

## Twice Dead!

# *“Flirting With Sin”*

I have seen many people come to God, and sometimes a person will be instantly set free from habits like smoking, drinking, or drugs. Yet another person will seem to take years of going back and forth between God and the world until they finally catch hold and stay, or they turn loose and are lost.

The question is, "Why?" We know that God is no respecter of persons, so why does one person go on to serve God while another falls away since the same rebirth took place in both of them?

Listen to me very closely. Because God is no respecter of persons, everyone has access to the same amount of power at their rebirth. What they do in the hours and days following their conversion concerning the Word they hear and the grace they establish themselves in, determines how fast and how free they will become.

I am convinced that, because God is no respecter of persons, He is not the one determining how fast a believer will grow. That is decided by the doctrine of the preachers these new believers place themselves under and how much of the Word they understand concerning sin having no more dominion over them at their rebirth (Romans 6:14).

Sometimes preachers fail to tell a new convert that sin has no more dominion over them and that they have been set free for fear the new believer will fall back into sin-related habits and feel so condemned they will give up on God and go back into the world. Those preachers are afraid they will have hindered the new convert's growing time, where in reality, just the opposite is true.

The person bound by those kinds of habits must understand from "day one" that, no matter how hopelessly overpowered they may feel or how powerful the sin may appear to be, the power of sin has been broken over them and it cannot make them do what they do not want to do! This is probably one of Satan's best kept secrets and one that robs believers of the faith they need to finish coming out of the world to establish themselves in God.

Understanding this is the first real step to freedom and, no matter how much we want to say, "I could not help it", "it was out of my control", "the temptation was much too great for me", or the classic "cliche", "the devil made me do it", we must understand God did not let that sin overpower us, we did. When we understand this, we have taken our first real step into God and out of our problem.

Also, a person who is bound by these habits must stand up and face the fact that it is something in them that is not yielding to the law of the spirit of life. It is not God who has failed them - they can come out of it. When that person feels so overpowered, it is hard for them to reconcile themselves to the fact that Jesus really has set them free from sin and from the sin-related habits that keep them bound.

A great injustice has been done to the new convert because of the incorrect teachings on understanding grace. When a new convert is not taught how to finish coming out of the world,

usually the world will draw him back in. Instead of being taught that grace frees us "from" sin, he is being taught that grace "covers" us while living IN sin. But, thank God for Romans 6:14 that says, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace."

When a new convert is taught that grace covers them while they continue in sin-related habits, it is easy for the devil to take the edge off of the faith needed to come out of the world. When a sinner, who has just been born again and is struggling with his conscience because the Holy Spirit is convicting him of sin-related habits such as drinking, smoking, adultery, etc., hears a teacher or preacher teach that, once you are born again, grace covers you while you are under these things, why bother to come out? If none of these things make any difference, why bother to stop if you are going to Heaven anyway? That's the general thought pattern?

The reason one person will be set free right away following their conversion is because he has allowed the Holy Spirit to incorporate the law of the spirit of life in every area of his life to set him free. And the reason another person will struggle and struggle is because he is being selective. There are certain sins he wants to hang on to and others he wants to be set free from. In his heart, he does not want to relinquish the control of his sins over to the Holy Spirit. Certain kinds of sins are pleasure-related and they haven't quite reached the place where they want the Holy Spirit to break the hold that the sin has over them. They haven't quite reached the place where they want to be set free. So, when a preacher stands up and says it's all right when it's not, it is easy for the devil to take the edge off of the faith needed to be set free.

The problem with sin, especially pleasure-related sin, the kind Paul classified as concupiscence (sexual in nature), is that it will not maintain a steady even amount of control in a person's life. It will want more and more until the person is back in the world many or even seven times worse than they were before they came out of it.

However, people do want to be free from things that torment them ... manic depression, fears, phobias, etc. So, the world tries to treat them through psychology (one spiritually-dead man trying to solve the problems of another spiritually-dead man, unless of course, the psychologist is a Christian.) Have you noticed, generally speaking, that spiritually-dead people do not go to a psychologist to get set free from sin-related problems that deal with pleasure unless they get caught and, because of love for their family, seek help for the sake of that family?

Unfortunately, many people come -to God with the same attitude. They want God to set them free from things that torment them but to leave them alone in areas of sin-related pleasure. If God will not, they will find a teaching that agrees with their flesh, not their conscience, so they will not be condemned for living the way they do.

Believe me when I say, this kind of teaching on holiness is not intended to bring any person under condemnation, but merely to point out the fact that we have been set free from sin and we can stop sinning if we want to. I can guarantee you that, when a person plays with sin, before Satan is through with them, he intends on leaving them completely destroyed. This doesn't mean that we can't ask God to forgive us and make our life right, WE CAN AND HE WILL!

But what most people do not understand about pleasure-related sins such as lusts, perversions, etc., is that a person can get so far out into them that it is difficult for them to get back even if they want to. They can't stop sinning because they just cannot seem to muster up the will-power to do so. Such is the case for homosexuality and its unnatural hold on the human soul.

The problem with sin-related habits that deal with pleasure is that we must want to be free. Any teaching or doctrine that suggests otherwise is what the flesh uses to build a case against the willpower of a person. The person reaches the point where they never quite want to stop sinning. Part of them keeps holding back until it is almost impossible for the Holy Spirit to finish the work of the cross in their lives.

James 1:14-15 says: "*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*"

One of the worst things a person can do is argue the Word as a reason not to quit sinning or Grace as a reason not to be condemned over a promiscuous life-style because, when sin is finished with us, it does not intend on leaving us alive. Just as the 15th verse says, it intends on leaving us dead.

