearance, but he remains a serpent. And because of this, the kingdom of darkness is the kingdom of snakes. All the soldiers of the devil, whether they are demons or devil workers are all snakes, because they have the nature of their father who is the greatest snakes in his kingdom.

The devil is very cunning, as he will encourage us to debate or argue about spiritual matters we understand little about. A man's mind is very weak and blank with regard to spiritual matters. Apart from the word of God, we do not have any spiritual knowledge at all. Our minds do not understand spiritual issues, and as a result of this, we are not in a position to debate or argue about spiritual matters we understand little about.

When the devil encourages you to debate or argue about spiritual matters you understand little about, he knows that you are already defeated because whatever you might say would come from ignorance. We cannot stand alone without the help of

God and His word, for the word of God is intended to give us the knowledge of spiritual matters in a language that we could all understand.

The word of God gives us the power to understand what we would ordinarily not understand. When we argue a spiritual matter in line with the word of God, we are standing on the strength of God, because we would talk about what God knows, which is the truth. Our strength is the power and wisdom of God, and owing to this, we are not supposed to have views of our own with regard to spiritual matters.

Our independent views on spiritual matters are dead views, as they come from the foolishness of our human mind. A human mind does not know spiritual matters, and when we rely on our human mind, we rely on what is foolish and dead.

When the serpent appeared on the scene in the Garden of Eden, his intention was to shift man from the influence of God, by appealing to man to use his mind instead of relying on the wisdom of God. The serpent succeeded to tempt man away from the heart of God, by making man view spiritual matter independently from God.

Every time we express our own views independently of the word of God, we are already defeated. If we want to stand against any temptation from the devil, we must express the views of God on all matter that concerns us. This is the strength that we have in God, it is the strength we receive from depending on His word. His word is our eyes, ears, and wisdom.

We must only desire to know what is revealed by the word of God because this is a very safe road for us. Any spiritual issue that has not been revealed by the word of God is meant to steal you away from God. Surely, every knowledge that does not come from the word of God comes from the devil, and that knowledge is not knowledge at all, it is deception which is supposed to destroy the relationship you have with God.

When the devil tempts you, he will use a five-pronged strategy to achieve his goal of moving you from the influence of God. Every move of temptation is targeted at the word of God because the devil knows the best way of stealing you away from God is to make you undermine His word. This is what the word of God commanded Adam and Eve to do and not to do:

*“The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die’ ” (Genesis 3:2-3).*

From the above, it is clear what God instructed man to do in the Garden of Eden. It is also very clear from Eve’s confession that she knew exactly what God expected them to do. The devil launched an attack against that clear message of God, and this is how he went about it:

*“Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden’? ” (Genesis 3:1, HCBS).*

This question from the devil was not an innocent question as it was an assault against the authority of God. The devil was actually saying, ‘What authority does God have over you?’ The first strategy that the serpent uses to attack you would be to attack the authority of God over your life.

What was Eve supposed to do when she was confronted with a question from the serpent? She was not supposed to answer that question. The appropriate response was supposed to be, ‘Who are you and where do you come from?’

You must never discuss or argue about spiritual matters without knowing who you are discussing with, and what is their intention of discussing with you. When you know the true identity of a person and the motives of his views or questions, you would not discuss in ignorance. When the person reveals his true colours, you will know their intention, and because of this, that person will never fool you or hook you into a spiritual terrain of the devil.

Eve did not see the bait that the devil cast her way. She did not see the trap of the devil because she did not know the identity of the devil. She only saw a snake and thought the snake was asking an innocent question. And because Eve did not know the identity and the intentions of the serpent, she engaged with it on a spiritual matter she understood little about.

The Lord commanded man not to eat from the tree that was in the midst of the garden, and he did not reveal the reasons for this. The Lord knew the reason He was warning them not to eat of that tree. Eve was supposed to be content with what God has revealed to them, and she was supposed to stick to the revelations from the word of God.

The serpent is shrewd, he wanted her reason for not eating the fruit of that tree because he knew that Eve was ignorant of spiritual matters. The devil was pulling Eve to the unfamiliar spiritual territory, and he knew that once he succeeded to pull her into that spiritual space, Eve would be easily defeated.

God’s word or His commandments are spiritual because they talk about spiritual matters our minds understand little about. Our minds do not have the capacity to understand the spiritual issues outside the help of the word of God. Assuredly, the word of God is the only thing that gives us insight into all the spiritual matters we do not understand. We depend on the word of God to understand things we would not ordinarily understand. In this regard, the word of God is our assurance of the truth, as it reveals the true wisdom of God to us.

When we try to engage with the things that God did not reveal in His word, we are allowing the devil to pollute our mind with deception. The devil was an angel and he

knows spiritual matters that none of us knows. He knows the word of God and its power over his deceptive ways. The serpent knows that his weapon against us is to shift us from the protection of the word of God. When we do not rely on the word of God, we are sheep waiting to be slaughtered by the devil.

The second strategy of the devil is to drive us to speak and believe things that the word of God did not reveal to us. When we believe what the word of God has not revealed, we believe a lie. The serpent will always try to make us look away from what the word of God teaches. He introduces false teachings that contradict the word of God so that he could keep us away from the truth, which is only contained in the word of God.

Every child of God must at all times be vigilant to the vices of the devil because the serpent is trying to steal us from the heart of God. We must discern everything that we come across, lest we succumb to its evil intentions of destroying us.

When the serpent questioned Eve about the forbidden tree and the commandments of God to them, he already knew that Eve was already cornered. Eve was spiritually blind and she was foolish to engage with a deceiver who knows the word of God perfectly. Satan knows the word of God and not only does he know it, he knows its power over his lies. This was Eve's answer to the serpent?

*“We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die’ ” (Genesis 3:2-3).*

Eve was talking to an enemy without knowing it, and due to this, her guards were lowered. She was too relaxed to bother about the identity of the devil and she paid a hefty price for that. And the devil seized the opportunity to hook her into his dirty corner. The answer that Eve gave him was an opportunity to sway her from the word of God, and this is how the devil went about it:

*“No! You will not die,” the serpent said to the woman” (Genesis 3:4).*

Satan gave her the opinion she did not ask for, but the devil nonetheless gave it as it was the weapon that he was using to steal her away from God. The response from the serpent was a false assurance which assured her that it was safe to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree. The devil was actually saying, ‘God is lying, this is not the truth, in a moment, I will reveal the truth to you.’

The third strategy that the serpent uses to steal us from the heart of God is to give us false assurances that are meant to encourage us to undermine the word of God. There is no one who can give false assurance than Satan. Every false assurance he gives to you is meant to give you a false sense of security. He would give you an assurance that you will not die or be disappointed if you undermine the word of God, but the opposite will happen. Every false assurance would in due time prove false, and if you

have fallen for his lies, you might realise when things are very bad that you were duped by the serpent.

The devil is the greatest liar, but God is the truth, the way, and the light. The devil will more often than not rubbish the word of God as false because he wants to undermine it. By labelling the word of God as false or irrelevant, the devil wants to encourage us to break it. The greatest weapon that the serpent uses against us is to encourage us to undermine God by undermining His word.

The devil cannot destroy us without first deceiving us to believe a lie. In this regard, he will tempt us to disbelieve God and to believe in his lies. Every move of the devil is meant to deceive us about the truth. To do so, the devil would make us question everything God says in His word.

Satan will always encourage us to question God, by giving us a false sense of pride and wisdom. He makes us think that we have a mind that can think about spiritual matters outside the revelation of the word of God. Surely, the serpent has fooled many people by making them think that their social status and academic achievements, in particular, give them permission to engage in spiritual matters they understand little about. What is unknown to them is that there is no academic degree that could reveal spiritual matters. But the devil will hide this truth to them and make them take shelter in their own achievement and social status.

When he gives us a false sense of pride and ability to think about spiritual matters, he elevates us to the level of God, because it is only God who knows the absolute truth about all spiritual matters. It is only God who knows the truth and the way.

Clearly, when the serpent was giving the false counsel, *'No! You will not die,'* he was encouraging them to undermine the word of God. In this regard, he was encouraging them to touch what they were not supposed to touch. Not only was he encouraging them to touch the fruit of the forbidden tree, he was also encouraging them to go ahead and eat it.

The fourth and fifth strategies he uses against us are to encourage you to touch and eat what you are not supposed to touch and eat. The devil knows the correlation between many related things. He knows the correlation between our eyes and heart, and between our hearts and actions.

Your eyes make you think about something. And when you like what you have been thinking about, your mind would encourage you to touch it so that you may confirm what your mind has revealed to you. When you touch and find it fit for your body or mind, you will take a bite. If it tastes good, you would want to take as many bites as you could take.

The devil is very cunning indeed, he did not say to Eve, ‘Eat the fruit of the forbidden tree,’ There was no need for him to do so, as he was using the power of suggesting to say exactly this.

By saying, ‘*No! You will not die,*’ the devil was effectively saying, ‘Go ahead and touch it, you will see that it is not poisonous. Whilst touching it, take a bite and taste how delicious it is. The fruit of this tree not only taste good, they contain a secret which God does not want you to know. Once you eat the forbidden fruit, you shall have the power and wisdom of God. God knows that the fruit of this tree will elevate you to His level. He is hiding the truth from you, and it is only me who is telling you the truth out of the goodness of my heart. If you really want to be like God, take a bite. I know these things, I know you will not die from eating the fruit of this wonderful tree, take a bite.’

Many people have fallen into sin because they have seen and touch things they were not supposed to see or touch. Many a times, when the devil wants you to commit sin, he will encourage you to look at things you are not supposed to look at. He knows that if you can look at them long enough, you will want to touch them. And once you touch them, you will want to take a bite in order to determine how they taste. Once you take the first bite, he will encourage you to take as many bites as you could take.

Once you take a bite of sin, you are likely to be hooked into that sin forever. It is for this reason that the word of God warns us to play away from sin. Once you taste one sin, you will want to do it over and over again. At this point, it will be difficult for you to go back to the heart of God, for sin would have blinded you completely.

### **Did the devil’s strategy work?**

Indeed, the devil succeeded to tempt man away from the heart of God. The devil did this by encouraging man to break the commandments of God. He did not only do this, he gave a false assurance, ‘*You will not die.*’

Another question that is worth exploring is what happened to man after he ate of the forbidden fruit? Did he die after eating the fruit of the forbidden tree? The answer to this question is yes and no. Man died and he did not die. This is exactly what the devil was looking for, the devil is a master of confusion and deception. To understand the matter properly, we need to look at what God meant when he said:

*“And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die” (Genesis 2:16-17).*

The commandment of God said, ‘*on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.*’ What did God mean by this statement as we are also told in the fifth chapter of Genesis that Adam lived for 930 years?

*“So Adam’s life lasted 930 years; then he died” (Genesis 5:5).*

It is clear from the above that after Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, they continue to live for many years. After Eve ate the fruit of the forbidden tree, I could hear the devil saying ‘look at you, you are still alive, aren’t you. See, God is the liar and I am the only one who was telling the truth. You must believe everything that comes from me and doubt anything that comes from your God.’

On the surface, it looks like the serpent was right and God was wrong. A human mind will regard the serpent as truthful because of what appears on the surface. Unfortunately, for the human mind, God was correct and the serpent was false. Not only was the devil wrong, he knew that he had deceived Eve to believe a lie.

The word of God is deep and spiritual, and it reveals spiritual matters. When we view what happen in the Garden of Eden, we must not focus on the surface, we need to consider the deep spiritual truths of what really happened. For us to consider spiritual issues of the word of God, we need to ask ourselves what God meant when He said:

*“On the day you eat from it, you will certainly die” (Genesis 2:16-17).*

God was not speaking about the physical death, He was referring to a spiritual death. What is a spiritual death? It is to be chased away from the heart of God and to live outside the presence of God.

Man lives in the heart of God because of the relationship he has with God and His word. When man rejects the word of God, He rejects God and as a result of this, God will also terminate the spiritual relationship He has with him. When the Lord terminates this spiritual relationship with man, man will die even though he may bodily be alive.

The true life is a spiritual life because a spirit lives for eternity. When man lives in the heart of God, he will live with God in eternity, but when he rejects God and His word, he will surely die. This is what the Lord meant when He said, *‘In the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die.’*

Anything that is immersed in the glory of God is holy and because it is holy it is the light. All the things that are the light are alive since the light of God is the source of life. Whoever is not covered with the glory of God is dead as they exist outside the light of God. Whatever that is not covered by the light of God abides in darkness. Darkness is death and all the things that abide in darkness are controlled by the devil who is the source of death. Jesus gives life, but the devil sucks the life from the creation of the Lord.

As soon as both Eve and Adam ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, God cast them out from His heart or from His presence, and as a result of that, they both experienced spiritual death. They were naked, without the cover of the glory of God.

What is interesting is that the devil experienced the same spiritual death he was encouraging Adam and Eve to go through. Satan was an angel who wanted to be above God and because of that, he was cast out from heaven. He encouraged Eve to desire to be like God so that God could chase her away from His heart. His advice was solely meant to destroy Eve and her husband, Adam, by condemning them to a life of pain and suffering. There is no life outside the glory of God as the Lord's presence gives life to anything that it covers.

*“Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was thrown out — the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him” (Revelation 12: 7-9).*

When the serpent gave the false assurance that Eve would not die from eating the forbidden fruit, he knew very well that Eve and Adam were going to be rejected from the heart of God. This is exactly what he wanted, he wanted them to experience the same pain he went through when he was cast out of heaven. He wanted companions who would stay with him outside the heart of God.

Eve did not understand the spiritual consequences of rejecting the commandments of God. She thought God meant they would die bodily if they ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree. Eve and Adam did not only die spiritually, but they were both chased away from the Garden of Eden. The Lord also condemned them into a life of difficulty, and due to that, Eve experienced terrible childbearing pains, and Adam had to work very hard for his food.

*The LORD God said, “Since man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever.” So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3: 22-24, ESV)*

Before they were both cast out of the Garden of Eden, their will was perfectly aligned to the will of God, and the glory of the Father was covering them all the time. But after they fell out of the heart of God, they began to have a will that operated outside the will of the Father.

The glory of the Lord that covered them was also taken away, and owing to that, they began to be carnal. Their human nature began to control their lives hence they discovered that they were naked. They were naked all the time without realising it. It was only when the spiritual presence of the Lord departed from them that they began to see what they could not see before.



The departed glory of the Lord made them see what they could not see. In this regard, they began to have a notion of right and wrong, which was a new thing to them. Formerly, everything was perfect because they lived within the perfect will of the Father, but now that the presence of the Lord has departed from them, they began to see things in black and white, wrong from right.

## Chapter 4



### **The method that the devil uses to encourage you to commit sin**

The devil would use different ways to encourage you to fight against God. These are all the deceptive ways he uses to hook many into a life of sin:

#### **He hides terms and conditions of sin**

The serpent is cunning as he always wants to hide the sting of sin. He will never reveal all you need to know before you commit any sinful act. He will always reveal the false benefits of sin. Sin has no benefit at all. All that seems good about sin is poison wrapped in a beautiful package.

When the devil tempts you to commit sin, he makes an offer that appeals to your needs. This offer might seem too good to be true so that you may fall for it. These are offers that sins will make to you:

**False joy and peace.** Sin will make you focus your mind on immediate self-gratification. Anyone who commits sin does not consider the consequences of his actions on other people. He does not care who says what, all he is focused on is to get as much pleasure as he could get from his sinful actions. A person who is wedded to sin does not think of any other thing, except the pleasure and the warmth of sin. Sin might taste good and give you a kick, but that kick is the kick of death.

Some other times, you might feel a sense of achievement from committing a certain sin. Clearly, sin is enjoyable to those who commit it, and it gives many a false sense of peace. But sin has come into your life not to play with you, but to give you tonnes of tears. It has come to bury you alive, and you would realise when you are defeated that sin has duped you to believe a lie.

Many people would realise the devastating consequences of sin when they are bound to wheelchairs and when their bodies are bruised and broken. At times, they would realise when they are dead that sin has taken their life.

**False sense of prosperity.** Many people are rich because of sin. Some people also get employment or contracts because sin has promised them prosperity. Any prosperity that comes from illicit ways will have a sting of death.

If you prosper because of sin, sin will one day ask you to pay back all the favours it has given you, and if you cannot pay, you will be the servant of sin as long as you live. All the people who prosper as a result of sin will be bound to sin for as long as they do not realise the dangerous consequences of their sinful actions.

Once you commit a sin to receive a financial benefit, that sin will always make sure that you are always married to it. You will only get money or contracts when you keep your relationship with it. Once you divorce it, you will start to experience financial problems. In this regard, you will prosper financially as long as sin is still your partner.

What is sad is that as you continue to prosper because of sin, your life will be turned upside down. When you are married to sin, the consequences of sin will follow you. These consequences might not be related to your financial position, but they will be related to all that is around you.

When you make sin your partner, know that you have invited demons to come into your life. Once these demons come into your life, they will scatter everything that is related to you. They will attack your family and your health. When these demons are finished with you, you would experience pain and failure in many areas of your life. You might still have the finances, but money will not protect you from demonic attacks.

Anyone who is married to the devil will also be married to his demon soldiers, who are always in the business of destroying people who are obedient to sin. This is a simple spiritual protocol. All the people who love sin will be contaminated with death and failure. And anyone who loves the righteousness of God will enjoy the protection and favour of Heaven. The devil pays those who are married to him with tears, and Jesus blesses those who thirst for holiness with all the riches that flows from the fountain of righteousness.

**False fame.** Sin has attracted many people to a false life of stardom. The lure of fame has driven many to do anything possible to get the attention of the public. They are willing to sink to the lowest level to get fame. Many of them live in sorrow because the source of their fame is sin. Depression is the most common sickness among them because many of those who hunger for fame are so in love with sin, but their abusive lover is doing everything possible to destroying them.

Their families are also not immune to the destruction that is happening to them, as their families are so full of emptiness and sorrow. Those who want fame do not care about the implication of their sinful life to their families. They will do whatever it takes to keep their public profile positive by doing what is negative and sinful. Surely, these people are hurting, but they are hiding their pain from the world. Many of them live a lie because they are crying inside, but they do not want people to see their sorrow.

Sin can fool you completely by making you the toast of the public whilst you are suffering inside. It makes you believe that things are good as long as you are in the public's eye. As a result of this, those who love fame are abusing drugs and alcohol

because they are seeking for peace and joy. Unfortunately for them, substance abuse will not give them any peace. Substance abuse is a consequence of loving sin. Undoubtedly substance abuse is another weapon that sin will use to kill you or to break your body.

It is only Jesus who could set people free from the pool of tears. Alcohol and drugs will not relieve their problems, they would multiply them a hundred folds. In fact, alcohol and drugs will hasten their demise. They will die young and broken because their abusive partner has made them live a lie.

