

## **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 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 – “Bad company ruins 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 toward:

- Immoral dress
  - I Peter 3:1-4, 7 – “Do not let your adorning be external ...”

## TURN AWAY FROM EVIL INFLUENCES

These can influence us toward:

- Vulgar and crude language
  - Ephesians 4:29 – "... no corrupting talk"
  - Mark 7:18b-23 – "... they defile a person"
  - Matthew 12:36-37 – "... every careless word they speak"

## TURN AWAY FROM EVIL INFLUENCES

These can influence us toward:

- Indecent situations
  - Matthew 5:27-30 – "... with lustful intent ..."

## TURN AWAY FROM EVIL INFLUENCES

- We become desensitized
  - I Timothy 4:1-2 – "whose consciences are seared"

## 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

## TURN AWAY FROM CORRUPTING ENVIRONMENTS

- 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 someone to devour"
- II Corinthians 11:14-15 – "Their end will correspond to their deeds"

## TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

### Prayer

- I Thessalonians 5:16-18 – “pray without ceasing”
- Private
  - Matthew 6:1, 5-6 – “pray to your Father who is in secret”

## TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

### Prayer

- “Pray without ceasing”
- Public
  - Acts 12:4-5, 12 – “earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church ... many ... were praying”

## TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

### Reading

- Romans 15:4 – “written for our instruction”
- Ephesians 3:4 – “When you read this, you can perceive ...”

## TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

### Reading

- Private
  - 1,189 chapters in the Bible
  - Read two from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament every day
    - Old Testament every 1.3 years
    - New Testament 2.8 times per year

## TAKE UP EDIFYING PRACTICES

### Reading

- Public/Family
  - I Timothy 4:13 – “the public reading of Scripture”

## 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 in public”
  - Acts 17:11 – “examining the Scriptures daily”
    - And these weren't even Christians

## OBEYING THE GOSPEL

### Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – “... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

### Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – “... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ...”

## OBEYING THE GOSPEL

### Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

### Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – “... with the mouth one confesses and is saved”

## OBEYING THE GOSPEL

### Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – “Repent and be baptized every one of you ...”

### Remain faithful

- I Corinthians 15:1-2 – “if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain”