

24. More Reasons For Failure

We want continue with the subject of our last study as to how we can overcome sin, our biggest problem in all of our life.

We saw, from our last study, two reasons why many Christians don't grow in their Christian life and don't grow to overcome sinful habits. One is the lack of the fear of God, and the other is the lack of faith. You see faith is a personal thing. We saw that Jesus can keep people from falling. Now that is a fact; an intellectual fact that even the devil believes in. But, to personally believe that Jesus can keep you from falling when you are tempted, that quality of your heart that can bring you victory, can come only if you have taken the first step of believing what the Bible describes as the seriousness of sin. When you believe that, then you will long to be free from this wretched disease. So faith is a very important factor.

If you realize this, there will be two things that you will do. First of all, you will run away from temptation; you will not expose yourself to danger. Who are the people who expose themselves to temptation? - Those who don't feel their weakness. One who feels his weakness will run away. That is what the Bible says we should do: flee from youthful lusts; flee from immorality (2 Tim. 2:22). There we read that Paul told, even a godly man like, Timothy to flee from youthful lusts; to flee from the love of money, to flee from idolatry, to flee from immorality. We read all these exhortations in 1 Timothy 6, 1 Corinthians 6, 1 Corinthians 10 and 2 Timothy 2. Flee, flee, flee, flee - run away. Why do we run away? Because we realize we are weak. We can overcome many sins if we just obey that one exhortation to run away.

24. 我们犯罪跌倒的其它原因

我们现在想继续之前的讨论，就是我们该如何战胜人生最大的问题——如何胜过罪。

之前我们看到，很多基督徒属灵生命不成长的两个原因，他们仍然一再犯罪跌倒的原因。第一个原因是他们缺乏对上帝的敬畏之心，另一个原因是缺乏信心。要知道，信仰本身是非常私人的。我们基督徒知道主耶稣可以帮助人不在罪上跌倒。可如果仅仅将它视为理智上的一个事实，那这个事实是连撒但都了解并相信的。若真想要在面对诱惑时，相信主耶稣能帮你不至跌倒，则需要真正的相信，你真正信心的程度将决定你是否能被主帮助，在罪上得胜，而这份相信的第一步，就是相信《圣经》所说的，罪是极其严重的。只有当你相信罪的严重性，才会渴望从这恼人的“疾病”里被拯救，得到自由。所以说，这份相信是极其重要的。

当你认识到这一点，便有两件事你肯定会做。第一，就是在面对诱惑时，你会赶紧逃走，因为你不想将自己暴露在危险里。什么样的人会将自己暴露在危险里？就是那些认为自己不软弱的人。觉得自己软弱的人想要逃开。这也是《圣经》所教导我们的：逃避少年的情欲，逃避不道德和败坏（提摩太后书 2 章 22 节）。保罗在这里告诉提摩太（即使是像提摩太这样真心追求神的人），要逃避少年的情欲，逃避偶像崇拜，逃避败坏。所有这些训诫，在提摩太前书 6 章，哥林多前书 1 章，哥林多前书 10 章，以及哥林多后书 2 章，你看到保罗说，逃避、逃避、逃避、逃避——逃，要用跑的。那么我们为什么需要逃？那是因为我们知道自己是软弱的。要知道，假如我们能够遵守就这一条训诫，很多罪都是可以避免的。

The second thing that a person, who has recognized the weakness of his flesh, will do is that he will pray to God earnestly for help. You see, prayer is a sign of weakness. When do people usually pray, even worldly people? - When they are in real trouble, when nobody else can help them. One of the things that Jesus taught us to pray is - lead us not into temptation. Why do we pray that prayer? - Because we are convinced that our flesh is weak. One would think that someone like Timothy, who had advanced in the Christian life so much, was not in danger of youthful lusts, but even he needed to run away.

Now, if we realize our weakness we will not only want to run away from temptation, but we will also pray, 'Lord, please help me. Give me strength to overcome this weakness.' Just like we need to see the seriousness of sin, we also need to see the weakness of our flesh.

One of the wonderful truth in scripture, that we read is that "Jesus Christ was tempted in all points, as we are" (Heb. 4:15). He did not live on earth without being tempted. In Matthew 4 we are given a very clear description of how He was tempted, at least in three areas. But in Hebrews 4:15, we are told He was tempted in all areas, just like us, but He never sinned.

How is it He never sinned? Was it because He automatically could not sin? Well, we don't want to probe into the nature of Jesus. There is much about His inner nature that we cannot understand. Even there is much about our own inner nature we can't understand ourselves. Psychologists try so much and they still don't know everything about the human personality. It is impossible to try and gauge what went on within Jesus, and we don't even want to attempt it. But one thing we know: Jesus prayed. Why did He have to pray?