The devil will hide all the bitter consequences of sin with the intentions of tripping you to fall into sin. Sin is darkness as it comes from the master of darkness, the devil. Anything that comes from the devil is contaminated with death, failure, tears and sorrow, poverty and a life of spiritual bondage. Death and failure will always follow those who are in love with sin, because sin is an abusive partner who knows only one thing, to destroy people completely.

### **He encourages people to abuse the grace of God**

Those who abuse the grace of God believe that God loves them regardless of their love for sin. They believe a lie that was peddled by the serpent.

God is holy and everything about Him is holy. He is the Lord of the kingdom of righteousness. He loves all the sinners, and because of that, He wants to give them freedom from the abusive sin. Jesus died on the cross so that He could free us from the bondage of sin. We were all saved by His blood so that we may forsake the kingdom of sin and abide in His kingdom of righteousness.

The devil attacks everyone with lies. He is attacking those who have been saved and those who are still living in the world. When he lies to those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, he wants them to go back to a life of sin. He encourages them to sin by lying about sin and its consequences.

Once they fall for his lies, they will forsake the righteousness of God for a life of sin. They might still call themselves born again or children of God, but this will be a lie. A person is called a child of God because he wants to be like his Father, who loves righteousness and hates sin. Once a person loves what the devil loves, he is the child of the devil, not Jesus.

The devil lies to them by saying God will not condemn or judge them as they have already been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. This is a lie many have fallen for. As a result of this lie, many people are still clinging to sin.

When Satan peddles this lie to those who have not gone to Calvary, he is blinding them with lies in order to prevent them from realising how spiritually dirty they are.

A person would only want to go to the cross of Calvary when he realise how spiritual dirty he is. If sin is not a problem, then no one would want to be saved by Jesus. When the serpent encourages people not to worry about sin, he knows that he will keep them to himself. They will be spiritual prisoners as long as they do not realise how dangerous sin is.

### **He will always lie about God's power of salvation**

The devil is the biggest liar and he will always lie about what the cross of Calvary has done for all who believe in the Lamb of God, Jesus.

The cross of freedom has freed us from the power of sin, and it has also given us the spiritual power of God so that we may dominate our human nature. We are the children of God who have the spiritual nature of our Father. We are no longer controlled by the desires of our human nature as we are driven by a desire to please our Master in all things.

*“For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose” (Philippians 2:13).*

Anyone who is born again has been given the Holy Spirit so that He could help us to be obedient to the word of God. Indeed, we have the ability to please God because of the help of the Spirit of the Lord, who abide in us. Sin no longer has power over us, because it is no longer attractive to us. Every child of God is no longer impressed by the things that impress the world, as we are only focused on pleasing Jesus.

For this reason, we detest anything that will shame the name of our Father. This is what the cross of Calvary has done for. It has transformed our spiritual mind by giving us the heart of God. This heart is only programmed by God to hunger for His righteousness. It is a heart that wants to be covered by the glorious presence of the Lord all the time. This heart understands that power only comes through obedience to the word of God.

When the devil lies about our salvation, he feeds our minds with poison so that we may not believe in the power of righteousness over sin. The devil will always say to us, ‘It is not possible to please God because we are human, and due to this, we must be driven by the desires of our human nature.’

The serpent will always say, ‘There is no one who can live a holy life.’ This is a lie and the serpent knows about it. He will tell us lies because he always wants us to be wedded to sin for the rest of our lives. He knows the power of the Holy Spirit who abides in us. The Spirit of the Lord will always help us to dominate sin. Sin will always be under our control as long as we still believe in the righteousness of God.

This is the power of the new covenant we have in Jesus. This covenant does not only redeem our sins, it gives us the Holy Spirit so that He may abide in us. His presence gives us the power to act like Jesus. We are able to behave like Jesus because our minds are no longer of this world, as we have the spiritual mind of God.

Anyone who wants to please the Lord would be given the grace to do exactly that. Whoever takes the word of God lightly would always swim in the pool of death. Salvation is more about your attitude than being about your ability to overcome sin. We overcome sin because we have the attitude of desiring to please God in all things. Your attitude to God and His righteousness will determine whether you would live in sin or in the victory that comes through righteousness.

When you have an attitude of thirsting for righteousness, the Lord would fill you with His power so that you could overcome the power of sin. But when you are indifferent to God and His righteousness, you will always be married to sin.

### **He uses afflictions to hook you into a sinful life**

The devil is the author of pain and suffering. He is the source of many afflictions. He could attack any area of our lives. The serpent could afflict our health, finances, joy, peace, jobs, business, and our families. There is no area that is immune to his attacks.

All those who are born again have a Master who would do all to prosper and protect them. When we are afflicted, the Lord has allowed such an afflictions so that He accomplishes something in our lives. At times, when we are afflicted, the Lord is using those afflictions to strength us, and to strengthen our faith in Him.

And some other times, we are afflicted because the Lord wants to reveal His glory. When he takes our affliction away, He shows His ability to do all that we could not do. Our Father will be glorified when He has healed us of our affliction.

However, those who live in sin cannot count on the grace of God to help them, for the Lord is only compelled by His word to help those who love His righteousness. When those who live in sin are afflicted, they are reaping the fruits of being in love with sin.

An affliction has different implication for those who love the Lord and those who still fight against His authority. If you love the righteousness of God, and you are obedient to His word, the Lord will in no time lift the burden of affliction you might be experiencing. When the children of God are afflicted, they must continue to be obedient to the word of God regardless of their situation. They must trust in the power of God because they are the children of God who are entitled to the protection of the Father.

But those who still love the world will continue to cry as long as they do not realise the negative consequences of sin in their lives. Once they turn their backs on their

sinful ways and decide to run for the cover of Jesus, they would be delivered from their afflictions.

The devil is very shrewd indeed, as he would do all in his power to hook us into his fold. He will not hesitate to use an affliction as a tool he could use to tempt you to run into his dirty arms. The serpent will afflict you so that he may play a saviour.

Once you are afflicted, the serpent will offer his help to heal your afflictions. How does the serpent deliver you from your afflictions? Satan has agents throughout the world, and many of them claim to heal people of their problems. These agents are false healers whom the devil uses to lure people into his corner.

When some people are afflicted, they normally go to the agents of darkness to seek for healing and deliverance from their troubles. Once they got there, they would receive false healing or deliverance from the devil. The serpent will then fool them to believe they have been cured of their afflictions.

The devil does not offer gifts. He will dupe you to believe that you have been healed, only to afflict you more. His agents will not heal you, but they will initiate you into the kingdom of darkness where you will be wedded to all manners of sins.

Satan will never heal you of any affliction. When he heals you, he takes one affliction from one area and puts it somewhere in your life or body. He may take away the headache and give you asthma. Some other times, he may heal your ulcer, but cause you to divorce your partner. You may not have an ulcer, but you would have lost a partner too.

When the serpent heals you, he always takes something from you. You might not realise what he has done as, 'He heals you,' but one day you will realise all the damages he has caused in your life. The devil does not heal but rearranges sicknesses in our bodies. You may appeal to be healed in one area only to be afflicted in another area. And when he does this, he afflicts you more than he has done before. In the end, your situation would be worse than it was before.

Assuredly, it is only Jesus who could deliver you from all the troubles of your life. The Lamb of God is the only One who is the light and life. Afflictions are death and darkness, and because of that, they could only be healed by Jesus who is the Light of God.

### **The devil hides the word of God from you**

The serpent will do everything in his power to make sure that you do not understand the word of God. To a child of God, there is nothing that is more potent than the word of God. Our strength is in the knowledge of God's word, hence the devil will do all he could to hide this powerful spiritual weapon to us.

The first method he uses to hide the word of God is to prevent you from reading the Bible. He will always manipulate you so that you would not study the Bible. These are what he will always do to stop you from reading the Bible: he will destruct your mind so that you may focus your attention away from reading the Bible; he will encourage you to twist the word of God so that you could follow a lie instead of following the truth that is found in the word of God; he would also encourage you not to attend any church; if he could not stop you from attending church, he would encourage you to attend a church that twists the word of God or a church that has a culture of undermining the word of God.

When the serpent destructs your mind, he may make you feel very tired, or he might occupy your mind with something that needs your urgent attention. You would focus your energies on that thing instead of reading the word of God. Sometimes, he might make you procrastinate reading the Bible by making you postpone the time for Bible study.

When you cannot dedicate time for Bible study, know that the serpent is responsible for this. The serpent has the ability to pollute our minds when we lower our spiritual guard. He can take few seconds to pollute our minds. We need to be vigilant to the works of the devil. The serpent will always use our human nature to fight against us or to undermine the work of God in us. When we sense that he is making us not to read the word of God, it is time to rebuke the devil in the name of Jesus. The devil knows the power of the name of Jesus, and when you rebuke him, he will run away from you.

The second method he uses to hide the word of God from us is to make us reject God and to encourage us not to attend church. A church is a place where the Lord teaches us His word. Consequently, a church opens our spiritual eyes so that we may know spiritual issues that the devil wants to hide from us. Satan knows that by encouraging us to reject God, we will not go to church, and when we do not attend any church, we would always be ignorant of spiritual issues that are so important to our existence.

Everyone who rejects God do so not out of choice, but because the devil wants to prevent them from discovering spiritual matters that would make it difficult for him to attack them.

The third method he uses to hide the word of God from you is to make you twist the word of God. When you twist the truth, the truth will always stand firm, but your mind will believe the fake copy of the truth. Any fake copy of the truth will always put spiritual shackles around you.

*“You must not add anything to what I command you or take anything away from it, so that you may keep the commands of the LORD your God I am giving you”  
(Deuteronomy 4:2).*



When you follow a fake copy of the truth, you are following the devil, because the devil is the greatest counterfeiter. Anyone who twists the word of God is fooling himself. The spiritual protocols are permanent and because they are permanent, the truth will always be the truth and a lie will always be a lie despite your best effort to mask or change it.

You may decide to follow a lie but that would not help you in any way. Anyone who believes in the twisted gospel does not follow Jesus, they follow the devil. If you decide to follow a lie, you will always be in harm's way, for the presence of the Lord would depart from you. When the presence of the Lord moves away from you, all kinds of dangers would be your inheritance. The Lord's presence covers all who are following the truth, and there is nothing that could prevail against them.

The last method he uses to hide the word of God from you is to make you attend a church that is lost in lies and confusion. Many churches are places that subtract something from us instead of adding spiritual riches in us. The reason for this is that these churches are teaching error and what is so false that you would never believe they are places of worship. The leaders of these churches do not know anything about God, and for that reason, they are leading many people to hell. A church that does not preach the pure word of God does not come from God, it comes straight from the kingdom of darkness.

These churches teach false doctrines or teachings, and due to this, those who are subjected to these teachings would be lost. When you follow wrong teachings of the word of God, your faith would be misplaced, and when your faith is misplaced, it means you would not be able to please God as you would do what He does not want you to do. You would be lost without realising this, as you might wrongfully think you are following what is true when the opposite is true.

Not only are these churches preaching a false gospel, they are not teaching people to tremble at the word of God. The teachers or preachers who lead these churches are living sinful lives, and owing to that, they would also teach their followers to live in sin, instead of treasuring the righteousness of God.

The sad part is those who attend these churches take comfort in what these churches are doing? Salvation is not the salvation of the church, but of the people. To be saved is an individual choice, hence the Lord will not judge us as the church, but He will judge people individually.

The Lord will not entertain excuses during the judgment day. You can never hide behind a church or a preacher. Our Judge will only ask you about you, and what you have done or omitted to do when you were still alive. It is for this reason that all the people must be vigilant about the churches they attend, as they might influence them positively or negatively.

When a church preaches the pure gospel of salvation, it will help you to understand the expectations of the Lord, but when it teaches poison, it will condemn you into a false sense of salvation which will only give you a one-way ticket to hell.

Why does the devil encourage people to attend churches that are lost in deceit? The devil will fool many people so that they may believe that they are worshiping God in truth and in spirit, whereas the opposite is true. One can only please God when he attends a church that preaches the pure word of God.

Any church that is steeped in the truth of the gospel will help you to understand God better, but a church that is lost in deceit will only damage your mind, and it might condemn you permanently into hell. We could only receive the promise of eternal life when we have an obedient relationship with Jesus. Eternal life will only be enjoyed by those who have bowed their lives to the authority of the word of God.

We could only submit our lives to the word of God when we have been exposed to the pure gospel of salvation. A church or the teachers of the word of God must teach the gospel properly if it is to profit us. When they do not teach the proper gospel of salvation, they will mislead us to follow a gospel that does not have the power to save us.

Assuredly, when we follow the false gospel, we are not following Jesus. And when we do not follow Jesus, we will never meet with Him one day. Our portion will be in hell with the father of lies, Satan. This is exactly where the devil wants us to be. If he could not stop us from attending church, he will dupe us to attend churches that are lost in deceit. When he has succeeded to persuade us to follow lies, we would follow him without knowing it. We might preach that twisted gospel, but we would remain his servants, because what we preach are lies.

The devil is the father of lies and anyone who lives a lie will be wedded to him for as long as they do not realise their wrong ways. Beyond any shadow of doubt, anyone who attends a church that preaches a twisted gospel will inevitably follow the passion of his body, sin will be his second nature.

### **The serpent will also encourage you to be sensitive to the evil desires of your body**

You cannot please God and please your body at the same time. If your mind is focused on pleasing the Lord, your mind is focused on the spiritual treasures of heaven. But when your mind is focused on pleasing the desires of your body, you would be worshipping the devil. Anyone who has chosen to please the evil desires of his body have chosen Satan over Jesus.

One's verbal pronouncements mean nothing if the body is saying the opposite. What we do reveals who is in control of our lives. And when we incline our ears to the leading of the word of God, then God is our Lord. But when our behaviour is controlled by what our bodies want, we have chosen to align our lives with sin. In this regard, sin would be our lover whether we acknowledge this or not.

*“Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God”  
(3 John 1:11).*

## Chapter 5



### **How the relationship with sin is nourished**

The devil will not hook you into a relationship with sin without making sure that you are wedded to sin for the rest of your life. He will never leave things to chance, he will always oversee your relationship with sin, but he would always be in the background so that you may not see his evil hand. You will only see your abusive partner without realising who is in control of your lover. Sin comes from the devil and the serpent will always make sure that sin wins against you. He is the puppet master of sin, and if sin is your master, the devil would be the real puppet master of your life. He will make you dance even though you might not feel like dancing. When sin is in control of your life, you would do what you do not like to do because sin will bully you all the time.

When you are wedded to sin, you are the bride of the serpent. The serpent wants you to himself, as he does not want to share you with Jesus. And these are the ways he will use to ensure that you do not divorce him for Jesus:

#### **He would move your eyes away from God**

As soon as you commit any sinful act, the serpent will make you concentrate on the satisfaction you have received from that sinful act. He would make you focus on the new relationship you have started with sin. Your mind would always be thinking about the lover who has just come into your life to kill you, but you would not be aware of this. All you would think about are the material, financial or emotional benefits you have received from your sinful acts.

At this stage, sin would taste and smell very nice, and owing to this, you would want to be as close to sin as possible. Indeed, you would be very crazy about your new partner, but unknown to you is that your partner has come into your life to destroy you completely. In a few months or years, sin would have caused negative changes in your life and you would regret those changes for the rest of your life.

Sin might make you drool with pleasure because of the satisfaction you may have received from sleeping with it, but one day, the devil will wipe out that smile from your face. When sin comes into your life, it has not come to make you smile, but to destroy you. You might smile now due to the pleasure of sin, but one day that smile will turn into tears or blood. One day you will taste sour tear that would run down your cheeks or smell the blood that would bust from your own body. Those who do not break off the abusive relationship with sin, will one day see the flames of condemnation burning in hell.

### **He gives you a fake reassurance**

As soon as you have tasted sin, the devil will quickly assure you that you have done the right thing. He will say it was worth doing what you have done no matter what God and the people are saying. He would give you a thousand reasons why you had to do what you have done. When he assures you that you have done what is good, he does not want you to listen to the voice of God which would make you understand that you have disappointed the Lord by doing what you have done.

The serpent would not only assure you that you have done the right thing, but he will say everyone is doing it. He will then open your eyes to the people who are sleeping with the same sin partner you have chosen over God. When he focuses your eyes on others who are doing the same sins you are doing, he is generalising by saying everyone is doing it. This is a lie, as there are many people who live in righteousness.

When the serpent makes you aware of others who are in love with the same sin, he makes you understand that you are in good company of the sinners. The devil will also reassure you that someone whom you respect is also in that company of sinners. When he tells you about a sinner whom you admire, he is actually saying 'Look, those who are spiritually stronger or mature are also doing it and if they could do it why not you.'

Jesus is the only standard of what is right and acceptable to God. And due to this, He is the only One we must look up to. We must make the Lamb of God our only role model because He will never disappoint us one day. When Jesus is our role model, the devil cannot use anyone to tempt us to sin or to continue our relationship with sin.

The devil might tempt all people to fall into sin, but that will not have a bearing on us individually. Many people might choose to follow the devil, but those who have made Jesus their role model will continue to live in holiness. To them, what happens to others would not have any impact on their faith. These faithful soldiers of the cross will follow Jesus no matter where that road of obedience leads them. They would follow Jesus because they would have the assurance that what they are doing is what Heaven approves. These children of God would be focused on pleasing God, and when the Lord is pleased with them, they will take comfort in the love and approval of God.

### **The serpent controls our human nature (flesh)**

A man's human nature is made up of two parts, body and soul. The soul of a person controls all other parts of his human nature, because the soul functions independently of other parts. Our souls are the brain behind our brain. A soul of a person is the spirit of a person. Our souls have a will because they have a spiritual mind of their own.

Our brains control our bodies and our brains are controlled by our souls. A soul of a person is the real man behind everything that one does. It is difficult to see the traces of our souls in what we do. Indeed, it might be difficult to see the hand of our souls in everything we do, but that does not change anything. Our souls are in charge of everything we do, hence God will one day judge our souls, not our physical bodies.

In the same manner, a soul is also controlled by a higher spiritual power than itself. The power of our souls only extends to our body. Our souls are subservient to the higher spiritual powers. They are inferior to the power of God and the power of the devil. And as a result of that, our souls will always be influenced by the higher spiritual powers.

On the other hand, God influences us by helping us to be born again so that we may receive a spirit that hears and listen to him. The spiritual process of being born again is a process that God uses to undermine the power of our human nature, by giving us His nature which could overcome the influence of the devil.

When we believe in Jesus, who is the righteousness of God, we receive the Holy Spirit who comes into our lives to establish the dominion of God. Anyone who is not born again does not have the Holy Spirit, and without the power of the Holy Spirit, no one could overcome the influence of the devil. Assuredly, anyone who is not born again will always be influenced by the devil. It is for this reason that we all need to be born again so that we may receive the spiritual nature of God that could overcome all the powers of the enemy.

We are all under the influence of a higher spiritual power. All the people are either influenced by God or the serpent. The methods of influence might be different but the impact of the influence is the same. A soul that has been influenced by either God or the devil would behave according to the influence it has received. The Holy Spirit wants our souls to behave in line with the word of God, but the devil wants our souls to oppose the word of God.

