

Do not Give the Devil a Foothold

Part 1

“²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.” (Ephesians 4:27)

Have you seen how a man rides on a horse? They will put the saddle on the back of the horse and at the end of the saddle there is the stirrup that will have a food hold that the rider can put his foot on it and jump on the back of the horse.

Have you seen a man how he is climbing a high wall? He will use the small protrusion or the small hollow spaces in the wall to put and stabilize his feet and climb the wall. These footholds are small in size and it might not be of value to someone who is looking to the high wall or to the big horse but have big rule in achieving big things.

In the same way there are certain things in your life, you may call them small sins or small mistakes but they are footholds for devil to climb on you and bring havoc and destruction into your life. Jesus said, ***“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)*** The thief is the devil and he will use these you call small sins or small mistakes in your life to destroy you.

1- Lies “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body.” (Ephesians 4:26): Telling lies is one of the things that Devil so delight to use. The Devil is liar and in the bible he is called the father of lies, ***“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44)*** Not speaking the truth and not addressing the issue clearly but in obscure way, that will enable devil to flourish and causes you more harm. If someone is doing wrong you don’t need to say and pretend that all the things are fine. You ought to speak up clearly that the following matters are wrong and need to be corrected.

2- Anger “In your anger do not sin’ do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.” (Ephesians 4:26): Anger is another foothold for the devil to destroy your life. Anger affects your body causing hypertension and heart disease. Anger will makes you think and speak bad and that will also causes you to fight and break relationships with the people around you. Some people along the way they are angry and in constant struggle and fight with the people around them, but that is not the life that God had ordained for us, ***“Because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.” (James 1:20)*** Don’t think it is normal that you are in constant fight and strife with the people that are around you. Even if they are not good, your anger is not the solution for your trouble but is the reason for things to go worse in your life.

3- Stealing “²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.” (Ephesians 4:28) Stealing is taking anything not belong to you without a permission. By stealing you are becoming partner of the devil. Small or big things you are taking without permission is a stealing. You may lose your job and your reputation with stealing. Some people they steal because they are in need but still they will receive the consequences of that, ***“³⁰ People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. ³¹ Yet if he***

is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house.” (Ephesians 4:30)

4- Laziness, “Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.” (Titus 3:14): Others are stealing because they are lazy and don’t like to work. Laziness is another foothold for the devil to come in and destroy your life. They are depending on someone else effort for their living and that is not correct. ***“For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.’ (2Thessalonians 3:10)***

5- Unwholesome talk “²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” (Ephesians 4:29) Observe what you speak very well. The way that you use your tongue will bring you either troubles as we can read in ***Proverbs 18:6 “⁶ The lips of fools bring them strife, and their mouths invite a beating.”*** Devil will use what you speak to bring you troubles. Or your speak will bring you blessings ***“²⁰ From the fruit of their mouth a person’s stomach is filled; with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied.” (Proverbs 18:20)***

6- Grieving the Holy Spirit: “³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30) The moment that you received Christ as Saviour and Lord over your life you are sealed with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is living in you and is with you, and will grieve at the time you do sin against God. When you watch TV and don’t pray and read the bible, when you fight, steal, careless about God and His work, going to parties, being along friends, doing immoralities, drinking, or any pattern of worldliness and loving the world. These all and the like grieve the Holy Spirit and makes you susceptible to Devil’s attacks.

7- Bitterness: “³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.” (Ephesians 4:31) Nursing grudges, hatred, unforgiveness and trying to exact vengeance on the people who had harmed you that will makes you more susceptible to fall into anger, brawling, slander and malice; and these all are footholds for devil that he can use to harm you.

My dear and beloved: “⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” (1Peter 5:8-9) Don’t say about your sins are small mistakes, they are the reason for you to suffer. It is a time for you to wake up and work with God to be cleansed from all these sins as you repent and agree to pray.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord truly who can discern his error? Reveal to me Lord all my sins especially those that I am not aware of and give me the direction and the way out of all my wrong doings. I really Lord determined to follow you wholeheartedly and to be cleansed and noble vessel in your hand to be used for your glory, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.