

## 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.”