It does not matter whether you could see who control your soul, your soul will always be controlled by a higher spiritual force. Your actions will in all situations reveal the seat of power in your life. Those who are controlled by the Spirit of God will always do what the Lord expects them to do, but those who are controlled by the devil will always act in opposition to the word of God. What we do reveals who is the master in our lives.

Our human nature is selfish as it always tries to please itself in all situations. This nature fights against God and His word. The Lord wants to be the only influence in our lives, but our human nature wants the opposite. It wants to rule itself.

Our human nature is easily influenced by the devil because the devil has the same nature, he does not want to be influenced by God. The devil is the greatest rebel, as he

is always fighting against the will of God. The devil wants to determine his life outside the influence of God. And because of this, it is easy for the devil to influence our human nature because both the devil and our human nature are rebellious, they both want to please themselves in all situations.

When the devil and our human nature opened their mouths, they begin by saying, 'I want to.' Anyone who is influenced by God opened their mouth by saying, 'God wants to.' Indeed, anyone who is controlled by God has a life that is God-centred, but those who are controlled by the serpent have centred their lives according to what pleases them.

Our human nature is lustful. It always wants things that will please itself. Its lustful nature makes it very careless. And because it is careless, it will always try to achieve something regardless of the consequences of doing so. Our human nature is foolish because it is driven by a desire to please itself no matter what. As a result of that, it will always jeopardise its future because of the selfish needs of the movement. Of course, our human nature will jeopardise our joy, prosperity and health because it is foolish and one sighted.

Once you commit one sinful act, your human nature will want you to commit more of that sin. Your soul will lust more for the sin you have just committed. Once you commit more of that sin, you will soon have a permanent relationship with that sin. And when you have a permanent relationship with sin, you will do sinful acts without thinking about God. This is the point that the devil wants you to be. He wants you to have a permanent relationship with sin so that sin could destroy you completely.

Undoubtedly, our bodies will one day die, but our soul will live forever. They will either live in eternity in hell or in the heart of God. A person who has been influenced by the Holy Spirit will always please the Lord, and due to that, they will one day live in eternal peace in the bosom of Jesus. But those who have allowed themselves to be controlled by the devil will not escape the second death, which is eternal torment in the lake of fire.

## Chapter 6



### **Manifestation of your relationship with Sin**

The serpent makes us fall in love with sin so that he could control our behaviour and thinking processes. When the devil has married us with sin, our thinking and behaviour would change to reflect our new spiritual position.

Anyone who is married to the holiness of Jesus behaves according to the word of God. The word of God determines his thoughts and actions. A child of God is always chasing after the will of the Father and wants to do what is right in the sight of God. He does not care about what the world is doing to entertain itself. In fact, a child of God lives on earth and in heaven at the same time. His body is on earth but his mind is with God. He sees what others are doing, but he is not attracted by anything that the world does as the world is controlled by the serpent.

The devil hates those who abide in the holiness of God because he is unable to attack them. He cannot penetrate their defence because the glory of the Lord is covering them all the time. Therefore, holiness is an impediment to the plans of the devil, as it prevents him from attacking us. The only way Satan could successfully attack a child of God is to tempt them to lose the clothes of holiness which protects them all the time.

The devil uses temptation as a weapon that could take off our clothes of protection. When we fall into sin, our lives would be transformed by the new relationship we have with sin. Our thinking and behaving would reflect the new relationship with have with the devil.

As soon as we have a relationship with sin, we would be careless with our lives, and we would do anything as long as it makes us happy. Our conduct would be man-centred instead of being informed by the will of God. Our will and the benefits that we would receive from our partnership with sin would inform our behaviour. Not only would we want to determine our lives, we would reject the authority of the word of God over our lives.

There are three things that reveal whether a person has a relationship with sin. These are a careless lifestyle; a man-centred view of the world; and the rejection of the world of God. Anyone who displays one of these tendencies has fallen into sin, he has made the devil the master of his life.

#### **A careless life**

When you are in a relationship with sin, the only thing that counts in your life would be you and your sin lover. You would not care about what God and other people might think or say about you, as your focus would be on your partner from the



kingdom of death. A person who is wedded to sin would be focused on committing more sin. The more he commits sin, the more he would want to do it again.

If you are wedded to the 'Bottle,' you would want to drink more than you have drank before. And when you are married to fornication or adultery, you would always want more illicit sex. Those who are wedded to adultery would not mind about the bitter implication of their actions on those who would be affected by their actions. They would not care about their children and partners who would be negatively affected by their sinfulness.

Surely, your newly found lover might compromise your future and health, but you would not see this. Sin would kill you silently, but you would still be in love with it despite the damage it might cause you. The reason you would not see the sting of sin is that sin is essentially a bondage that will shackle every area of your life. The first shackle of bondage would be in your brain so that sin could prevent you from thinking correctly.

Your new partner would also make you fight against anyone who is against your new relationship. Any person who says something against your lover would face your wrath, as you would be defensive about your new partner. Those who would try to correct you would do so because they care about you, but you would view them as your enemy. Assuredly, many of them would be sent by God to put you back to the ways of heaven, but you would not even notice this.

### **Man centred life**

Anyone who is wedded to sin has lost all the sense of God consciousness. He is no longer mindful of the presence of God, and as a result of that, the Lord is only an afterthought. The actions of the sinners and their minds do not have an allowance of what God might think or do in response to their sinful actions. In their minds, the Lord has ceased to be.

They would only start to think about God when sin has harmed them badly. When they are down and broken, they would start to run to the Lord for comfort and help. It is only when they are badly hurt that they would know that there is a God in heaven.

When you are married to a particular kind of sin, everything that counts in your life is you. You are the centre of everything that you want to do in your life. Your standard would be, 'If it is good for me then I would do it regardless of who says what.' If sin makes you happy then you would be happy despite what others might think about you and your new lover. Assuredly, you would also not care whether the Lord approves what you are doing. At this stage a sinner will behave as though they are god, because they might feel empowered by their sinful actions.

Those are wedded to sin might accumulate wealth and they might also be the toast of the town. They would be oblivious to the shackles that the serpent has put on their eyes. It is only when they realise that they have been duped by their lover that they would begin to pray, seeking God's intervention in their lives.

God is the Lord and anyone who is not mindful of God would one drink tonnes of tears that would run down their cheeks, and some of them would start to smell the blood that would come from their wounded bodies.

### **Rejection of God and His word.**

Sin makes us hate the righteousness of God, because righteousness is the only thing that convicts us of our sinfulness. Righteousness is the only thing that reveals how spiritually deprave we are when we abide in sin.

Anyone who rejects righteousness rejects God and His word. The word of God reveals who God is and how righteous the Lord is. It is impossible to separate God from His word, and all those who love sin would reject anything that comes from heaven. The word of God is the first target of those who are married to sin.

Those who are married to sin hates the Bible because it reveals how spiritually dirty they are. They may admit that God exists, but they despise His word because it is the only authority on what God expects them to do. By rejecting the word of God, they are trying to justify the sinful choices they have made in their lives. To them the word of God reminds them that they are indeed sinners, hence they reject it so much.

When you want to determine whether someone is obedient to God, just determine their position in relation to the word of God. Anyone who loves the word of God loves God because God has a direct relationship with His word. The opposite is also true, anyone who hates or rejects the word of God rejects God. Those who reject the word of God might not realise that they are rejecting God. It does not matter whether they realise this connection or not. God's authority over us is in his word, and anyone who rejects His word is rejecting the authority that God has over his life.

The word of God determines our behaviour, and anyone who is controlled by the devil wants to control himself. He does not respect the authority of the word of God over his life because it opposes what he is doing.

Indeed, the word of God is our conscience, as it reminds us of the expectations of God for our lives. Those who are married to sin want to be their own conscience, as they want to determine their lives outside the word of God. Their close relationship with sin makes them hate the word of God because the word of God is the constant reminder of how sinful they are.

## Chapter 7



### Temptation

Temptation is a spiritual weapon that few people understand. To many people, temptation is just a simple thing. Many people are ignorant of what temptation is and what it seeks to achieve. Indeed, there are many Christians who think they understand temptation. They see it as something that happens to all people. Indeed, many of them know that temptation comes from the devil, but sadly a lot of them have succumbed to it nonetheless.

All the followers of Christ are called children of God because they have vowed to yield their lives to the direction and guidance of the Father. Anyone who wants to please God must know everything about temptation. Assuredly, we cannot please the Father if we are ignorant of the tricks of the devil. If we are ignorant of the tricks that the devil uses to lure us into a relationship with sin, we will undoubtedly fall into sin.

Temptation is a trick that the serpent uses to trap us into sinfulness. It is a camouflaged spiritual tool that he uses to camouflage his spiritual attacks against us. Anyone who has fallen into a relationship with sin has been hit with the weapon of mass destruction.

There is no weapon that has killed more people than sin. Indeed, temptation is the sugar that the devil uses to coat poison. When you look into temptation, you might see all the good things you stand to gain if you fall for it. You might bite that sugar coat, but the bitter taste of the poison is coming. As soon as you bite the sugary part of sin, you will soon taste that part that kills. Sin might not kill you immediately, but it will surely kill you one day.

Temptation is a spiritual act that the serpent undertakes to hook us up into a relationship with sin. It is an act that wants to dishonour us in the face of the Father. Every child of God is honoured by the Father, the Lord regards us highly. Temptation is a spiritual act that seeks to reverse the favour that we enjoy from the Father. It is a tool that seeks to make us dirty with sin so that the presence of the Lord could depart from us.

It would be quite easy for us to fall into temptation if we do not understand the word of God. The word of God reveals everything we need to know about the devil. It reveals all his clever tricks that he uses to lure us into a relationship with sin. Indeed, the word of God equips us with advanced knowledge of spiritual matters that we will not find outside of it.

For this reason, the serpent will do all in his power to block us from discovery his many tricks against us. He will make sure that we reject God or we do not read His

word. In fact, the devil will stop at nothing to make sure that we are ignorant of his evil ways.

The knowledge of the word of God is our first line of defence against the devil. When we know the colours of the serpent, we would be able to spot temptation from a mile away. The devil may change his clothes, but he will never fool us because we would know all the tricks he uses against us.

Anyone who has not discovered the wisdom of the word of God will always come out second best against the devil. The devil is very serious about destroying the children of God, and anyone who is ignorant of the word of God will always struggle to overcome Satan.

Any child of God who abides in righteousness is insulated against the attacks from the kingdom of darkness. The devil is unable to touch anyone who lives in the righteousness of God. The serpent always wants to harm us so that he may hurt our Father who loves us so much. However, the serpent is unable to touch us when we abide in the holiness of God because the presence of the Lord is a ring of fire around us.

Temptation is a strategy that seeks to destroy the relationship we have with our Father. Our God is holy and He only abides in holiness. The only way to move the presence of God from us is to hook us into sin so that sin could make us spiritually dirty. When we are spiritually dirty, our Father would move away from us.

Assuredly, when the presence of the Father departs from us, we would be defenceless against attacks from the kingdom of darkness. Therefore, temptation is a tool that the devil uses to make us spiritually naked. When we fall into sin, we lose the clothes of protection that the Holy Spirit has covered us with. These clothes of protection are the presence of the Lord in our lives.

Anyone who is spiritually naked will not be able to stand against the weapons of the enemy. The presence of the Lord is our shield, it avails for us all the grace we need from the Father. Temptation is a spiritual act that encourages us to lose the protection and favour of God. And due to this, temptation is the weapon that seeks to kill us. If we lose the protection of God, we become the soft target of every weapon from the kingdom of darkness.

The devil is unable to attack any child of God unless that child falls into a relationship with sin. Indeed, we are our worst enemies, because our sinful actions make us lose the protection of the Lord. We may enjoy sin, but no one will enjoy the pain that comes from sin. When we are involved in an abusive relationship with sin, every area of our lives would suffer.

## Temptation

Sin could harm you more than you have imagined. It could take away your life, and leave your body cold as the ice of the Arctic. When the protection of God departs from us, any arrow of death could pierce our hearts. When we die as a result of our relationship with sin, we would have been culpable in our death. Come to think of it, when we succumb to the arrows of the enemy, we would have killed ourselves without realising it.

Temptation is a powerful ambush tool that the serpent uses to trap us into an abusive relationship with him. The serpent is very smart indeed, as he can attack you in your weakest moment. Temptation is a big net that the devil cast into your life. Satan is like a patient fisher, who cast a big net and wait for us to fall into it. The devil may play dead, but he is always lurking around waiting for us to fall into his net. He will not remove the net unless it has caught a prey. We are the prey of the devil as he is always hunting for us. He will most likely attack us when we least expect him to pounce on us.

Many of us would fall into temptation because our enemy is very shrewd. He uses temptation as a proven tool that could hook many of us into a dangerous relationship with sin. Where there is sin, death abides.

The devil will not only make you undermine God and the authority of His word, he will also make you break all the important relationships you have with others.

Life is about relationships than it is about any other thing. The most important relationship is the relationship between man and God. The second most important relationship is the relationship that one has with his own family. Another important relationship is the relationship that one has with those who are outside his family.

A good relationship is a pillar of support, peace, and strength, and a bad relationship takes away our peace. When we have good relationships with others, we could always count on them for support, but when we do not have good relationships with them, we would always be empty of peace, and this will torment us for as long as we do not fix things between us and those who are important in our lives.

The devil knows the importance of good relationships, hence all the important relationships you have with others will come under his attack. When he attacks the good relationships you have with others, he wants you to stand alone without support from those who care about you.

The serpent will always try to break the strong bond you have with Jesus so that the serpent could do as he wishes with your life. Jesus is our existence and life as there is no one who could live without His support. Your relationship with Jesus is the number one target of the devil, as this relationship will determine whether the serpent can touch you or not.

If the serpent could shift you away from the love of God, he will destroy you completely, as this relationship is the cornerstone of all other relationships you have with others. This relationship is the pillar of your life and existence, and without it, you would be dead sooner than you might think.

The devil will make you undermine your relationship with Jesus by making you ignorant of God and His expectations for you. His intention is to empty your heart of the love you have for God. He will dupe you so that you could reject the authority that God has over your life, and to be the master of your own life.

If you are ignorant of the word of God and live your life to please the selfish desires of your body, know that the devil has managed to chase God away from your heart. You might still claim to love Jesus, but this would be a lie. There is only one way to show your love for Jesus. If you incline your ears to the word of God, you do love Him indeed, but when you reject His word, you are rejecting Him.

*“If you love Me, you will keep My commands” (John 14:15).*

Assuredly, when the devil destroys the good relationships you have with others, he is trying to isolate you from the support structure that you have. When he has isolated you, he will fill your mind with poison and there would be no one who could help you to wake up from your sleep.

Indeed, when there is no good person who could help you to avoid the temptations of the devil, the serpent will destroy you with ease. A good relationship offers you support, and you are also the source of good support to those who are around you. We are one another's strength, hence we should fellowship together so that the Lord could use any of us to pull up a brother or sister from the brink of temptation.

These are the tools that Satan uses to lure us into a life of sin, and many people have succumbed to them. If you understand these spiritual tentacles that the serpent uses to make us spiritually dirty, you would be careful with your life. Indeed, knowledge is power and ignorance leads to death.

### **The gateway sins or vices that the serpent uses to hook you into his claws**

There are many gateway sins that the serpent could use to get a foothold in your life, so that he may sink his crushing teeth into your life. Many people have been destroyed by these sins or vices that bring us into the reach of his hand of destruction.

When the serpent tempts you to fall into these kinds of sins or vices, he is not gunning for your life, but he will use these sins to claw his way into your life so that he could one day destroy you completely. Indeed, these sins are the marinade that the devil would use to soften you to more dangerous attacks from his kingdom.

These five sins or vices are two-edged. They are sins and they are also tools of temptation that would make you sink deeper into a life of sin. The devil uses other sins to hit you very hard, but these five vices are both an end and a means to a much more destructive end that the serpent is planning against you and your destiny.

**Lust.** Lust is not only sexual. It is a lust of worldliness. Sex is just one element of the lust of the world that people have. When the serpent throws a net of lust around you, he just wants to get hold of your life so that he could use you to destroy other people. Not only would he use lust to make you a net of temptation for others, you would also be destroyed in the process of destroying others.

When the devil has used you to tempt other people to fall into a relationship with sin, he will use that lust for worldliness to kill you. When you are no longer useful to the serpent, he will dispose you like a used disposable nappy.

**Pride.** Pride is also used by the serpent to marinate you for further attacks. The devil is the master of pride, as there is no one who has pride like him. Pride is the most dangerous vice that has killed many spiritually gifted men and women of God.

It is fairly easy to destroy people with pride. Where there is pride lies failure. And when some people fail, they will run to the devil to seek for his assistance. Pride cements the bond of love between you and the devil.

The Lord rejects those who have pride because pride by its own nature makes you covet the position that only God could occupy. Any person who has pride will contend with God because the Lord hates pride with all His heart. Anyone who has pride will be humbled by the Lord so that the Father could teach him a very important lesson, God is the only one who is worthy of our praises.

Pride is a vice that the serpent uses to attack you personally. This vice is more directed against you, as it is intended to remove the favour of God upon your life. A proud person is unable to stay in the heart of God because anyone who has a spirit of pride covets to be God. Indeed, pride makes people regard themselves above every other person, and some even see themselves above God.

The devil knows all the conventions of heaven and he knows that humbleness is one of the greatest virtues that will help us to overcome all attacks from his kingdom. Anyone who has a meek spirit would be lifted by God above his peers. Meekness attracts the favour of God because it is a virtue that glorifies the name of the Lord above any other name.

## Temptation

A meek person has emptied himself of any notion of self-worth, and by so doing, He acknowledges that it is only God who is worthy of all our praises. The Lord would fill a meek person with His grace so that all the power of God could work in his favour.

The serpent can smell blood all the time. He is able to tap into our thought process, and he can see the conditions of our hearts. Satan tempted Eve by using pride as a weapon because he knew that Eve had pride. In her heart, Eve wanted the position that God occupies.

*“In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God” (Genesis 3:5).*

Eve ate the forbidden fruit solely because she wanted to be like God, and the devil was offering her a way of achieving that objective. If Eve did not have pride, the devil would have changed his temptation methods so that he could appeal to her other needs or weaknesses. Eve coveted the position of God, hence she did not think twice about eating the forbidden fruit.

The serpent is very intelligent, and he will tailor-made all his temptation strategies so that they could appeal to our weaknesses. Indeed, the serpent will not waste his time by tempting you with your strength points. He would always use our weaknesses to attack us.

It is only the word of God that could cover our weakness. When we are conformed into the word of God, we would have the nature of Jesus, a nature that could overcome all forms of temptations. The devil might know our former weakness, and he might try to attack us in those areas of our lives where we were weak. But if the word of God has given us the nature of Jesus, the serpent would fail to tempt us. When he tempts us, he would use the information he previously had about us, but he would have been overtaken by the word of God, which would have clothed us with the spiritual nature of God.