能看到自己肉体软弱的人，会做的第二件事，就是切切的向神祷告寻求帮助。你知道吗，祷告代表承认软弱。人都会在什么时候祷告？甚至是不信神的人？那就是他们真的遇到麻烦的时候，当没有人能够帮他们的时候。主耶稣教我们的祷告其中一个内容就是，请救我们脱离试探。为什么我们得做这个祷告？因为那是我们在承认自己的肉体是软弱的。有人可能会觉得，像提摩太这样的人，在基督里的生命已经很成熟了，应该不会有陷在肉欲里的危险，然而就算是这样，也仍需要这个“逃避”。

所以，当我们意识到自己的软弱，就不光想要逃避这些诱惑，更想要向神祷告，“主啊，求你帮助我。给我力量来胜过这软弱。”就如同我们需要明白罪的严重性，我们同样需要看见自己肉体的软弱。

《圣经》所揭示的绝妙真理中的其中一条就是，“耶稣基督曾凡事受试探，与我们一样”（希伯来书 4 章 15 节）。主耶稣在地上生活的时候，并没有隔绝于试探之外。马太福音 4 章为我们清晰描述了三个领域里，祂是如何被试探的。而希伯来书 4 章 15 节告诉我们，祂在所有领域都被试探过，所有我们会受试探的领域，然而祂没有犯罪。

主耶稣是如何做到从不犯罪的？是因为祂的“默认设置”就不会犯罪吗？在这我们不想过度的探究主耶稣道成肉身在世时的属性。因为对于祂肉身的很多奥秘我们的头脑是无法明白的。甚至就连我们自身的很多属性，我们的头脑也是无法明白的。心理学家们一直在试图解释“人格”，却仍不能全部理解。想要完全理解主耶稣的一切内在是不可能的，我们也不想去这个尝试。但有一件事我们是清楚的，那就是，主耶稣常常祷告。这是为什么？

You know, the stronger we feel within ourselves, the less we pray; the more capable we think we are, the less we pray. It is the one who realizes his helpless dependence upon the Father for everything - for wisdom, for strength, for guidance - that is the one who prays. The one who feels, 'Yeah, well, I can handle all that myself, I don't need God's help, I can sort out, I can gauge the relative importance of things and take decision,' he doesn't pray. But Jesus prayed. He prayed all night before He chose His twelve apostles; He didn't want to make a mistake.

Now these things indicate that Jesus received strength from the Father through prayer. We don't receive it because we don't pray as much, or we don't pray as earnestly. We are told in Hebrews 5 that Jesus prayed with strong crying and tears. Imagine that. Can you picture that in your mind? - Of Jesus Christ, the perfect man who walked on this earth, praying with strong crying and tears? When was the last time you prayed with strong crying and tears? Why the difference? Don't you think you and I need to pray much more than Jesus needed to? He had lived in the presence of the Father from all eternity. He did not have a sinful nature like you and I have. And yet, He prayed. How much more we need to pray?

True humility is to recognize the weakness of our flesh. All of us are weak, but not all of us are equally conscious of our weakness. The one who is conscious of his weakness will run away from danger when he sees it, and he will cry out for help. So this is the third reason why many people fall; they don't run away from temptation. They foolishly expose themselves to temptation and they don't cry out for help.

Let me give you a fourth reason why many people

你知道吗，我们越感觉强壮，越不会去祷告；越感觉有能力，越少祷告。那些在每件事上都意识到自己无助的人，才会在每件事上向天父寻求帮助——无论是智慧、力量或是指引——这样的人会不住祷告。当一个人觉得，“哦，这件事我不用天父的帮助，自己就可以完全应付，我有能力衡量各个方面的重要性并做出正确决定。”这样的人是不会祷告的。然而主耶稣则是常常祷告。祂在选择十二个门徒之前彻夜祷告，因为祂不想做出错误的决定。

这些事表明主耶稣的力量是通过祷告，从天父而得来的。我们的力量不够是因为我们祷告的不够，或是不够迫切。希伯来书第 5 章告诉我们，基督在肉体时大声哀哭，流泪祷告。请想象一下，你脑里有这个画面吗？主耶稣基督，这位完全人在地上时，需要大声哀哭、流泪祷告？你还记得自己上一次痛哭祷告是什么时候吗？这其中的区别是什么？你觉得我们不比主耶稣需要更多的祷告吗？祂在永恒里与父一直同在。祂不像你我一样有罪的天性。然而，祂常常祷告。那么你我不该更多的祷告吗？

真正的谦卑表现在认识我们肉体的软弱。我们每个人都是软弱的，只是我们不常意识到这软弱。能认识到自己软弱的人，会在看见危险的时候赶紧逃开，会哭求帮助。因此，这是人跌倒的第三个原因，就是没有立刻从诱惑面前逃开。他们愚蠢的将自己暴露在诱惑的面前，也不呼求帮助。