So, the real problem with sins of the flesh (lusts) is that no matter what caused a person to fall into them or to permit them in their life, the end result will be the same. Sin leads to death!

Whether we have been led to believe that grace covers an active life-style of sin or that the temptation was too great for us to bear, we must remember that Paul said that sin shall have no more dominion over us and we are free! This is why James said in the 14th verse that every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lusts and enticed. Ultimately, in order for temptation to get out of control in a person's life, there has to be something in them that wants to be enticed and to yield to temptation.

Enticement in this sense is to become excited at the prospect of gratifying the flesh MORE than wanting to resist the temptation. It really doesn't matter what caused the weakness in that person to begin with. Whether it was doctrine assuring the person that their sins were covered by grace or whether they had become convinced they could not quit sinning because it was in their nature to do so, regardless of the reason, when a person gives himself over to enticement, then the 15th verse classifies the temptation as giving way to lusts. And, when lust conceives, it brings forth sin; and, when sin is finished, it brings forth death.

When a woman conceives, it means she has become pregnant with a child. But, she did not become pregnant by herself. Usually there is a romance, an engagement, and then a wedding. In other words, mutual cooperation on the part of both participants.

Sin does not overpower a person by itself. There has to be mutual cooperation between the person and the sin to produce conception. This cooperation begins with temptation giving way to enticement, and enticement giving way to lust.

When a woman conceives, she is carrying inside her womb a seed with the programming or DNA for an entire human being. In the same way, when lust impregnates the human soul, it carries within its seed the programming and diagramming for an entire, full-blown, out-of-control operation of sin that will take over a person's emotions and attempt to keep that person from getting back to God until the sin is finished and bringeth forth death. That is to say, until sin delivers that person back into the spiritually-dead state they came out of.

Jude 12th verse says: "*These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds: trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;*"

In case you are wondering whether a man can be lost once he has been born again, notice that the 12th verse says; "*trees whose fruit has withered, without fruit, TWICE DEAD!*"

Now, why would Jude say "**twice dead**"? In order to be dead a second time in this life, Jude had to be talking about spiritual death. In other words, *the person would have to be spiritually dead; then born again; then spiritually dead again, TWICE DEAD!*

For whatever reason a person finds himself being enticed by sin, either because their doctrine says it is O.K. or, because the enticement gives them a certain sense of pleasure, enticement is the beginning stage of flirting with sin, of trying to gratify the appetites of the flesh by feeding it just a little bit at a time. However, let me assure you again, the devil intends on leaving that person dead!

One of Satan's strongest delusions concerning sin is deceiving a person into thinking they are getting away with it, or convincing them into believing that they will be able to stop TOMORROW. Well, I have sad news for them. Those kinds of "tomorrows" are the exception and not the rule. They almost never come. The devil wants to keep a person flirting with sin until conception because, once conception takes place, that person will swear up and down they cannot stop sinning, their emotions will not let them.

It is not that a person like this will not come to church, they will. You see them at the altar, then back in the world, then back at the altar, then back into sin ... because their emotions are pregnant with sin and their will to serve God has been outweighed by emotions that demand gratification of the flesh.

As I have said before, I have good news for the person who is bound by this kind of sin. It is not necessary to stay that way, "**FOR SIN SHALL NO MORE HAVE DOMINION OVER YOU**". (Romans 6) Jesus has set us free!

Our first step to freedom is to turn and spit in the devil's eye and tell him that the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death. No matter how out-of-control we may feel or how powerful sin may appear to be, it cannot make us do what we do not want to do. God has not failed us. He put something in us that needs to yield to the law of the spirit of life and we are going to learn how to cooperate with life and not death.

To purge our emotions from the weakness towards sin and to fortify our will against yielding to the

temptations of the flesh, we must mortify the deeds of the body by praying in the Holy Ghost every day. We also need to learn more about private worship ... not just praising God in a song service at church ... but private worship.

This is why James 1:2 says to count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations because worship and joy sustain a person in the emotional realms of the soul where Satan loves -to operate. Also keep in mind that once sin reaches the conception stage, the devil will do everything within his power to convince a person that, unless God comes along and does something really spectacular or special about their case, they cannot ever be free.

Wrong ... that is what the devil wants us to think. The last thing he wants us to understand is that God has already broken the power of sin over every man, woman, and child. The devil wants us to keep waiting for God to do something. While, at the same time, God wants us to understand that He already has done something!

God also wants to teach us how to reconcile our whole lives to the cross to destroy the hold that sin has over us. This is where private worship comes in. When we are alone - by ourselves - with no one else around - we need to lift our hands and begin to worship God for His Love, because our name is written in Heaven, and for the part of His Word that says we are free.

Many people, bound by sin, have confessed their sins, repented of them, and have asked forgiveness only to fall back into those sins again. But, no matter how condemned a person may feel, they still need to stand up after each failure and spit in the devil's face and say, "Sin cannot make me do what I will not do because Jesus has set me free." Then, instead of looking and waiting for Jesus to come and do something, we need to worship God for His Word that says He already has. This is how our freedom begins.

Find a place that is private and start telling God over and over again how much you love Him. Just say, "I love You, Jesus. I love You, Father God. I worship and adore You." Keep worshiping and adoring Him like this for a time. Then, start praising and thanking God that you are free because His Word says you are free. Just say, ***"I thank You, Jesus, that sin has no more dominion over me. Therefore, I am free. The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. Therefore, I am free."***

If you will privately worship and praise the Lord for an hour or so a day (or for as long as it takes), I can assure you that YOU WILL BE FREE!

Your friend and partner,  
Dave Roberson