**Any appearance of sin.** If you are not careful, the devil would embarrass you badly for something you did not do. He might accuse you of committing sins you did not commit. Your association with sin would give him the opportunity to either embarrass you with something you did not do, or he will try to make sure that you fall into a sin you have an association with.

There are people who are wedded to sin, and there are also those who have an association with sin without committing any sinful act. Those who have an association with a certain sin without being in love with it would fall in love with that sin if they are not careful. Anyone who is close to any sin is playing around the fire, and if they are not careful, they would one day fall into that fire.

If you are a friend of a thief, you would be associated with your criminal friend, and by extension, you would be associated with the same sin your friend is wedded to.



## Temptation

You may be innocent, but your association with someone who is associated with a certain sin makes you look like someone who is also wedded to the same sin.

The same is true of many sins you may be associated with. People would link you with the sins you are close to. It would not matter in their mind whether you are innocent or not, when they see how close you are to a particular sin, they will accuse you of being in love with it. If you are seen in the company of a prostitute, people would link you with that sin. They would accuse you of sleeping with that prostitute regardless of the truth because their perception would be their truth.

Indeed, the devil is very clever, he might embarrass you for something you did not do. When the devil accuses you of any sin you are close to, all his accusations would make sense hence you need to avoid any appearance of sin in your life. You need to run away from anything that may associate you with sin.

*“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22, KJV).*

If you are holding a glass of beer, when someone looks at you, he would think you were drinking beer. It would not matter to that person whether you were holding that glass for your friend. The devil has destroyed many people with false accusations that proved difficult to dispute. You might be innocent, but when you are too close to a particular sin, the devil will associate it with you. It is not only the devil who would do it, anyone who sees how close you are to a particular sin would also accuse you of sleeping with that sin.

When people accuse you of being in love with a particular sin you are close to, you would struggle to set the record straight. In fact, the more you would try to explain yourself, the more guilty you may look. People might say, ‘Why don’t you admit to your sins, instead of defending yourself.’

It is very difficult to make people believe the truth when all facts point to the contrary. God would know that you are innocent of the accusations that are levelled against you, but many people would find it very difficult to believe you. Assuredly, it is wise to avoid anything that might bring shame to your name. You need to be vigilant and play away from anything that might bring disrepute to your name and the name of everyone who is associated with you.

The serpent is very clever, and he is always looking for an opportunity to embarrass the children of God. He would use any opportunity to shame your name and the name of your God. Not only would he try to shame your name and the name of your God, he would also try to embarrass your family.

If you are caught in proximity with a particular sin, you would be accused of impropriety and your family would not escape from all the bad things that would be said about you. Any bad thing that is said about you would also be said about your family and God. When you fellowship at a particular assembly, any bad thing that is

said about you would also be said about that assembly. Indeed, any shame brought upon your life would bring shame to the assembly you are attending.

Any disgrace to you is a disgrace for all. We might not be aware of this important fact, but it is the truth. When they speak well of you, they speak well of your God. Any good thing that is said about you, would also bring honour to your family.

Every action has a reaction, and every action has a consequence. The consequences might be good or bad. You need to avoid all the things that would bring shame to you because they would bring shame to everything that is associated with you.

There is no one who is able to spot an opportunity for an attack like the devil. The devil would not only embarrass you with the sins you are too close to, He will try to make sure that you fall into them. Truly, the job of making you fall into the sins you are close to would be very easy for the devil, he has played this game for a very long time. It is easy to tempt someone who is very close to a particular sin than to trap someone who has less exposure to a particular sin.

The devil is cunning, he would trap you to fall into sin, and you would only realise after you have tasted that sin that Satan has overcome you. When you are too close to any sin, there would come an opportune moment to trap you to fall into it. We all have our bad and good moments in life. The snake will use our bad moments to hook us up with sin. As soon as our weakest moment comes, the devil would tempt us to fall in love with the sins we are very close to.

Our spiritual or emotional states undergo changes from time to time. We might be cheerful today, but experience a gloomy day tomorrow. When we are down emotionally, the devil would hook us up with sin. Sin would be presented as a relief to our situation, and we might fall for the trick. It is better to play away from any sin so that the devil could not use our proximity to any particular sin to trap us to fall in love with it.

The famous line that Satan uses to make you close to any sin is to encourage you to pretend to be something or someone. He may encourage you to pretend to be a girlfriend or a boyfriend of a certain person. Or he may make you pretend to be a gay or lesbian. Those who are involved in the arts would act roles that make them close to many kinds of sins. Through acting, these people would be exposed to what is inappropriate, and it may leave a bad taste in their mouth. The devil would say, they are just acting or earning their money, without telling them that one day, he would use their association or exposure to any sin to tempt them to fall in love with it.

### **The net of temptation put by the serpent after you have received salvation**

When we were in the world, the grace of the Lord has always operated in the background to save us. The devil would always resist the effort of saving those who

are lost in sin. He would never permit heaven to save us, and he would do all in his power to keep us to himself. Anyone who has not been saved by the blood of the Lamb is a prisoner of the devil, as they worship him. The blood that was shed on Calvary is the gift that God gave to all those who have been shackled by the devil. It is grace that seeks to destroy all the chains Satan has put on those who are wedded to sin.

Those who have responded to the grace given to them by God have renounced Satan and his evil kingdom. They have rejected sin for the righteousness of God, which they received through the blood of the Lamb. The blood of the Lamb cleansed them of all unrighteousness and it made them right before the Lord. The salvation we have received through the blood of Jesus has set us free from all the bondage of the devil.

The serpent will always try to protect his kingdom by making sure that it keeps the children of God in bondage forever. Satan will try to counteract the grace of salvation by always fighting against any effort to free us from the bondage of sin. When we get saved by the blood of the Lamb, it means the Spirit of the Lord has succeeded in wrestling us away from the kingdom of darkness.

After we have been born again, the devil would increase his attack on us so that he could win us back to his evil kingdom. The devil uses different strategies to attack us. He will use different strategies to attack those who have not found their way to the heart of God, and he would use different strategies to fight those who belong to the heart of the Master.

The devil knows us very well, as he has the history of anyone born of a woman. He knows our weakness as well as our strong points. When the serpent attacks us, he would attack us through our weak points. Before we were saved by the blood of the Lamb, sin has made us weak in more ways than one. It has compromised our character and made us lustful of all the bad things of the world.

Satan knows what could overcome us, and he knows the sins we are likely to fall for. He knows all the actors who played a role in our lives. Not only does he know all the actors in our lives, he knows which actor he could use to destroy us. His net of temptation has everything we used to love. The devil would throw this net of temptation towards us so that it could win us back to his kingdom.

We were saved because the blood of Jesus has overcome the devil. Indeed, we were saved because all the shackles that the devil put on us have been broken by the blood of the Lamb. The process of saving us cleansed us of all unrighteousness, and it made us spotless because the blood of Jesus has taken all our sins away.

Our salvation is a threat to the devil, as it makes his kingdom to have fewer slaves. The devil will do all in his power to win us back to his evil ways, and he would cast out a big net of temptation towards us. This net has all that we used to love. It has all the actors of our lives, and it also has all the sins we used to do. When the devil throw

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this net, we would not be aware of it. Assuredly, our sins would be forgiven by the Lord, but the net that has been set before us would have all the sins we use to do. Our sins would have been taken away by the blood of Jesus, but the net of temptation will remind us about the past sins we were in love with.

This net of temptation would be cast in our mind. The devil will make sure the history of our sins is firmly planted in our minds. The Lord has saved us and he has blotted away every sin we have committed, and He has also taken away the guilt that resulted from our sinfulness. Satan will fight against this by making sure that we remember all the sins we were married to. He wants us to remember the bond we have with sin so that he could trap us back to the life of sin.

We could counteract this trap of temptation by being prayerful and by reading the word of God daily. Not only must we be prayerful and study the Bible, we must abide in the righteousness of God. By praying and reading the Bible daily, our minds would be focused on heavenly things, and because of this, no temptation would prevail against us.

However, if we do not pray, read the Bible and abide in the righteousness of God, the devil will hook us back to sin. He will use that net of temptation to reintroduce us back to sinfulness. The devil would lure us back to a life of sin through the sins we used to love. Those who loved alcohol or drugs would fall into the same sins again and the same is true for those who had pride. The fornicators and idolaters would also be trapped back into these sins. Our past sins are the bait that the devil would use to win us back to the kingdom of snakes.

## Chapter 8



### **The decision to break free from sin**

You cannot terminate your relationship with sin unless you have come to a conscious decision to do so. Sin will never run away from you unless you kick it in the face. Like all other things in life, actions flow from mental decisions that we take. We cannot do anything unless we have decided to do it.

How we do something is also influenced by how we have conceived it in our plan. The weaknesses of our plans will impact negatively on our objectives. The same is true in the spiritual realm. Our motives of doing something will determine whether we would fail or succeed in achieving our aims.

If we have wrong motives of terminating our relationship with sin, we would fail to reach our aim. Many people want to divorce sin because sin has hurt them badly. This is an important reason, but it is not good enough. When we want to terminate our relationship with sin because it has hurt us, we will go back to a life of sin as soon as we have gotten over the pain.

The only reason that is strong enough to break the bondage of sin, is when we want to terminate the relationship for the sake our God. When we love God with all our hearts, mind, and body, we would always do everything to keep Him happy. When we love Jesus with all our hearts, we would always desire to please Him in all things.

The grace of the Lord would be availed to anyone who is doing something for the sake of the Lord. God is the centre of everything in the entire universe, and He is the only reason we hate sin and embrace His righteousness. Anyone who wants to terminate his relationship with sin because God hates it will be able to overcome sin, the Lord would help him to extricate himself from the yoke of the devil.

### **The correct motive that could set you free from sin**

Many people have seen the abuse and hurt that sin has caused to their lives, and because of this, they have tried to divorce sin only to return back to it a few days later. They have done all they thought possible to extricate themselves from sin, but many are still struggling to free themselves from this abusive partner. Indeed, others have succeeded to break this relationship for many years, only to return back to the life of sin a few months later.

What is the reason so many people struggle to get free from the power of sin? You cannot break off your relationship with sin unless you understand what the devil has done to you when he married you with sin. When you were in love with sin, the devil made sure that you would never break free from the control of sin. He has afflicted you with many spiritual traps that you are not able to see with your own eyes.

You cannot be free from the power of sin unless you use the wisdom of God to do so. The word of God is the only proven formula that could set free any spiritual prisoner from the powers of the serpent. The word of God gives you a blueprint of what you must do if you want to be free from the abuse of sin in your life. This is the only blueprint which has the power to free us from the bondage of sin. Any other way of freeing ourselves from sin will fail.

What could give you freedom from the power of sin is the blood of Jesus. This precious blood of God is the only power that could break all the shackles of sin in your life. The cross of Calvary released to us all the power that could free any spiritual prisoner from the bondage of sin.

It does not matter what kind of sin you are wedded to, the blood of Jesus could help you to divorce it. Every power of the enemy is under the feet of Jesus. Jesus is your only secret to a life of freedom, and any other method you could use to free yourself from the power of sin will fail dismally. All the spiritual powers of God are found in the blood of Jesus. This precious blood could give you any weapon you need to fight against the devil.

The secret of overcoming the devil is Calvary. At Calvary, all the powers of the enemy were defeated. The humiliation, the death of the Lamb of God and His ultimate resurrection has given us the spiritual power that could help us to do anything we could not do before. When we want to be free from the bondage of sin, we must run to the righteousness of God which is only found in the blood of the Lamb.

*“ Having been buried with Him in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses. He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them by Him ” (Colossians 2: 12-15, HCSB).*

Another reason that could set you free from the power of sin is your motive of desiring to be free from it. If you want to be free from sin because sin is abusive to you, that is only the start of your quest to be freed from the bondage of the devil. If that is the only reason you want to be freed from sin, you will fail to free yourself from the power of the enemy.

Your motive of desiring to be free from sin must be God-centred. In addition to desiring to be freed from sin because it is abusive to you, you need to be freed from the powers of the devil because that is what God wants. You need to recognise that God wants to be with you, but sin makes it impossible for him to abide in your body. Sin makes you spiritually dirty, unfit to house God.

Indeed, you could only free yourself from sin when you want to end the relationship with it because God hates sin. When you want to end the relationship for God's sake, the Lord will help you to overcome it. Surely, when you want to end the relationship with sin because it has hurt you, you would go back to a life of sin when you get over your pain.

Sin could make you miserable, in fact, it is making many people miserable, but this is not the only reason that must make you want to end your relationship with it. When you end the relationship with sin because of what sin has done to you, you will not be free from it. You will always be in a relationship with one or other kinds of sin. When you end the relationship with adultery or fornication, you might still be wedded to idol worship.

Assuredly when you end a relationship with one sin you would still be in a relationship with other kinds of sin. When you end one relationship with one sin, but remain in a relationship with other kinds of sin, you are still controlled by the devil because you are still in bondage to the power of sin. You cannot hate one sin and be in love with another. If you divorce one sin and remain madly in love with another, you are still married to the devil. You could only end the relationship with the devil when you reject every kind of sin because you have found a new lover, a Lover who died so that you could be freed from all the powers of the enemy.

When you want to end the relationship with sin because of God, you would want to end all other relationships you have with different kinds of sin. It is only when you want to do it because of God that you could truly be freed from all the powers of the serpent. The devil is clever, he knows that if you do not terminate the relationship for God's sake, you are still married to other kinds of sin. He does not even worry when you try to end a relationship with one sin, he knows that you are still married to him.

When you want to end the relationship with sin for the sake of God, you do it out of love for God. Your love for Him makes you want to please Him, and you could only please Him if you reject all kinds of sins in your life. If you love Jesus with all your heart, you would always want to put a smile on His face. You could only put a smile on His face when you abide in the holiness of God.

Your love for God and the sacrifice He made for you through Jesus is the only thing that could help you to get free from any bondage of sin. When you truly love the Lord, you would love all that He loves and hate all that He hates. Surely, when you love Jesus, you would always be madly in love with His righteousness, and sin would be very repulsive to you. As a result of this, you would hate all that is associated with the devil and you would embrace all that belongs to God.

Indeed, you might realise the harm sin has caused you, and what you do after this will determine whether you would be successful in breaking the bondage of sin in your life. The Lord would first make you aware of all the damage sin has caused to your

life, and He would also make you understand that it is only Jesus who could set you free you from all the powers of the enemy.

The Lord could set you free from the power of sin when you desire to be obedient to His word. Your love for Jesus and His righteousness is the secret of breaking the control Satan has over you. You need to love Jesus with all your heart, body and soul, and this love would help you to do what you have always wanted to do, which is to be free from all the powers of the enemy.

### **The dynamics of sin**

If you are in a relationship with sin, one day that relationship will come to an end. How it comes to an end would determine your destiny. There are two things that could terminate your relationship with sin, the devil could terminate it or the Holy Spirit might do it for you.

You might be in love with sin, but you must bear in mind that one day, that relationship would come to end. If that relationship came to an end in the correct way, you would escape death. But when that relationship comes to an abrupt end in the wrong way, you would die with it. When it ends in the wrong way, you would be buried with it.

When the devil decides to terminate his love affair with you, he would kill you, and he might also kill those who are close to you. Satan is the destroyer, and when he decides to terminate his love affair with you, he would do it in the most painful way. He would do so by killing you and sometimes, he would also kill those you love.

Undoubtedly, when you are still in love with the devil, your relationship with sin would affect your family negatively. When the devil ends the relationship with you, he will not hesitate to kill you, and certainly he would also not think twice about killing those you love.

Many people are involved in relationships with different kinds of sin, and all of those sins have the potential to kill them. Fornication and adultery are the sins that have the potential to kill you directly, and the same could be said of any alcohol and drug addiction. In fact, any sin invites demons in your life, and these demons would control your behaviour. They may make you very reckless with your life and make you do something that could kill you. Demons have made many people go to prison, and they have also led many people commit suicide. Depression also comes from demons, and so is any painful experience you might go through in your life.

When the devil decides to terminate the love affair he has with you, he could use the sin you are in love with to kill you. He could use nicotine to kill you, and he could also use alcohol or any drug addiction to do the same. He could intoxicate you with alcohol or any drug and cause you to be involved in a car accident. This would not be an accident because it would have been initiated by unseen spiritual forces.



Those who are involved in illicit sex could be killed by sickness that they got from illicit sexual engagements. The devil could also use an illicit partner to kill you for no apparent reason. Surely, he could also use the wife or husband of the person you are involved with to kill you.

There are different methods that Satan could use to kill you if you are in love with him. The devil has also used gambling to kill many people. He could lead you to gamble your money or property and make you lose all your money and property. When you have lost all your wealth, he would make you worry yourself to death. And when you are too depressed, he would suggest suicide as the only way you could escape all the pains you are experiencing.

There are many people who have been destroyed by the devil because of their love for money. Satan has made many people go to jail as a result of their illegal actions. He has used many methods to kill those who love money. The devil has made others to be involved in armed robberies which led to their death. Many of those involved in gangs or armed robberies were killed by their partners who did not want to share the loot with them.

When the Holy Spirit ends your relationship with sin, he will connect you with the blood of Jesus, which would set you free from any bondage of sin. It is only God who could give you rest from any spiritual shackle the devil has put on you. Indeed, when the Lord saves you from the power of sin, you would escape death. His gift of salvation would rescue you from all forms of death and powerlessness.

You could only extricate yourself from all forms of unrighteousness if you run to Jesus. When Jesus saves your soul from the powers of sin, he covers you with His precious blood which would save you from death and powerlessness.

If you are involved in a relationship with sin, there are two things you could do. You could run to the blood of Jesus so that it could save you from the abusive sin, or you could wait for the devil to terminate the relationship. When God terminates the relationship, he will make you escape death, but when you wait for the devil to terminate the relationship, Satan would also terminate your life in the process.

The serpent is undoubtedly the destroyer of note. In fact, there is no one who is more effective in destroying people's life than the devil. His main tool of destroying us is sin. He weds us with sin because he knows that there is no other tool that could destroy us faster than sin.

Ultimately, when we do not separate ourselves from sin, the devil would kill us. Death is the ultimate weapon that the serpent would use against us. Surely, death is the ultimate weapon that would conclude our relationship with sin. But before the devil could kill us, he would destroy everything we hold dearly.

The serpent would embarrass us with sin, and he would make us shameful to God and others. He would take away our dignity by stripping us naked so that people could laugh at us. Every child of God is highly regarded by God and man, but when we are wedded to sin, sin would bring us down to the level of the devil. Sin would make us naked and we would always be the laughingstock of the world.

The devil is very cruel, he makes us love sin and when we are married to it, he will tell everyone that we have fallen into sin. This is the way that would be travelled by those who would succumb to sin. They would lose their dignity, and not only would they lose dignity, all the people who are associated with them would also be ashamed. Sin makes us dirty, and it also makes our families lose the respect of others. In the worst case scenario, sin has the potential to kill those who are close to us. The devil could either kill those who we love or he could kill two birds with one stone, where we would die together with those we love. Undoubtedly, sin puts the lives of those we love in jeopardy, and due to this, they would one day bear the brunt of our sinfulness.

