

Sin' Destructive Power

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of the sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2:15-17)

True that we are living in a world full of temptations that may cause us to fall into sin; but praise be to God who sent His only Son Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death. He showed us His great love when He worked out salvation and gave us eternal life and life to the full through faith in His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son, he who had the Son has life: He who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 15:11-12)*** God has done His part, He gave His son to us, therefore we ought to do our part to keep this salvation as we hold firmly to the word of truth.

Beautiful, shiny and colorful things around us may attract our attentions and dragged us away and entice us to do sinful acts against God. But let us remember that God had loved us, and we ought to keep that love in our hearts. But if we love worldly things like Jewels, gold, expensive clothes, coveting and craving material things, immoral thoughts and acts, and the other things, this will show that the love of God is not in us.

There is a true story in the Bible that speaks about a man who coveted with his eyes and stole material things God had said to destroy them. Let us read this story. ***“Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, “Go up and spy out the region.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. When they returned to Joshua, they said, “but not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousands men to take it and do not weary all the people for only a few men are there. So about three thousand men went up but they were routed by the men of Ai. Who killed about thirty six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the heart of the people melted and became like water. Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the Lord, remaining there till evening. The elders of the Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. And Joshua said, “Ah, Sovereign Lord, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan. O Lord, what can I say, now that the Israel has been routed by its enemies?” (Joshua 7:2-10)***

As we read above, the people of God were out of expectation, defeated in a small battle, and they were crying to God with their leader Joshua saying, why God had abandoned them to their enemies? Let us read God's reply to their question, ***“Israel has sinned: They have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable***

to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.” (Joshua 7:11-12) Now the cause of their trouble is sinning against God in their previous battle. They sinned against God in three aspects as His word had shown.

1) They have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. When we make covenant and agreement between us and God we should keep and not break the covenant, otherwise God will judge us.

2) They have stolen: To take things not belong to you without permission is stealing.

3) They have lied: Not to tell the truth and keeping lies in your life is building Satan' Kingdom and this is what God hate most.

If we do such things we will not be able to stand against our enemies. We will not be able to stand trials and hardships because God would not be standing with us. God will not be with the wicked. But if we confess our sins He is faithful and just He will forgive us and He will purify us from all unrighteousness, and this is the way to restore our personal relationship with God and to keep His blessings flow into our lives.

When you read in your Bible the story in Joshua, Chapter 7, you will find out that God had exposed the truth; one man named Achan is the one who stole the devoted things that belongs to God. Let us read what this man said, ***“When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels. I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.” (Joshua 7:21)*** Worldly things were the cause of one man to sin against God and bring a great disaster on the whole community. Finally Joshua and the whole community of God put that man who sin to death; this is how they purged the evil from among them.

What we need to understand from the above that we are responsible to keep holiness in the community of believers that is His church, because if we are careless and not working with God to purge sin and evil from among us, not only those who sin but the whole community will be affected. God would draw away His protection and care, and we will be liable to troubles, destruction and cannot resist the enemy.

My dear and beloved: “The world and its desires pass away but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2:17) Therefore let us fix our eyes on Jesus and not to lust and covet worldly or perishable things, remembering that, ***“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1: 9)*** As we agree to pray.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. O Lord I commit my life into your hands. Forgive me all my sins. Give me self-control and cleanse me from evil desires and deliver me from the worldly things. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.