

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS

I PETER 3:8-18

INTRODUCTION

- We feel weak
- We want to be “bad”
- Not as close to God as we used to be
- God didn’t walk away from us
 - *Romans 3:3-4* – “let God be found true ...”

TURN AWAY FROM SINFUL INFLUENCES

- *I Peter 3:10-12* – “... let him turn away from evil, and do good ...”

TURN AWAY FROM BAD COMPANIONS

- Many of our so-called “friends” can be the worst influence on us
- *I Corinthians 15:33-34* – “Evil companionships corrupt good morals”

TURN AWAY FROM EVIL INFLUENCES

- What are we watching, reading, or listening to?
 - TV, movies, magazines, radio

TURN AWAY FROM EVIL INFLUENCES

- These can influence us to:
 - Immoral dress
 - *I Peter 3:1-4,7* – “let it not be the outward adorning”

TURN AWAY FROM EVIL INFLUENCES

These can influence us to:

- Vulgar and crude language
 - *Ephesians 4:29* – “no corrupt speech”
 - *Mark 7:18b-23* – “that defileth the man”
 - *Matthew 12:36-37* – “every idle word”

TURN AWAY FROM EVIL INFLUENCES

These can influence us to:

- Indecent situations
 - *Matthew 5:27-30* – “to lust after her”

TURN AWAY FROM EVIL INFLUENCES

- We become desensitized
 - *I Timothy 4:1-2* – “branded in their own conscience”

TURN AWAY FROM CORRUPTING ENVIRONMENTS

- Consider our employment, the places we go, etc.
 - *I Thessalonians 5:22* – “abstain from every form of evil”
- Consider the people we surround ourselves with

CONSIDER THE CHILDREN'S SONG

- “Oh, Be Careful”
 - “Oh, be careful little hands what you do, Oh, be careful little feet where you go”

CONSIDER THE ENEMY

- *I Peter 5:8* – “seeking whom he may devour”
- *II Corinthians 11:14-15* – “whose end shall be according to their works”

TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

- Prayer
 - *I Thessalonians 5:16-18* – “Pray without ceasing”
 - Private
 - *Matthew 6:1, 5-6* – “pray to thy father who is in secret”

TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

- Prayer
 - “Pray without ceasing”
 - Public
 - *Acts 12:4-5, 12* – “prayer was made earnestly of the church ... many ... were praying”

TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

- Reading
 - *Romans 15:4* – “written for our learning”
 - *Ephesians 3:4* – “when ye read, ye can perceive”

TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

- Reading
 - Private
 - 1,189 chapters in the Bible
 - Read two from the OT and two from the NT
 - OT every 1.3 years
 - NT 2.8 times per year

TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

- Reading
 - Public/Family
 - *I Timothy 4:13* – “the public reading of Scripture” (ESV)

TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

- Study
 - Private
 - *II Timothy 2:15-16* – “Study to shew thyself approved unto God” (KJV)

TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

- Study
 - Public
 - *Acts 20:20* – “teaching you publicly”
 - *Acts 17:11* – “examining the Scriptures daily”
 - And these weren’t even Christians

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Hear the Word of God
 - *Romans 10:1* – “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Believe in that Word
 - *Romans 10:11* – “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Repent of your sins
 - *Acts 3:19* – “Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - *1 John 4:15* – “Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God.”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Be immersed in water (baptized)
 - *Acts 2:38* – “Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”