Sometimes, before the devil could kill us, he would disfigure us. He would make us disabled through sicknesses or accidents. After we have been afflicted with disabilities, some of us might want to run to Jesus, but the disability might be permanent. The Lord would welcome us back to His loving heart at any time, but the consequences of sin might remain with us for the rest of our lives.

When the devil has done all he wanted to do with us, he would spit us from his mouth by killing us. The devil would not hesitate to kill anyone who is wedded to sin. In fact, we have buried many people who were killed by the devil through different ways.

It is better to break the relationship with sin before the devil could decide to do so. If the devil has made us dirty with sin, let us run to the blood of the Lamb for deliverance from sin. The blood of Jesus is the only thing that could give us rest from the pain and destruction of sin.

We must run to Jesus because the devil could decide to divorce us at any time. When the serpent terminates his relationship with us, he would also terminate our lives in the process. Jesus is waiting to save anyone who wants to be free from the powers of the devil. He is the only one who has the power and the will to liberate us permanently from the power of sin.

### **The importance of terminating the immoral love affair when you are able to do so**

Certainly, if you do not end the relationship with sin, it will eventually end very badly. In the end, if you do not end it, sin will end your life and it might end the lives of those you love dearly.

There is a price that we all pay for our sinfulness. Sin will abuse us all the way, and ultimately, it will end our lives permanently. This is the truth, and there is no other

way of looking at it. Sin is death and it is powerlessness, as it opens you to all the attacks of the devil.

When we are wedded to sin, we would jeopardise everything we hold dear in our lives. Sin will make life very difficult for us, and we would one day lay down our lives in shame, for sin would embarrass us badly and eventually, it will destroy us completely.

If you are wedded to one kind of sin, it is time to divorce it before it could divorce you. The devil has a way of fooling us to believe that we are wedded to small sins. Every sin is dangerous to your well-being because one sin attracts many other sins.

You might be wedded to a 'small sin', but in due time, you would be married to all kinds of sins that want to harm and embarrass you. In the end, one of the sins you are married to will kill you. This is a reality that you cannot escape from. There is only one escape road for you if you are wedded to sin, and that is the way of the cross. When you are wedded to sin, do not wait for sin to kill you, run to Jesus and repent of your sins, He shall forgive you.

If you are weak to do anything about the sin you are wedded to, Jesus has the power to help you. He will send the Holy Spirit to break all the bondage of sin in your life. The most important thing you must do is to realise the dangers of sin, and desire to be separated from it permanently. When you want God to help you with any kind of sin you are married to, the Lord would do it. He would also give you the strength to maintain your liberty from sin.

If you desire to be freed from sin, ask Jesus, He is ready to liberate you from the shackles of the enemy. Do not worry about the nature of sin you are wedded to, or how ghastly it is, all sins are filthy in the eyes of the Lord.

You might have killed many people or did the most horrible deeds, despite all this, Jesus is waiting for you to ask Him to forgive you for all the bad things you have done. If you worry about what people might say, you would not repent of your sins, and due to this, you would never be free from the oppressive hand of sin. In fact, sin will encourage people to say bad things about you so that you may be ashamed to approach them and ask for their forgiven.

Don't listen to the voice of the serpent, if you understand the dangers of sin, do what is necessary to be freed from it. People might laugh at you when you do what is right, but you would have freed yourself from the bondage of sin.

Undoubtedly, People will always have something to say about everyone. They would say bad things about you regardless of your relationship with God or the devil. Do not worry about people, just worry about what God is saying about you. If you are standing on the ground of iniquity, ask for God's forgiveness, the Lord would forgive

you. If you do what is right in the eyes of the Lord, that is the only thing that must matter to you.

If you want to break free from any relationship you have with sin, just take a stand immediately and divorce it completely. There are many sins people have become accustomed to, and sometimes they are so wedded to a particular sin that it would be difficult to terminate their relationship with it.

The way of the cross is the only available way to you, and if you want to please God, you must be able to do all it takes to separate yourself from any iniquity. You must be able to forsake what you love so that you may be obedient to the Lord.

More often than not, when you break off a relationship with sin, you might have to cry due to the attachment you have with that particular sin. If you have to cry to please God, so be it. Break any bond you have with sin, and ask the Holy Spirit to give you grace so that you may overcome the pain of separating from your abusive lover.

God knows our hearts, and when you ask Him to comfort you after you have divorced sin, the Lord would do so. Surely, it is better to cry in obedience to the word of God. When you cry as a result of pleasing God, our Father would strengthen you, and the pain of the divorce would be bearable to you. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, and when we are burdened by pain, He is the only one who could help us to overcome it.

When you divorce sin, you will cry if you were so madly in love with it. But bear in mind that the pain of divorcing sin is only temporary. You would heal completely from the pains of divorcing sin in a few weeks. Indeed, it is better to divorce sin than to lose your life. The pains of divorcing sin are minuscule compared to the pain sin will cause you and those you love. Remember that if you do not divorce sin, sin will eventually kill you.

I would rather be obedient to God than to be judged by him one day. If we do not separate ourselves from sin, one day, we might not have the privilege to do so. When we die without divorcing sin, we will face the most difficult period of our lives. We will be condemned together with the devil into the lake of fire.

Indeed, it is better to deal with the fire that is caused by the pain of separating yourself from sin, rather than to deal with the burning fire of hell. One day, those who would face the wrath of the Lord would wish they could have broken the relationship with sin whilst they were still alive, but at that time it would be too late for them to do something about it.

If you cannot deal with the little fire of divorcing an abusive sin, then, the burning fire in hell will make you cry for eternity without any comfort from God. The love of God can only save you when you are still alive because there is no forgiveness of sin after death. When you die without making things right with God, judgement is the only

thing that awaits you. But if you realise how filthy sin has made you, you would run to Jesus so that He may forgive you of any sin you have committed.

*“Seek the LORD while He may be found; call to Him while He is near” (Isaiah 55:6)*

The grace of God is only available to you whilst you are still alive. Beyond the grave, there is no forgiveness of sin. The door that leads to the heart of Jesus is still open, but if you die without making things right with Him, that door of forgiveness would be closed forever. Assuredly, if you die without making things right with the Lord, God would be the last person you would want to face on the judgement day.

God loves you, but you must note that God respects His word more than anything in the entire universe. When you are obedient to His word, the Lord would do everything for you. But when you reject it, you would have taken a side against God, for you would have taken the side of the devil. When you have sided with the devil against God, you will have to live with the consequences of doing so.

### **Why many people fail to quit sin?**

You would be able to divorce sin when you want to do it for good reasons. If you do it for the wrong reasons, you would fail dismally to extricate yourself from the bondage of sin. You would fail if you want to divorce sin for the following reasons:

**When you want to please others.** Anything that you do for others does not last for long. If you reject sin because you want to impress other people, you would not be separated from sin, as you would only be acting to please others. When you are acting as someone who rejects sin, you would not do that sin when others are looking or are around you. As soon as you are alone or away from the sight of others, you would go back to your sin partner.

This is a pretence, as you would be trying very hard to be who you are not. The devil knows that you are just playing games if you are rejecting him because you want to impress others. As a result of that, the devil would not worry too much about you, as you do not pose any threat to him. In fact, when you are playing hide and seek with the devil, he will fasten his yoke on your shoulders, so that he could make sure that you would never leave him.

**When sin has disappointed you.** Indeed, many people would reject sin because of the pain that sin has inflicted upon them. Pain comes in many forms. Frustration and embarrassment are other kinds of pains. Losing money or your wealth is another kind of pain. Pain is any negative consequence of any action.

When you divorce a particular sin because of the harm it has caused you, you would go back to it soon as the pain is over. You might vow never to go back to that sin again, but this would be the voice of the pain you would be experiencing. Once the pain is over, your attitude towards that sin would change. In due course, you would again view that sin positively.

**When sin still tastes good to you.** Most assuredly, it is very difficult to separate yourself from something that still appeals to you. When you try to separate yourself from something that you still enjoy, you would struggle to break free from it. Sin has power over the one it has a relationship with it, and this power could only be defeated by the opposing power of righteousness.

The opposing power that could help you to divorce sin is the love you have for Jesus. If your love for Jesus is strong, it would help you to defeat the power that sin has over you. If you love Jesus with all your heart, you would naturally love what He loves and hate all that He hates.

The love of Jesus is able to deliver you from any relationship with sin. Our love for Jesus occupies our minds, and this love empties us of anything that is not from heaven. Anyone who loves Jesus loves righteousness because righteousness is the only thing that appeals to him.

Undoubtedly, our relationship with Jesus is the tonic that we all need to reject the devil and all the tools he uses to hook us into his kingdom. When we love Jesus, we do not have space in our hearts to love anything that is an abomination to God. The grace of the Lord has joined our hearts with Jesus' heart. Jesus' spirit has been implanted in our souls, and because of that, we are able to act and think like Him. Our new hearts only hunger for righteousness.

### **How you could get over sin?**

If you want to break the power that sin has over you, you need Jesus. Jesus is the power that God gave us so that we may be liberated from the powers of the enemy. Assuredly, if you want to be free from the yoke of sin, you need to make Jesus the Lord and Saviour of your life, by repenting of all the sins you have done. In addition to this, you need to forsake the control of your life and give Jesus leadership over your entire life.

When Jesus is the Master or Lord of your life, you need to live your life in accordance with His word. You need to make the word of God your Master so that it could Lord over every area of your life. When Jesus is the Lord of your life, He would give you the grace to overcome all the powers of the devil. Jesus is the only one who has the key to every locked door of your life, and if you need access to this key, you need to give control of every aspect of your life to Him.

When Jesus is your Lord and Saviour, you would have access to His name and His word. The name of Jesus is the only name that all things pay attention to. It does not matter what kind of thing it might be, everything bows to the name of Jesus. The word of God is another privilege you have in Jesus. You could use the word of God as a weapon to fight against the devil and all his tentacles.

You could fight against the devil and sin by proclaiming what God proclaims in His word. When you do this, you release the power of God over every matter you might need God's assistance on. The Lord respects His word more than anything, and when you proclaim what His word says, the Lord would react to what you are saying.

Anyone who lives in righteousness can access the power that comes from proclaiming the word of God. When you abide in the word of God, it will give you freedom over all the powers of the enemy.

Assuredly, when you want to divorce sin because God hates it, you would be able to break free from any bondage of sin. You would be able to overcome sin because all the grace of God would be availed to you.

## Chapter 9



### How Jesus overcame temptation

Jesus is our standard of what is good and acceptable to God. He is our righteousness and victory in all situations. When we imitate Him in all things, we will always be victorious against any attack from the kingdom of darkness. There is no other way of defeating the devil except the way of Jesus. The Lamb of God will always be victorious against the devil because He uses a proven formula for victory. He uses the power of the word of God to overcome the devil.

When we rely on the power of the word of God, we will always overcome the enemy. The word of God is Spirit and is Life. When we take shelter in the power of the word of God, we rely on the might of God's Spirit to defeat our enemy. The word of God is the power that is multiplied a million times hence the devil will always try to hide its power to us.

Any spiritual victory comes from the word of God because God is united with His word. When we are tempted by the devil, we must always invoke the word of God and proclaim what God says in His word. When we do this, the grace of God would be released upon us. The Lord would release His power so that it could help us to overcome the enemy.

When we stand on the strength of the word of God, we will always frustrate the devil. There is power in the word of God, and the devil will ridicule the word of God so that he could blind us to the might of God's power which is released when we invoke His word. The Lord always watches over His word to perform it, and when we invoke the word of God, we receive the strength of God on any matter that we seek God's grace on.

*“You have seen correctly, for I watch over My word to accomplish it”  
(Jeremiah 1:12).*

If we need the victory against temptation, we need to study how Jesus defeated the devil when the serpent tempted him in the desert. The responses that Jesus gave the serpent were all effective against temptation because they all use the might of God's word.

Jesus had two natures, He was both a Man and God at the same time. As God, He has infinite knowledge of all things, and He also has unlimited power to do all. He has the power to do anything with his word. Jesus created the universe and all that inhabits it, and He is One who created all the angels, including the devil. He understands everything about the devil. He knows the strength and the weaknesses of the serpent. Not only does He know the strength and weaknesses of the devil, he knows the strength and weaknesses of every created thing.



As a Man, Jesus had a human nature like all other human beings. He walked, ate and did all the things that a normal human being is able to do. And because Jesus had a human nature, He had a human weakness that all of us, except being sinful. Even though Jesus had a human nature, He was pure without sin, because he did not follow his human nature, but followed the will of God.

Before Jesus was born as a Man, He existed in heaven as God. When the devil was an angel, he could never think of tempting Jesus because the Master is incorruptible. Jesus is holy and due to this, He has all the power and wisdom that no other created being has. The devil is wise and knows his limits, he could never think of tempting God the Son because there was no possibility of Jesus falling into temptation.

Indeed, the devil is very devious and persistent. Since Jesus chased Him away from heaven, the devil has always wanted to avenge his humiliation. Satan was one of the angels that were surrounding God in heaven, but he was thrown out of heaven when he wanted to be like God. Since the devil was humiliated by Jesus, he has an unfinished business with the Master.

*“ Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was thrown out — the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him ” (Revelation 12:7-9).*

The birth of Jesus as a Son of Man gave the serpent hope that he could prevail over him. Satan thought he could tempt the Lord to move away from the righteousness of God. He observed the human nature of Jesus, which was like the human nature of any person. And when he looked at Jesus, he thought he could use the same temptation strategy he has used for many generations to lead him astray from the love of God.

Indeed, when Jesus was born as a human being, the devil thought his chance had finally come to settle old scores with Him. He thought he could prevail against Jesus because the Lord had a human nature that was like ours. The Lord could thirst, hunger, cry, and bleed.

To achieve his objective of defeating Jesus, the serpent tried to use temptation as a weapon that was meant to take away the glory of Jesus so that the snake could prevail against Him. The temptation of the devil was aimed at the human weaknesses of Jesus. Indeed, the serpent did try many times to exploit the human weaknesses of Jesus, but he failed in all his efforts.

He failed because the Spirit of God sustained the life of Jesus in every way possible. The Spirit of God clothes Jesus with the power of God, and this power was able to stand against any form of temptation or attack from the kingdom of the serpents. Jesus succeeded to stand against temptation because His soul yielded to the Spirit of God

which was in Him. He did not rely on His strength to fight against the serpent, but He depended on the Father to supply Him with grace to overcome the serpent.

Jesus is holy and His holiness will always give us victory against the devil. There is only one thing that defeats the devil, it is the holiness of Jesus which was released upon those who believes in His righteousness. Righteousness is a spiritual nature of God that is able to defeat the devil in all situations.

The serpent will always fail to attack anyone who lives in holiness because holiness is a spiritual state of victory against all the powers of the kingdom of darkness. Holiness is a spiritual light and this spiritual light will always overcome any spiritual darkness. The serpent is spiritual darkness, and because of this, he will always come second best against the power of holiness, which is Jesus.

Satan is darkness and Jesus is the light of God. The two spiritual states have nothing in common, and due to this difference, they will never coexist. Where there is Jesus there will always be light, and where there is light there is life. The serpent lives in darkness, and owing to this, he will always be flushed away by the holiness of God, which is the greatest Light in the entire universe.

The Spirit of God is light, life, power, and strength, but the spiritual darkness is powerlessness and death. Darkness will never prevail against the light of God. Satan does not have the capacity to defeat us when we abide in the light of God. To stand a chance against us, the devil must use deception as a tool that could make us spiritually weak.

We must not be fearful of the serpent, as he has no power over righteousness. When we live in righteousness, the devil is unable to look at us because the light of righteousness blinds him. The light of righteousness is too bright for the devil, and because of this, the devil would not want to be around us. This light of holiness does not only blind the devil, it exposes all his dirty moves against us. Satan is always doing bad things in darkness, and the light of righteousness will always reveal all the bad things he is doing against the children of God.

*That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.  
(John 1:5)*

The devil must deceive us to lose our righteousness so that he may attack us. When we abide in righteousness, the serpent cannot touch us. The spiritual light is too bright and powerful, and, the serpent cannot penetrate its shield. Anyone who abides in righteousness abides in the light of protection which the devil will never overcome.

The word of God radiates the spiritual light of God upon those who have a relationship with it. It clothes us with the glory of the Lord, and this glory is maintained by a holy life. When we live in holiness, we will always defeat our enemy, that old serpent called the devil.

Assuredly, the serpent can only overcome us by tempting us to sin. Sin is a spiritual pollutant that attracts spiritual darkness into our lives. When we do sinful things, we will always attract darkness which is death and failure.

The Lord is the biggest spiritual Light, which is the source of life and goodness. The Lord cannot abide in an environment of spiritual darkness. When we attract the spiritual darkness into our lives, the Light of God will depart from us. When we are devoid of the light of protection, the devil will attack us with impunity.

Satan knows when to attack us. When we are devoid of the protection of the Lord, the serpent could attack us from all the fronts. He could destroy us completely, make us sink into a more sinful life, or he could destroy any area of our lives.

When the glory of the Lord does not cover us, we would exist in the same spiritual state of darkness which the devil abides in. This is the law of the likes, darkness attracts darkness, and the light of God, which is the righteousness of God avails all the grace of God to us. The light of God is the light of victory against all the powers of darkness, and it will always be victorious against the kingdom of the snakes. On the other hand, when we abide in darkness, we abide in powerlessness and in death.

Satan tempted Jesus in the desert because he did not understand the balance between the two natures of Jesus. The Lord had a human nature and a nature of God in one person. The serpent knew that he could not overcome the God nature of Jesus, and a because of that, he focused his attacks on His human nature.

Surely, the serpent knows the weakness of our human nature because he has attacked many people before. He thought he could attack Jesus the same way he has attacked others.

After Jesus was led to the desert by the Spirit of God, he fasted for forty days, day, and night. After this fast, the human nature of Jesus was hungry as he ate nothing for forty days. His human nature was weak and hungry, and this state gave the serpent hope that he could attack the human nature of Jesus without understanding the interaction of the Spirit and the human nature of the Lord.

Even though Jesus existed as a human being, His God-nature was always in control of his human nature. When the Spirit of God abides in a human body, it will always seek to dominate the human nature. The Spirit of God will always try to influence the soul of man to behave like God.

When the soul of a man yields to the discipline of the Spirit of God, it will have the nature of the Spirit of God. And because of this, it will always be sensitive to the word of God. When our souls are sensitive to the word of God, they would always want to please the Spirit not self.

Jesus, the Son of Man, yielded His will to the power of the Spirit of God who lives in him. As a result of this, the human nature of Jesus was pure and holy. The Spirit of God who abides in Jesus controlled the life of Jesus and due to this, it mitigated the weakness of His human nature. The human nature of Jesus yielded to the Spirit of God in every situation hence Jesus was pure and spotless all the time.

