

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 15:33-34* – “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 to:

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

TURN AWAY FROM EVIL INFLUENCES

These can influence us to:

- 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”

TURN AWAY FROM EVIL INFLUENCES

These can influence us to:

- 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

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

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Hear the Word of God
 - *Romans 10:8* – “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Believe in that Word
 - *Romans 10:11* – “For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Repent of your sins
 - *Acts 3:19-20* – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - *1 John 4:15* – “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Be immersed in water (baptized)
 - *Acts 2:38* – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”