The Son of Man understood the secret of yielding to the authority of the Spirit of God who abide in Him. He also understood that God's power is only released to those who are obedient to the authority of God's word. Anyone who is obedient to the word of God will have full access to the power of the Holy Spirit. When we rely on the word of God, all the grace of God would be released to us. We would be able to access any power that we need from God.

**Jesus used the word of God to defeat temptation.** When the serpent tempted Jesus, he smelled the blood. He thought he was about to be victorious against Jesus because of the weakness he noticed in him. Jesus has just come out of a very long fast and his body looked weak as a result.

The serpent concentrated on the weakness of His body and disregarded the strength of His Spirit. When the Spirit is strong, it would strengthen the weak human body. Life and power are in the Spirit, and when the Spirit is alive, the body would also be alive. When the Spirit of a person is powerful, the body will also be powerful despite looking frail.

The Spirit of God is the one who led Jesus into the desert so that He may fast for forty days. The will of God is our strength, and when we are doing the will of God, the Lord would always avail His grace for our benefit. He would always strengthen us so that we may bear with any challenge we may face in our quest to do His will. This is exactly what happened to Jesus in the desert, the Spirit of God helped Him to bear the torment of hunger for forty days.

*“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).*

Jesus had a Godly nature that knows all and is able to do all that none of us could do. When the devil tempted him in the desert, Jesus did not use His wisdom to defeat the serpent, he used the power of the word of God to prevail against the devil. The Lord could have said many things about the devil because it was He who created the serpent, but he chose to use the most potent weapon against the devil, which is the word of God. The word of God is the power that no temptation could prevail against.

The Master quoted scriptures to defeat temptation. All His responses against the serpent came from the book of Deuteronomy.

This is the first temptation against Jesus, and the Lord handled it with the power of the word of God.

*“The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread’” (Luke 4:3).*

Every attack of the serpent is always laced with traces of pride. Satan might attack us using any weapon. However, many of his weapons are laced with pride. Pride is the gunpowder that makes it possible for the bullets of the serpent to be released against us. When the devil mixes any weapon with traces of pride, these weapons would stand a greater chance to hit the target. The devil will always try to appeal to our sense of pride in order to move us away from the righteousness of God.

The devil knew that Jesus was the Son of God, but he nonetheless said, ‘If you are the Son of God. ‘By saying this, he was actually saying ‘Prove to me that you are the Son of God and you have the power to change stones into bread.’ Jesus did not fall into this bait because He knew that if He listened to the devil, he would give him power to dominate him.

There was nothing Jesus needed to prove because the serpent knew exactly who Jesus was. He knew that Jesus was the Son of God who could do anything. When the serpent said, ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he was appealing to the sense of pride which he thought Jesus had. Unfortunately, the Lord had no issue with pride, He was humble like a powerless child.

The devil is very cunning, he would use our strength to appeal to our sense of pride if we have any. He would want to exploit our strength to his advantage. And every time we want to prove to him how powerful or knowledgeable we are, we would fall into his trap. This is what he wants to achieve, he wants to lift us high so that he could pull us down.

Anyone who wants to prove how powerful or knowledgeable he is would be controlled by the devil. When we want to prove who we are, we would do foolish things to show others how great we are. This is the trick that the devil uses to make us feel tall so that he might cut us down to the ground.

Jesus knows the tricks of the devil, and He understands that there is no better way of beating the devil than using the power of the word of God. He did not want to entertain the suggestions of the devil but used the word of God to proclaim what God proclaims in His word.

When we use the word of God to proclaim what God proclaims in it, we rely on the power of God to defeat any temptation. By using the power of the word of God, we give the Lord power to fight against any spiritual attack against us.

Our power is not in ourselves, but it is in God. The devil cannot fight with God directly, and when we use the word of God as a bullet against the serpent, the serpent will run away from us. Assuredly, the devil cannot stand the power of the word of God because the word of God is programmed to be victorious against him all the time.

God is our strength, and due to this, we need to rely on His power to defeat any temptation. He is the only one the devil is very afraid of. And every time we use the power of the word of God, we will always be victorious against all forms of temptations. It is for this reason that every child of God needs to know the whole Bible so that we could use proper spiritual bullets to fight against any temptation. Bible passages or verses are our spiritual bullets against the devil. And every time we quote a passage or verse against any form of temptation, we will defeat the serpent.

When the devil laces any weapon against us with pride, he wants us to focus on our strength instead of relying on the strength of God. The word of God is the strength of God against any temptation, and when we use the power of the word of God to fight against temptation, we are glorifying God above our own strength. By glorifying Him above ourselves, we invite His grace to help us to defeat the enemy.

Indeed, when we rely on the strength of the word of God to defeat temptation, we emphasise how weak we are doing anything on our own. When we count ourselves as nothing and powerless, the fullness of God's strength would be availed for us. The grace that would be released upon us would help us to overcome all the powers of the enemy.

It is only the Lord who has the ability to defeat the serpent. When we rely on the grace of God to fight against our enemy, we shall be victorious all the time. But when we rely on our own strength, we will give the serpent power over us.

When we lift ourselves above God, we lift the devil above our own defence. Anyone who relies on his strength to fight spiritual battles will bite the dust, because when we lift ourselves above the Lord, the power of the Holy Spirit will be withdrawn by God. And when we rely on our own strength, we will always stand without any help from God.

Jesus is our perfect example in all things. Jesus, the Son of Man had the same weaknesses that we have, except he was pure and holy all the time. He came down from heaven so that He could defeat the power of sin, and to show us the secret of defeating the devil. He relied upon the power of the Father to give Him victory against all the powers of the darkness.

The temptation of Jesus in the desert is the perfect example of how we must deal with temptation. We could only defeat temptation when we act the same way Jesus acted. When the devil tempts us, there is no other formula of success against the serpent except the way of the Master.

The devil threw three nets of temptation against Jesus and the Lord beat Him by using scriptures. This is how Jesus responded to the first net of temptation thrown towards Him by the serpent

*“But Jesus answered him, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone””  
(Luke 4:4)*

This response that Jesus made against the above temptation comes from the book of Deuteronomy.

*“He humbled you by letting you go hungry; then He gave you manna to eat, which you and your fathers had not known, so that you might learn that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD”  
(Deuteronomy 8:3).*

When we invoke what God says in His word, He will always help us with any grace we need. The Lord has an unbreakable contract with His word. His word binds Him in every possible way. God is the truth, and He will never forsake this important covenant that He has with His word. When we call upon the power of His word, He will release upon us every grace with need from Him. There is nothing God value more than His word. His word is His vow, and because it is His vow He will always perform it.

*“The LORD said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I watch over My word to accomplish it”” (Jeremiah 1:12).*

Jesus is our righteousness, and when we behave like Him, we will always walk in the will of God. God delights in those who forsake their will for His will. When we abide in the will of God, we will always be covered by the blanket of righteousness which will protect us and it would also give us all the grace we need from the Father.

The first act of temptation against Jesus tempted Him to do His will instead of God’s will. The devil wanted Jesus to change what God did not want to change. It was not the will of God to change stones into food, and any effort to do so would have undermined the will of God.

The will of God is our shield because when we remain in the will of God, the Lord will supply us with all the grace we may require of Him. But when we act in opposition to the will of the Father, we will always stand on our own against dangerous weapons of the enemy.

Sometimes, the snake might tempt you to do your will instead of doing the will of God. He would say there is no specific commandment in the word of God that forbids you to do a certain thing. The serpent is a master deceiver, he mixes the truth with lies so that he may trap you to fall into his net of temptation. There might not be a specific word in the Bible that forbids you to do a certain thing, but if you know the will of

God or what God expects you to do but you do not do it, you have sinned against God. Any direction that you take in opposition to the will of God is a sin.

The will of God dictates everything a child of God must do and say, and when anyone acts in opposition to the will of the Father, that person has chosen the devil over God. We are called the children of God because we have voluntarily lost the right to dictate the direction of our lives. Every child of God has voluntarily given the control of their lives to Jesus.

The devil wanted Jesus to do the devil's will, but Jesus did not fall into that trap. He stuck to the will of the Father which was to allow God to strengthen His weak body without eating any food.

Jesus understood the glory or power of God. He knew that there is food for the body, which is a spiritual manna that God supplies to those who need it. The Son of God knows that there are many ways God could use to give us strength, and he also understood that no one could die from hunger when they depend on God to feed them. The word of God is our spiritual food which supplies us with the strength of God.

The word of God encourages us to fast so that we may reach some spiritual goals. The Lord promises to answer any prayer of fasting if we do it correctly. Anyone who fasts is doing the will of the Father, and the Lord will strengthen them with His power. Fasting is a spiritual act and anyone who fasts would be supplied with spiritual food that would give them strength so that they may overcome hunger that would result from not having food for a prolonged period.

*“Whenever you fast, don't be sad-faced like the hypocrites. For they make their faces unattractive so their fasting is obvious to people. I assure you: They've got their reward! But when you fast, put oil on your head, and wash your face, so that you don't show your fasting to people but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (Matthew 6:16-18).*

In many cases, the children of God need spiritual answers instead of the answers they might be looking for. One might pray for a job without realising that one has been sustained by the Holy Spirit despite not working. Anyone who lives for the Lord in righteousness will never lack anything because this is the promise of the word of God.

The word of God will release all the grace that one need in order to overcome any difficult situation. The word of God has power over any situation, and any promise God has made in His word will be fulfilled. God will fulfil it in His own way, not according to our expectation.

Indeed, our Father will always sustain us in His own mysterious ways. When we trust in the power of His word, we shall all be supplied with all the grace we need in all situations.



The second temptation against Jesus focused on his possible weakness, which is the love of power and uncontrollable pride. Many people love power because pride controls their destiny, but Jesus had none of these.

*“ So he took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. The Devil said to Him, ‘ I will give You their splendor and all this authority, because it has been given over to me, and I can give it to anyone I want. If You, then, will worship me, all will be Yours ’” (Luke 4: 5-7).*

Temptation overcame many people because the devil has shown them all the things he would give them if they worship him. When he takes them to the top of the mountain, he shows them all the splendour of his power. Assuredly, when he showed them all the treasures of his kingdom, he shows them what their hearts desire. He promises to share the splendour of his kingdom with anyone who would worship Him.

The sting of temptation is given power by the promise to give people instant success or riches. According to the serpent, people do not have to wait for an answer from God as the devil has a quick solution to their problems. Temptation makes promises that are too good to be true, hence many people have fallen into the trap of the serpent.

People only realise when they start to bleed that the devil has deceived them with lies, and sadly, many of them are not able to overcome the consequences of their sinful actions. Some die from their sinful actions whilst others are permanently disfigured by sin.

Those who have been disfigured by sin may run back to God, and the Lord would take them back to His heart, but the scars of sin would be permanently visible in their bodies or lives. The Lord will forgive anyone who runs back to Him for salvation, but sadly, for some people, the scars of sin will not go away as they would be a constant reminder of their sinful actions.

On the other hand, God operates in accordance with His will. His will determines what He will do for us and how He would do it. His will is perfect all the time. Indeed, His will is perfect whether it makes us cry or not. The blessings from God do not add any pain because they come from a good Father. But the trappings of success which comes from the devil will come with shackles of bondage that will shackle many people for the rest of their lives or until they decide to run to Jesus.

*“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it”  
(Proverbs 10:22).*

Glory belongs to God. It is only God who could glorify us among our peers. And when He glorifies us, He would do it for Himself. All the good things that God does for us are meant to glorify His name. We are the instruments that glorify His holy name when we do good things. The Lord is glorified in our lives when people talk about the wonderful things God has done for us.

Those who love power do so out of pride, not because they want to glorify God. Pride is a spirit that fuels them to want to have more power or material possessions. Our human nature that is not sensitive to the Spirit of God binds us to the devil. It is our biggest handicap because it would destroy us badly.

Our human nature has the weakness of desiring more for itself regardless of what God says. The same could not be said of Jesus Christ, who also had a human nature like ours. Even though Jesus had a human nature that was like ours, His life was all about glorifying His Father in all situations. He did not follow the dictates of His human nature, but was chasing after the will of the Father.

The devil knows our human weaknesses, and he thought he could attack Jesus the same way he has attacked many people before. He thought he could dangle the lure of power to Jesus by showing him all the kingdoms of the world, and promised to give them to Jesus provided Jesus worships him.

Jesus understood that all the power belongs to God, not the devil. The Lamb of God was not going to fall into temptation regardless of the amount of power the devil promises to give Him because Jesus had a God-centered view of everything. His life was all about glorifying the Father.

Our Master, Jesus is unlike many of us who love power. Many children of God have fallen from grace because of their love for power and material possession. It is easy for the devil to tempt you if you covet power and material blessings. The serpent would promise you all the things your heart desires so that your eyes could move away from the will of the Father.

If you love power and material possessions, this is the greatest weakness that the serpent would exploit. He would hook you into his claws by promising you heaven and earth. Unfortunately, every promise of the devil comes with strings attached to them. The serpent may give you everything so that you may lose everything. Everything that Satan could give you would be in opposition to the will of God. And when you move away from the will of the Father, you would lose everything. You may gain something from the devil, but you would lose your position in God.

Many brothers and sisters have fallen prey to this trick of the devil, the trick of promising to give us everything in exchange of worshipping Him. The devil has promised to give many people big jobs, big business contracts, and big ministries, provided they worship him. If you take the offer that the serpent has made to you, you will worship Him. By merely falling for his trick, you have decided to leave the heart of God and to worship the devil instead of worshipping the true God.

If you have received a job or a business contract that the devil has promised you, you will be hooked into a lasting relationship with him. Sin will rule over your life unless you repent for your sinfulness and decide to worship the living God.

Satan had promised many prophets and pastors big congregations, and big bucks in exchange of worshipping him. These prophets are using the spirit of darkness to prophesy or to do false signs and wonders. Your church may overflow with people and have everything, but if what you have belongs to the devil, your church does not belong to Jesus. Indeed, many of these pastors and prophets continue to labour in the name of Jesus, but Jesus does not know them, as they are the servants of the devil. These people have decided to leave the heart of God because they love power and material possessions.

Assuredly, you may have a big job, big houses or big business contracts, but if these things do not come from God, you will worship the one who made it possible for you to have them. You may still profess the love of God with your own mouth, but if you worship the devil, you cannot worship God at the same time. And when you worship the devil, he will suck you deeper into his claw, and you would do anything he wants you to do.

When the devil promises you something, he wants you to worship him. He may not say it in the most vivid terms, but when you take up an offer of the devil, you would worship him whether you know this or not. When you decide to take something from the devil, you have decided to make a covenant of bondage with him. That covenant will bind you to the devil as long as you live or until you decide to repent and run back to God.

Jesus handled the temptation of giving him more power with ease. He used the power of the word of God to defeat the devil. The Lamb of God knew that the serpent is powerless, he is only given power by those who fall into his tricks. The Son of God understood that it is only God who is worthy to be worshipped.

*“And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only’” (Luke 4:8).*

The Son of Man quoted the scripture as a weapon against the devil, and this revealed His knowledge of the power of God. God’s power is in His word and anyone who takes refuge in the word of God will not be harmed by anything.

The second defence that Jesus used to fight against temptation also come from the book of Deuteronomy.

*“Fear Yahweh your God, worship Him, and take your oaths in His name. Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you” (Deuteronomy 6:13-14).*

The third temptation was also directed at the spirit of pride which Jesus did not have. The serpent wanted Jesus to boast about His association with His Father so that Jesus could use God’s power to be careless with his own life.

Unfortunately for the devil, Jesus did not fall for this trap, as He was comfortable with who He was. He knew how powerful His Father was, and He was not about to waste His time boasting about this. He knew that this temptation was not really about revealing how powerful the grace of God is. This temptation was more about controlling the will of Jesus. Jesus knew that if He could do what the devil wanted Him to do, the devil would be His new master.

*“So he took Him to Jerusalem, had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: He will give His angels orders concerning you, to protect you, and they will support you with their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone’” (Luke 4:9-11).*

The serpent has tempted many people to fall in love with him through the trick of making them reckless with their lives and ministries. The devil has tricked them to do what the word of God does not promise nor guarantees. Surely the devil managed to trick them to fall into his net of temptation because those people had a spirit of pride.

Anyone who has a spirit of pride could do anything to show how wise and powerful they are, or how precious they are in the eyes of God. The grace of God will not act for those who gamble with their lives and ministries for the sake of pride. God will only provide His grace upon those who continue to abide in His will, those who live to please Him in all situations.

The devil did not only tempt Jesus to be reckless with His life, but the devil also quoted the scriptures out of context. This is how he misquoted the scriptures:

*“ For He will give His angels orders concerning you, to protect you in all your ways. They will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone” (Psalm 91:11-12).*

The serpent is cunning indeed, and not only is the devil cunning, he knows the scriptures. The devil knows the power of the word of God, hence he does not want us to study and understand it. He knows that the word of God is our refuge in all situations and that God responds to His word. When we do what is in the word of God, the grace of God would always be released upon us.

The devil twisted the word of God by using it in the wrong context. The word of God has a proper context, and it only has power when it operates within its proper context. When we use the word of God out of context, we would be devoid of the grace of God. When the devil quotes the word of God out of context, he is deceiving us to follow a lie.

Deception is the mixture of the truth and lies. Any deception has a bit of truth that is why it deceives many people. Many people might see the part of truth without noticing the lies. When we mix the truth with the lies, we are acting out of deception.

The devil is the master of deception, and he will always try to fool us by misusing scriptures so that he could deceive us into his corner.

Many Christians have been duped by the devil through this trick of mixing the truth with lies. Owing to the deception of the devil, many people are following God wrongly. They worship God incorrectly, and because of this, everything they do in relation to God is out of tune.

These Christians are worshipping an incorrect Jesus and a fake Holy Spirit. Their worship has been corrupted by the devil who made them to follow his deceptions.

These people are worshipping a hybrid form of Christianity. They are worshipping idols and at the same time, they claim to be worshipping the living God. There is no salvation in deceit. Anyone who worships an incorrect Jesus is not a child of God. They are following the devil without noticing it. The serpent made them believe that they are the children of God, whereas they are the servants of the kingdom of darkness. They are controlled by the devil and due to this, they are serving the serpent, not God.

Jesus did not fall for the lies of the devil, he defeated Satan by the power of the word of God. Jesus realised what the devil was doing and He did not want to play the game of the devil. He took out the word of God and shoot at the devil. He did not engage in any argument with the devil as that would not have power over the serpent. The Master relied on the trusted method of defeating the snake, which is to use the power of the word of God to take victory against the devil.

*“ And Jesus answered him, ‘It is said: Do not test the Lord your God’”  
(Luke 4:12).*

Jesus could have tried to argue with the devil. The Lord could have shown his insight into the mind of the serpent, and he could have rebuked the serpent for using the word of God out of context. He could have said many things to enlighten the devil about the origin and the context of the scripture that the devil had quoted, but Jesus knew that the devil is not defeated by anything except the power of the word of God.

He answered the devil by quoting the scripture that rebukes the devil, and this is how he managed to defeat the devil. The word of God has the power to rebuke the devil in the most potent way, and the devil will not stand its power. When the word of God rebukes the devil, he will run for cover. The serpent does not have any power over the word of God. The word of God has authority over any created thing, and everything is subject to its authority.

Assuredly, we can never defeat any temptation if we rely on our own wisdom and strength. Power to defeat temptation is in the word of God. We need to give the word of God permission to fight our battles against the serpent.

The word of God has power only when we believe in Jesus and in the authority of His word. The devil cannot be defeated by people who do not have faith in God and in the power of His word. When we use the word of God without faith, it will not serve any purpose.

Anyone who wants to access the power of the word of God must have a relationship with it. The word of God must lord over them, and they must always yield to it in all situations.

Indeed, the word of God is the most potent weapon available to anyone who has a Master-servant relationship with Jesus. We cannot use the power of the word of God to fight our battles if the word of God is not our God. Its power is only accessible to those who have decided to give the Lord power to lord over their lives.

Every time we are tempted by the devil, we need to invoke the word of God. When we invoke or quote the word of God, we say what God says in His word. When we invoke the word of God against any temptation, that temptation will run away from us.

Any temptation has spiritual ears because it comes from the devil. When we are tempted by the devil, we need to rebuke him by saying what God says in His word. This is the power that we have in God. When we agree with what God says in His word, all the grace we need from Him would be released upon us.

## Chapter 10



### **The devil wants you to backslide**

When the devil hooks you into fellowship with sin, he does not want you to commit one sin or a number of sins, he wants you to swim in a pool of sin, where sin would be a part of your life. Indeed, the devil might encourage you to fall into sin by encouraging you to do only one sin. He will lie to you by making you think you would only be committing that one sin. Once you commit that sin, he would encourage you to do more of that sin, until he encourages you to commit other unrelated sins.

In the end, you would be involved in relationships with many sins, and at that stage, you would be insensitive to the voice of God. Your conscience would be dead, and you would not be mindful of the will of God nor His presence.

When you have reached this sad spiritual stage, you would have backslid, you would have moved away from God completely. It might take a few months or even years to sink you into this spiritual state. Be careful with your spiritual life and guard it with everything you have. Sin will never come into your life to give you goodies, it would come with the sole purpose of harming you and everything that is related to you.

Once you backslide, you might never have the ability to come back to the heart of God. The devil is very cunning and he has lots of tricks up his sleeve. When he makes you backslide, he put stumbling blocks in your way, and these stumbling blocks would make it very difficult for you to come back to the heart of God.

If you remain in the spiritual state of backsliding, you will struggle to extricate yourself from all the shackles of the devil. Eventually, if you do not separate yourself from sin, you would miss out on the precious gift of eternal life which God promised to those who have forsaken the life of sin for the righteousness of God.

Be careful with your faith, because it is the only thing that will give you victory over all the powers of the enemy. When your faith is intact in Jesus, you would be able to do what few people are able to do, you would be able to access all the grace of God. When you speak, Heaven will react to your speech. Your prayers would have the power to change whatever undesirable situation you might pray against. Without any shadow of a doubt, your faith will make you eat at the table of the Master, Jesus. The favour of God will always be upon you when you abide in the holiness of God.

Take note that every thought of temptation comes from the devil. You might not understand how the devil is doing this, but rest assured, every thought that encourages you to commit sin comes straight from the serpent.

It is always important to remember that there is no sin that is small enough, nor is there any sin that is big enough. Sin is sin regardless of how the serpent might dress it.

When you are tempted by the serpent, rebuke that thought in the name of Jesus, it shall go away from you.

You must never get tired of rebuking the devil because the devil will never get tired of tempting you. He will tempt you as long as you live. When you rebuke any sinful thought, it will fly away from you because it understands the authority of the name of Jesus. The name of Jesus is the name of righteousness, which is the name of victory against all the powers of the enemy.

The power to defeat temptation is in the wisdom of God. If you know the word of God, it will expose all the tricks of the devil to you. The word of God will give you all the armour you need against the devil.

You must always stay connected to the word of God, by having constant fellowship with it daily. The word of God will always give you spiritual food that you might not see or notice. As you fellowship with it, it would give you spiritual muscles that no one could give you. The word of God is our strength in more ways than one. It clothes us with the power of righteousness which insulates us against all the negative things from the kingdom of sin.

A prayer is another spiritual tool that helps us to have constant fellowship with the Lord. There is also power in prayer because as you pray, spiritual bullets are released against all forces of darkness that might be planning to attack you. Indeed, the prayers of the righteous are a spiritual pesticide, as they kill all the hidden tools of darkness.

*“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16)*

Every time a righteous person prays, the skies are filled with fire, and this fire destroys all the tools of darkness. It does not only kill demons, but it kills all the traps the devil has set up in your mind. There are spiritual traps that are cast around us and some of these traps are planted in our minds. As we pray, tools or tentacles of darkness would be annihilated by the fire of God. Assuredly, a prayer is like a dip that is used to kill insects and fungi that have infested animals. A prayer covers us with the spiritual fire that would kill all that is not from God.

### **How do you know that you have backslid?**

The terrain of sin is so fluid, and because of this, it is easy to move from one degree of sinfulness to the next. One person can commit one sin and that sin might totally break him. It could be the only sin that moves him away from the heart of God. Any sin we have not repented for has the possibility of making us backslide.

It is always wise for us to hate all forms of sin because all kinds of sins have the potential to move us from the heart of Jesus. The evil world of the serpent is connected in more ways than one. One sin is connected to all other kinds of sins.



When you do one sin, you are more than likely to do many sins. Any sin you may be married to will open doors for dangerous sins that will destroy your life.

We can never understand sin if we do not understand the cross of Calvary and what it has done for us. The cross of Calvary has not only cleansed us of all the sins we have committed, it has given us a new spiritual heart, a heart that is sensitive to God and His word.

The most important thing about us is our spiritual hearts, which are our souls. The conditions of our hearts determine the likelihood of us doing any sinful action. God knows this hence a process of being born again is a process of spiritual transplantation, where God gives us His heart that is sensitive to His word and righteousness. Our old hearts are not sensitive to the word of God. In fact, our old hearts reject the word of God completely.

We can never be obedient to the word of God if the Holy Spirit does not transform our souls and made them sensitive to the righteousness of God. If our hearts are not transformed, we would force ourselves to follow Jesus. When we follow the Master out of obligation, we will not go far. Pretence does not last, and in due time, we would be tired of pretending to be who we are not, hence it is very important for any child of God to receive a new heart that is sensitive to the word of God.

Our sensitivity to the righteousness of God reveals many things about us. It reveals our love for God and what we are prepared to lose for His name's sake. When our souls are sensitive to the word of God, the word of God becomes the food that we are not able to live without. Indeed, when we are sensitive to the righteousness of God, our hearts agree with God on all issues of our lives. Our new hearts, which have been reconfigured in the likeness of God sees what God sees, and they are also able to feel what the Lord feels.

What keeps us glued inside the heart of God is our likeness to Him. Anyone who has the likeness of God loves what He loves and hates all that He hates. When we have the same outlook God has, we are naturally inclined to stay in His heart. But as soon as our outlook changes, we are likely to depart from the heart of the Master.

Sin is a tool that the devil uses to change our spiritual outlook. It is a tool that the devil uses to make us different to God. Satan wants us not to love what the Lord loves. When we no longer love what God loves, we would naturally move away from Him. His presence would be a thorn in our side. When we no longer believe in the righteousness of God, we would want to stay away from anything that reminds us about God and His righteousness.

Satan is very clever, and he uses sin cleverly to change us. The serpent introduces us to sin for the same reason, he wants to change the way we look at things. He wants us to look at things through his lenses, the lenses of unrighteousness. Every temptation is

meant to move us from God by moving us from the things that God loves. Sin makes us to be in opposition to what God stands for.

It is easy to determine whether you have backslid. If you no longer love the righteousness of God, you no longer love Jesus. We love Jesus because He is the embodiment of the righteousness of God. And when we are no longer mindful of the righteousness of God, we would divorce Jesus in our spiritual hearts. We cannot divorce Jesus and remain unmarried. Anyone who divorces Jesus has found a new lover, that old serpent from the kingdom of death. Indeed, anyone who has divorced Jesus loves sin because they are so much in love with the author of sin, the devil.

The devil knows that it is easy to move us from one spiritual state to the other. He tempts us to marry one sin so that the sin we are married to could introduce us to a host of other sins. In the end, we would be in love with unrighteousness, because we would be wedded to many kinds of sins.

## Chapter 11



### How to run back to the heart of God

There are two kinds of people in the world. It is those who have been captured by the devil through sin or those the devil is trying to capture through sin. Formerly all the people have been captured by the devil as all lived in sin. But the blood of Jesus set many people free from the bondage of sin. It released them from the power of the devil.

Salvation moved people from the kingdom of sin into the kingdom of righteousness. Indeed, salvation made them reject sin and its author and also made them love the righteousness of God, Jesus.

Anyone who loves Jesus loves righteousness. We cannot love sin and embrace righteousness at the same time. We can either be with Jesus or the devil. There is no spiritual fence-sitter. You either hate sin or love it. Those who hates sin hates the devil and those who love righteousness love Jesus.

The devil is the master of sin, and Jesus is the Master of holiness. Jesus gives us His holiness so that we may abide in holiness, and the serpent is the dispenser of sin, he is the one who wants to make us spiritually dirty by making us embrace sin.

Indeed, the serpent does not worry about those who are in his fold, as he has already made them his slaves. He is more worried about those who love righteousness, and he will stop at nothing to make sure that they are spiritually dirty.

Those who love righteousness are those who are still mindful of God and His will. They want to please Him in all things, and because of this, the grace of God will always be available to help them achieve this end.

God loves those who love righteousness, and His favour will always be upon them. There is nothing that God cannot do for those who have embraced the life of righteousness. When they pray, the Lord will always answer their prayers. The protection and the presence of God will always cover them, and the devil cannot touch them.

The Lord would always come through for those who abide in righteousness no matter what happens in their lives. As much as there are people who love righteousness, some will one day move away from the heart of God by running back to a life of sin. The devil will tempt them to abandon the kingdom of righteousness for his dirty kingdom.

The Lord is faithful to those who love Him, and he will always help them to overcome the power of the enemy. When we love Jesus, we will always have access to the grace of God. The Lord would fight for us all the time. When we decide to move away from

the heart of God, we would do so not because there is something wrong with God. We would move away from the love of God because we would have given the devil permission to tempt us with sin.

The serpent tempts us all the time and many of us are able to stand against temptation because we still believe in the holiness of Jesus. When we believe in the holiness of Jesus, we will always chase after the will of God. The will of God will determine what we do or say. But when we are no longer mindful of the will of God, the devil will cease that opportunity to move us away from the kingdom of righteousness into the kingdom of the spiritually filthy.

God is faithful indeed, as he will never move away from us. We are the ones who might decide to desert him for the kingdom of darkness. When we fall into the hands of the devil, we must never blame God. The Lord could do all that we want Him to do for us, but He will never impose His will upon us. If we love His righteousness, he will give us grace so that we may abide in the beauty of His holiness.

### **How to break the bondage of sin**

When we decide to go back to the world, the Lord will also respect that even though He might not like it. The Lord does not move away from us quickly. When we decide to go back to a life of sin, He would rebuke us so that He may correct our ways. He will do all that is in His power to stop the devil from stealing us from His heart.

But if we do not respond to the grace of God, by resisting temptation, the Lord will eventually relent. He will one day leave us to our own will, where He will allow us to do what we want to do.

There is no one like Jesus. The Lord would always try to bring us back home even though we have decided to run back to the devil. He would still give us grace by sending people to speak to us on His behalf. He will do many things in the background to pull us from the fold of the serpent.

It is a very sad reality that the majority of those who have backslid will never come back to God. The devil will not permit them to do so. The serpent is very clever, as he does not play spiritual games. He is in the business of enslaving us to kingdom forever. As long as we do not run back to God, we would always be shackled by the devil.

There is a reason those who have backslid would find it difficult to come back to the Lord. The serpent is a master schemer, he pulls people into a life of sin, and he would do all in his power to keep them in bondage forever. Assuredly, it is wise not to fall into any trap of sin because when we succumb into that trap, the devil would most probably win us back into a life of sin.

The reason many backsliders fail to come back from a life of sin is the stumbling blocks that the devil has put in their way. When the devil tempts you to fall into sin,

he makes you put stumbling blocks in your way so that these stumbling blocks could prevent you from running back to God.

What are these stumbling blocks that he makes you put in your way? These are trappings or accessories of sin. Anyone who has backslid has put a lot of stumbling blocks in his way. These stumbling blocks are what he has done or said to those who wanted to save him from falling into sin.

When you start to taste sin, sin would close your ears to all the sober counsel. In fact, sin would give you pride, which would make you hurl insults at those who might try to correct you.

When people try to correct you, they would do so out of love for you or because the Lord has sent them to pull you away from the hands of the devil. Sin would blind you to reality, as it would make you not to see their good intentions of correcting you. It would make you see them as people who have come to judge you or people who think they are better than you. Assuredly, sin would harden your heart and make you disregard any good counsel.

Every time there is someone who tries to correct you, pride would make you say or do many bad things to them. Everything you say or do to them would be a stumbling block that the devil has put between you and God. You might not realise what you would be doing because the devil would encourage you to put as many stumbling blocks as you could.

Sin would make you break off the important relationship you have with others or it would make those relationships weak. You would start to stay away from all the people who are trying to pull you away from the hands of the devil. More often than not, you would start to view all those the Lord has sent to correct you as enemies. These people would be friends who would be giving a hand of friendship to you. This hand would try to pull you away from the clutches of the devil.

After many months of committing sin, you would develop more pride and do or say more bad things to those who want to save you. Eventually, you would start to have new friends who love sin, and these friends would help the devil to sink you more into the pit of hell.

The truth has a way of revealing itself to those who are trying to run away from it. In time, you would start to notice the truth, but you would not have the power or wisdom to do anything about your spiritual life. After many months or years of backsliding, you might want to go back to God because the truth has dawned upon you.

The life of bondage would make you struggle with the things you did not struggle with before. As you try to figure out the cause of your problems or hardship, the Lord would reveal the reason for all your predicaments. He would tell you that sin has made you powerless and without the favour of God and others.

This reality would make you want to go back to God, but the road ahead would not be easy. The road towards the heart of God would be full of stumbling blocks you have put in your way. These stumbling blocks would make you ashamed of what you have said or done to those who tried to correct you.

All the bad text messages, all the acting, and all utterances you made to those who tried to correct you would make you feel very small. You would cringe when you think about all the bad things you have said or done to them. Not only would you be ashamed of what you have done or said, you would be ashamed of how you went about it.

Pride would have made you do all those bad things in confidence, the confidence of the lost. You would have done things or said bad things arrogantly without regard to anyone. You would have tried to show all who wanted to save you that you are better than they are or you know God more than they do.

Indeed, you would know that God has departed from you, but you would try to show others that you are still in close fellowship with Him. The more people backslide, the more they pretend to love God with their whole hearts.

As they pretend to be who they are not, everyone would see how naked they are. The devil can make intelligent people fools. When an intelligent person backslides, he would be the worst fool you have ever seen. He would behave like a brainless person who would be trying to show people that he has not backslid.

A backsliding person will always try to hide what cannot be hidden. He will be spiritually naked but would try to show people that he still has spiritual clothes on. There are few people who are good actors like the backsliders. Everything they do would be a fake. They would always fake who they are or how low they have fallen from grace. Indeed, they would always try to give the impression that all is well with God, whereas the opposite is true.

### **Humbleness is the secret of breaking free from the power of the devil**

Those who have backslid would struggle to break free from the power of sin because they do not understand spiritual matters. To break free from the yoke of sin is difficult, but it is not impossible.

Even though it is very difficult for backsliders to come back to God, it is possible to do so. Where there is a will, there is a way. You must desire with your whole heart to come back to the heart of God. If you desire to put things right with God, the Lord would meet you half way. God would do all in His power to help you to break free from the yoke of sin.

All things are possible for those who hunger to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord. Anyone who truly wants to break free from the shackles of sin can do so if they

use the wisdom of the word of God. There is a secret of breaking all the shackles of sin, this is a virtue that Jesus possessed in tonnes. This secret is humbleness, which is a weapon that all Christians could use to defeat the enemy.

Jesus was humble like a Lamb hence the Father could do anything for Him. Assuredly, humbleness is the only spiritual tool that could bring any backslider back to the heart of God. It is a tool has the spiritual power to overcome all forms of bondage.

Humbleness is the only virtue that could help you to disentangle yourself from the power of the enemy. This great virtue is a virtue that is possessed by those who understand who they are in God.

When you are humble, you have the ability to count yourself as nothing and regard God as the only One who deserves all the glory. God is the only one who is perfect. He is perfect because He is God. The Lord has the ability that none of us have. Our Father is perfect and due to this He is infallible. There will never be a moment where God could do what is wrong, for He is holy.

The Lord knows our weaknesses hence His word encourages us to be humble in all situations. Anyone who is not humble cannot subject himself to the authority of God and His word.

If you are a Christian and you are not humble, you must ask the Holy Spirit to break you so that He could give you a humble heart. If you are not humble, you cannot follow God, you could only follow your own pride. Indeed, when you do not have a humble heart, you will never receive eternal life.

A life of a Christian is fraught with many challenges and temptations, and anyone who is not humble will eventually be spiritually dirty again. Repentance takes away all the sins we have committed against God. However, we cannot repent if we do not have a humble heart.

We must be able to ask for the forgiveness of God when we have strayed away from His ways. Not only must we be able to ask for the forgiveness of God, we must be able to ask for the forgiveness of anyone we have wronged.

We cannot be children of God if we are not humble. In fact, humbleness is a virtue that makes us children of God. If we do not have a humble spirit, we could only follow the evil desires of our hearts. Those who do not have a humble spirit will always try to find fault in others, their eyes would always be focused away from their wrongs. We could only repent of our wrongs if we have a humble spirit of a child.

Pride comes from the devil and humbleness comes from Jesus. Pride makes us reject the authority of God, but humbleness helps us to be obedient to the Lord. When pride

increases in us, humbleness dies. The opposite is also true, when humbleness increase in us, pride dies.

Anyone who is humble is not afraid to ask for forgiveness, but those who are having pride will struggle to ask for forgiveness. When those with pride try to ask for forgiveness, they would not be sincere about it. Their act of asking for forgiveness would be superficial, it would be a fake forgiveness.

When you have a humble spirit, you would do more to bring peace between you and God, and between you and those who are around. Those who have a spirit of a child would ask for forgiveness even though they have not wronged anyone. To say sorry to others would come naturally from their heart, and when they do so, they would be sincere about it.

They would not apologise out of obligation, but their hearts would recognise the pains of those who are grieving about something. When they apologise to the aggrieved, they would do exactly what their Master did. Jesus agreed to die for the sinners even though He was pure, without any spot of sin.

To say sorry does not reduce you, it increases you in the eyes of the Father. When you say sorry for something, you become a peacemaker. Anyone who does not want to repent of their wrongs creates conflict.

The Lord has given us His righteousness through the blood of Jesus. Anyone who believes in the righteousness of God is supposed to walk in righteousness all the time. After we have been born again, we are not supposed to sin deliberately. When we sin or fall short of the expectation of God, we make ourselves spiritually dirty.

Our God is a good Father, who has made a way for us to be spiritually clean after we have committed any sinful act. When we sin and realise our wrong ways, we need to repent for such sins. Repentance is a spiritual tool that takes away the spiritual dirt and makes us right before the Lord.

Repentance is also a tool that made it possible for us to believe in the Son of God, Jesus. When we repent of our sins and declare Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we are reconciled back to the heart of God. The Lord would count us as holy when we have confessed our sins and decided to give Jesus authority over our lives.

The cure that could fix any wrong doing is repentance, and humbleness is a virtue that helps us to repent of our transgressions. If we are not humble, we will not fix things between us and God, and between us and our fellow brothers and sisters.

In the same manner, humbleness is a virtue that helps us to break the yoke of sin in our lives. When we were born again, we were saved from the power of sin, but when we backslide, we go back to the life of sin.



Anyone who is born again has been saved from the kingdom of sin into the kingdom of the righteous. To backslide is to reverse what God has given you through Jesus. When you decided to come to Jesus, you rejected sin and its author, the devil. But when you decide to go back to the life of sin, it means you are rejecting Jesus for the devil.

Assuredly, backsliding is the spiritual condition or state of abiding in darkness, for sin is darkness. Anyone who has backslid has chased the presence of the Lord in their heart, and the devil has become the new master in their lives. The devil will remain their master if they do not do anything to trace the way that leads back to the heart of God.

When you are trapped into a life of sin, the devil would do all he could to make sure that you remain in bondage forever. If you have backslid, you are the only one who could do something about your backsliding. You must never listen to all the lies that the devil might tell you. God is merciful and there is no amount of sin that is too dark for his forgiveness. Jesus died so that you may be free from the bondage of sin. He was crushed so that no one could crush your head. He was ridiculed so that you could receive honour.

When you call upon the name of the Lord, He will hear you. The Lord is faithful to all of us. He is even faithful to those who reject Him. God will forgive those who have said and done many bad things against Him. We can never understand sin if we do not understand the cross of Calvary and what it has done for us. The cross of Calvary has not only cleansed us of all the sins we have committed, it has given us a new spiritual heart, a heart that is sensitive to God and His word.

The forgiveness of God is waiting to save you from the powers of the serpent. If you have backslid, the Lord has seen your cries and frustrations, and He wants to set you free from all the shackles the devil has put on you.

If you need Jesus to save you, He could do it today. Jesus wants to rescue you from the dungeon of sin the devil has put you in. Repent of your sins, and it shall be well with you. The devil is the liar, today Jesus could set you free.

The Lord has heard your cries, He has seen all your frustrations. He has seen the rejections you have experienced from those who used to be close to you. Our Master is stretching out His hand to save you. Take this opportunity to break the hold that sin has on you, and it shall be well with you today.

You might have done many bad things to others, but you must remember that Jesus loves you despite all you have done. He is your Father who wants to save you from the evil hand of the serpent. You might have wronged many people, but bear in mind that you live for Jesus. Jesus is the only one you must be mindful of. Do what is right in the sight of God and break every chain the devil has put on your neck.

It is important to bear in mind that people are people. People will always act the way people are supposed to behave. The devil has created a gulf between you and those who loved you. What you have done has made them reject you. Do not worry about their rejection, be mindful of doing what is right in the sight of God.

You need to break all the stumbling blocks the devil created between you and God. You could break them now by recognising what the devil has done to you and your spiritual life. Satan has embarrassed you with sin. The devil has made you a laughingstock, and due to this, many people are laughing at you.

If you continue to stay in sin, your situation would be worse. The devil will not hesitate to kill you because he is not yet finished with you. Indeed, the serpent would one day aim for your throat. If you do not run to Jesus today, one day the devil will kill you and you would have no one to blame but yourself.

It is time for you to do all that is necessary to break off any shackle the serpent has put on you. There is no better time than now to free yourself from all the shame the devil has caused you.

You were once highly regarded in heaven, but sin has shamed you in the eyes of the Lord. You have been in this sad situation for a long time. Jesus is crying out for your soul, and He is ready to save you. He wants to set you free from all the shackles of Satan.

Jesus loves you despite your situation, and He is ready to admit you back to His heart. You must remember that Jesus did not leave you, you are the one who went back to a life of sin. The Lord has been crying out for you for many months. He has extended His hand of salvation to you, but you did not realise this.

The Lord's invisible hand of salvation has been trying to save you from the shackles of sin, but you did not realise this. Jesus' blood was shed for you, and this blood is still speaking salvation. Assuredly, His blood wants to set you free from the bondage of sin no matter how low you have sunk into the pit of sin.

If you hear this voice that wants to save you, do something about it. Do not let what you have done stand in your way. You have done and said many bad things before, and it is time for you to do what is right. Do not let all those stumbling blocks you have created stand between you and God. You need to free yourself from the power of sin, and for you to do this, you need to break every stumbling block you have created.

Indeed, you could only break those stumbling blocks by being humble. You need to recognise the damage you have caused in your life. See the hurt you have caused to others. Not only must you see the pains you have caused to them, but you must also recognise that the bad reaction you received from them was in direct response to what you have done to them. Indeed, you have also caused great damage to your spiritual wellness. Sin has made you lose all the favour of God and man.

This is not the time to be proud, it is not the time to think about how people have hurt you. It is the time to humble yourself before God and those you have done wrong. Humble yourself and go to everyone you have aggrieved and ask for their forgiveness. It does not matter what you did to them, and how you did it, go and seek for their forgiveness, it shall be well with you.

We are fallible and we are able to stand against the devil because of the grace of God. Remember that you have done and said those bad things to them because of sin, not because you are a bad person. The devil is the only bad person around, and he is trying to destroy us by tempting us to sin.

The serpent trapped you into a life of sin and made you say and do all those bad things. You are not shifting blame by believing this, this is the truth. The author of sin is the devil. He is the one who makes us fall into sin. Satan is the only enemy that you have. In fact, the serpent is the enemy of everyone. He is the enemy of those who have been saved and he is still the enemy of those who have not yet found their way into the heart of God.

If you want to overcome sin and all the damage it has done to you, you need to repent for all you have done. It is time for you to go to every person you have wronged, and do not let pride stand in your way.

*“Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,’ and You took away the guilt of my sin”  
(Psalms 32:5, ESV)*

A child of God must be willing to be ridiculed by the world. The world is full of people who do not understand spiritual matters. As a child of God, you would be accused falsely of what you have not done. They would try to hang you for what you have not done or said. This is part of the journey of every Christian. We would be hated for our association with Jesus. The world would reject us because it rejects our Master, Jesus.

We must be able to take everything that happens to us in strides. We must stand like men in all situations. What they do or say to us is of no consequence to us. Our only preoccupation must be to please our Master. We must do all Jesus expect us to do regardless of how they treat us.

We all need to do everything that our Master expects us to do even though we may think otherwise. Assuredly, every born again Christian is a servant of Jesus, and anyone who serves the Lord must live a life that pleases Him. We must follow the will of God, no matter where it takes us.

If you are willing to be crucified for the sake of the Lord, you must be willing to do all to make peace with those who have wronged you, or those you have wronged. To

God, it does not matter who did what. The Lord is not interested in who is right or wrong, He is only interested in seeing us do what is right.

What is right is for you to go to ever person you have wronged or those you have a conflict with. You need to humble yourself before them and asked for their forgiveness. And when you do this, do it sincerely because God sees our hearts. We can fool others, but we can never fool God.

When you repent of all the transgression you have made, the Lord would forgive you for every sin you have committed against others. Some other times, people would reject your peace offering. Do not let their rejection get to you. When they reject your peace offering, God would not do the same. If you truly repent of all the bad things you have done or said, the Lord will forgive you unconditionally.

Many of those you have aggrieved will continue to say bad things about you after you have asked for their forgiveness, and some would continue to laugh at you. Let those who want to laugh at you continue to do what they think is right. If they want to ridicule you, let them do so. Do not let what they say or do hold you back from doing what is right before God.

In the midst of every dark and painful situation, we must desire to please only one person, Jesus. If they reject you or laugh at you, just be focused on making Jesus happy. All the people might reject you, but Jesus loves you very much despite all the bad things you have done.

When we try to make peace with others, we are really trying to make peace with Jesus. If Jesus accepts the peace offering you are making to others, this is what is important. What is important is to do what pleases the Lord. When God is pleased with you, it does not matter who is not pleased with you.

When you apologise to people for what you have done to them, some will ridicule you, and some will accept your apology. Others will continue to speak badly about you and what you have done, but this must not affect you.

People are people, and they will always have something to say about all of us regardless of what we have done to them. Many people speak ill of those who are innocent of any wrongdoing. Just ignore anything they may say about you, because in due time, they would stop speaking about you. In time, they would soon find something new to talk about.

When you have asked for their forgiveness, continue to do what is right in the sight of God regardless of what they do or say. The only thing that must count in your life must be to please God all the time.

Anyone who truly repents of their sins shall be forgiven by the Lord. The Lord is merciful and He will forgive every sin you have committed. If you have backslid and

repented for your sins, the blood of Jesus would clean every spot of sin in you and you shall be holy as the Lord is.

Be alert because the devil will try to rubbush what the Lord has done for you. When you truly repent of all your sins, the Lord would forgive every sin you have committed. But Satan will do all he could to make sure that you do not find your way back to the heart of God, or he would try to confuse you.

The devil is a master schemer. After you have confessed your sins to the Lord, the serpent will always try to counter or steal the forgiven God has given you. He will try to make you doubt what the Lord has done for you. He would make you doubt the forgiveness you have received from the Lord and those you have wronged, so that the serpent could prevent you from assuming your rightful position as a son of God who has been cleansed of all iniquity.

After you have repented of your sins, the devil would try to make you feel spiritually dirty even though God has forgiven all your sins. The serpent would make you feel unholy and not welcomed in the house of the Lord. By doing this, he would be trying to cancel the grace that God has given you.

Be sober and reject what the serpent might try to do. Satan is a deceiver, and he will always try to hide the truth from us. The truth is, when the Lord has forgiven your sins, you are clean, you are white as a snow. The blood of the Lamb would take all the stains of sins in your life. When the Lord has forgiven your sins, He covers you with His holiness, which makes you holy as the Lord is.

When we repent and ask for the forgiven of God, the blood of Jesus will set us free from any stain of sin. Assuredly, when you truly repent of your sins, God will make you whole again. He will accept you back to His heart, and He would forget all the past mistakes you have made.

God is more interested in your condition today, not what you have done in the past. Assuredly, when the Father has forgiven you, you are forgiven, and you become free from any sin. After the Lord has forgiven you, you need to act like a beloved son of God. You must raise your head high for all your sins would have been forgiven. Do not walk like a fallen man for the blood of Jesus would have made you a new person, it would have made you righteous in the eyes of the Lord.

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, ESV)*

The devil is a liar, he would make you feel unworthy or unwelcome in the house of the Lord by reminding you of all the sins you have committed. God is gracious indeed and when he forgives you, he also takes away all the guilty stains of sin.

If you feel unwelcome in the heart of God after you have sincerely repented of your sins, know that the devil is the one who is poisoning your mind. You need to rebuke the devil in the name of Jesus and use the scriptures to declare what the Lord has done for you. Every time you feel unwelcome or feel like a stepson or stepdaughter in the house of the Lord, rebuke the serpent, he will run away from you. You must never allow the devil to steal what the Lord has done for you.

The devil would not only make you feel unwelcome or unworthy in the house of the Lord, he will also use other Christians to make you feel unwelcome. Do not worry about anyone who has not died for you on the cross.

Jesus is the only one who died for you on the cross, just focused on Him. They can say many bad things about you, but when the Lord has forgiven your sins, you are indeed clean. Not only are you clean, you are whiter than the snow. Do not let people drag you down to the level of the devil for the blood of Jesus would have raised you up to heaven, where only those who are holy abide.

When the Lord forgives your sins, you become as pure and holy as any child of God. You must never believe any lie from the devil or those he may use to make you feel dirty or unwelcome in the house of the Lord.

The blood of Jesus has the power to clean all kinds of sins. There is no sin that is too dark for the blood of Jesus. It really does not matter what you have done, when the Lord has forgiven your sins, all those sins would be wiped out from the register of heaven.

After God has forgiven your sins, the Lord would see you as a pure child who has found his way back to His heart. Indeed, God loves the backsliders who have found their way back to His heart. He loves them the same way he loves His other children. In the heart of God, there is only one category of people, those who have been washed by the blood of Jesus. These are all the children of God who enjoy the same love of their Father.

Do not be mindful of what others are saying or how they are treating you. All those who have not died for you on the cross might say a lot about you, but the only things that must matter to you is what Jesus is saying. When Jesus has forgiven your sins, all the stains of sin have been blotted by the blood of the Lord.

The leadership of the church can also fall from grace. Satan can trap anyone into a sinful life. If you are a leader and have fallen into sin, you need to fix things with God and those you have wronged. However, there is something different about leaders. When a leader has fallen into sin and repented of the sins he has committed, he must immediately cease ministering in the house of the Lord. He will only minister when the Lord has restored him completely.

After you have repented of your sins and made things right with God and others, you need to give God chance to restore you. If you do not stop ministering in the house of the Lord, you will never be effective in what you are doing. We minister to both God and man, and when we fall into sin, our ministry will suffer. There is no one who will take us seriously unless we have been restored fully by the Holy Spirit.

The process of restoration will take few months or years. Do not mind the period it would take to restore you back to your ministry. It is worthwhile to wait for God to restore you completely before you could minister in His house.

If you want to continue with your ministry without being restored by the Holy Spirit, you will not have enough grace to do your job correctly. The Holy Spirit must first restore you and restore the hearts of those you are going to minister to. He must restore their sight and ears. They must be able to look at you as a good example, and their ears must be able to believe what you would teach them. But if the Lord has not restored you completely, people will not look at you as a good leader, and they will not believe what you are teaching them. They would only believe what you are teaching them once they see you as a good example.

You must bear in mind that your ministry is controlled by the Holy Spirit. Our ministry is actually the ministry of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. We must not rush things and desire to go back to our ministries as soon as we have repented of our sins. We need ample time to heal, and the assembly also needs time to heal.

If you allow the Holy Spirit to restore you completely, one day you would ministry through the perfect grace that God would release to you. Our ministries are dead without the power of the Holy Spirit. Due to this, we must subject our will to the will of the Spirit of the truth.

Sin is very harmful to people. It destroys many things in their lives, and it decreases their power to do the job of God properly. If you have repented of your sins, the power to minister to others will not come automatically. It will come when the Holy Spirit is convinced that you are ready to serve Him.

The Holy Spirit will only help you in your ministry when you have subjected yourself to a process of spiritual restoration. You need to give the Lord time to heal you and to heal all that you have lost in Him. If you do not want to give Him the opportunity to heal you, you will never be effective in your ministry.

If you are not fully restored, you would always operate below expectation because the grace of God will not be released to you perfectly. The power of God is given to those who have subjected themselves to the will of God. It is the will of God for you to undergo a process of spiritual restoration before you could minister to people and to God.

The process of spiritual restoration has nothing to do with forgiveness. When you sincerely repent of your sins, the Lord will forgive you completely for every sin you have committed. The process of spiritual restoration is to fix what you have broken. It fixed all the damages you have caused to your ministry. Indeed, this process is a process of realigning your ministry with the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit supports our different ministries because He is the custodian of our spiritual gifts. When sin has harmed our ministries, we become disjointed with the power of the Holy Spirit. A process of spiritual restoration realigns our ministry with the Holy Spirit, and we need to give the Holy Spirit ample time to restore us.

*“When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? ”*

*“Yes, Lord,” he said to Him, “You know that I love You.”*

*“Feed My lambs,” He told him.*

*A second time He asked him, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me? ”*

*“Yes, Lord,” he said to Him, “You know that I love You.”*

*“Shepherd My sheep,” He told him.*

*He asked him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me? ”*

*Peter was grieved that He asked him the third time, “Do you love Me? ” He said,*

*“Lord, You know everything! You know that I love You.”*

*“Feed My sheep,” Jesus said” (John 21: 15-17).*

Here Jesus restored Peter to his ministry after Peter has denied Him three times. When Jesus was arrested by the Jewish official, Peter followed Him. Those who noticed Peter asked him about His association with Jesus, but Peter denied Jesus three times.

*But he denied it: “Woman, I don’t know Him!” (Luke 22: 57).*

By denying Jesus, Peter was renouncing Jesus as his Lord and Saviour, and by doing this, Peter revealed that he no longer believed in Jesus. Those who reject Jesus are condemned by the Lord because they reject One whom God has sent to save the dying world. They are guilty of committing the greatest sin of rejection God because anyone who rejects Jesus rejects God.

*“Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the One and Only Son of God” (John 3:18).*

After Peter realised what he has done, he cried in repentance, and the Lord forgave him for what he has done. However, what Peter has done damaged his ministry, and it damaged the trust God had in him. Even though the Lord has forgiven him, it was necessary for God to restore Peter back to what he was in Him. Peter denied Jesus three times, and the Lord made Him to affirm his love and faith in Him three times.



After Peter has confirmed his love and faith in the Master three times, Jesus ordered him to go back to his ministry, the ministry of preaching the gospel of salvation.

We serve God in our different ministries because the Lord trusts us to handle his gospel with care. His trust in us makes the Father delegate the responsibility of the gospel to us. When we backslid, we harm the trust that God has in for us, and for this reason, we must cease to operate in our ministry until the trust that God had in us has been restored. The process of spiritual restoration restores our position in God.

The process of restoration has nothing to do with forgiveness. When we sincerely repent of our sins, our Father would blot our sins from the register of heaven. After our sins have been forgiven, we need God's blessings to continue working for him. Spiritual restoration is not about forgiveness, it is about our ministries that have been harmed by our sinfulness.

We cannot labour for the Lord until He has given us the green light to do so. Our ministries are actually the ministry of Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and because of this, the Holy Spirit must approve us for His ministry. If the Spirit of the truth does not approve us for His ministry, we would lack the power to operate effectively in our ministries. Indeed, the Holy Spirit is the custodian of the gospel, and He will always protect it. Anyone who labours for the Lord is supposed to glorify Him. However, if the Holy Spirit does not approve us for His ministry, we would not glorify God, we would shame His holy name.