接下来，我想要告诉你很多人跌倒在罪里的第四个原

fall into sin. Peter says that we must arm ourselves with a mind to suffer in the flesh, like Jesus suffered in the flesh, because if we suffer in the flesh, we cease from sin (1 Pet. 4:1, 2). Now, that is not an easy verse to understand. It is not talking about bodily suffering, because people who suffer bodily don't finish with sin. We know that. Otherwise the hospitals would be full of people who are finished with sin. It is obviously not referring to bodily suffering. What does it mean when it says, "As Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind, because he who suffers in the flesh ceases from sin so that he can do the will of God." It is referring to an attitude of mind where we would rather suffer in self-denial than get the least pleasure out of even a single sinful thought.

When we are tempted, all of us, we have the opportunity, either to indulge in it and get some pleasure out of it or to resist it and reject it. The latter causes a certain suffering. That is the suffering that is mentioned here. Peter says, before you are tempted, you must be armed for the conflict. In other words, you must be armed with this attitude of mind, which says, 'I would rather suffer than enjoy the pleasure of sin even for a moment.' We read about Jesus that He was obedient even unto death (Phil. 2:8). This means, Jesus' attitude was that He would rather die than sin. Now that is quite a radical attitude - I would rather die than disobey my Father in the smallest little thing. That is the meaning of 'He was obedient even unto death.' He calls us to follow in His footsteps; to be willing to suffer rather than displease God.

A fifth reason why many Christians do not progress spiritually, and fall, is because they are not seeking to press on to perfection. They are satisfied with the progress that they have made thus far. If you become satisfied with second standard, you will

因。彼得说如同主耶稣在肉身里时受苦一般，我们必须将受过苦的心志作为兵器，因为只有我们的肉身受过苦，才可能与罪隔绝（彼得前书 4 章 1、2 节）。这句经文并不是很好懂。明显这里所指的并不是躯体受的苦，因为很多躯体上受过苦的人都并没有停止犯罪。这是我们都知的事情。要不然医院里早就充满了不再犯罪的人。彼得所说的，“如同基督在肉身受苦，你们要用同样的心志来武装自己，因为能够承受肉体的痛苦而不犯罪，才能去行神的旨意。”这里指的是，宁愿去承受那种否定自我肉体意愿的痛苦，也不从丁点的罪恶念头获取快感，这样的心志。

我们每个人在面对诱惑时，都是面临选择的，要么纵容自己沉迷其中获取快感，要么抵抗并拒绝。后者总是意味着一定程度的受苦。这里的经文所指的受苦就是这个。彼得说，在你面对诱惑之前，就要用这种抵触来武装自己。换句话说，你必须用这样的态度来武装自己，“我宁愿受苦，也不要享受一刻罪恶带来的快感。”我们在腓利比书 2 章 8 节看到，主耶稣存心顺服，以至于死。也就是说，主耶稣的态度是，宁愿死也不犯罪。这看起来似乎是非常激进的态度——我宁愿死也不要违背我的天父所吩咐的哪怕最小的事情。这就是祂“存心顺服，以至于死”的意思。主耶稣呼召我们跟随祂的脚步，就是同样的意志，宁愿受苦也不要违逆上帝。

许多基督徒属灵生命不长进，不断跌倒的第五个原因是因为他们没有试图竭力进到完全。他们满足于自己已取得的进步就停止不前。假如你满足于二年级，就不会想要进到三年级了。这几乎是肯定的，因为你觉得自己已经比这些大部分还在幼儿园和一年级的都强

never get to the third standard. That is for certain - Because you feel you are better than all the others who are in the first standard and kindergarten. But if you are determined to press on and say, 'well, I have overcome something but I want to get something more, I want to press towards the mark,' you will make progress. Paul said, "One thing I do, I press towards the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14) - the goal of becoming like Jesus totally, in every part of our personality. What is the result of Paul having this attitude? It not only kept him from stagnating in the Christian life, but it also kept him from sin. Paul told Timothy to not only flee from temptation but also to pursue after righteousness, godliness, love and gentleness.

Any point in our Christian life, where we get satisfied with our progress, is a danger point. That is the time we are going to fall into sin. And that is where we need to ask ourselves: 'Am I progressing? Am I longing to become like Jesus in every area? Am I mourning every time I see something in my life that is un-Christ like? Do I cry out to God and say, 'Lord, I have faith.'" Begin today, my friend, to mourn every time you see something un-Christ like in your life. Cry out to God for help, and see if your life doesn't change from this very day.

了。只有当你决定继续前进，告诉自己，“我要克服更多的事情，继续向前面的标杆前进”，尔后你才有可能进步。保罗说，“我只有的一件事，就是向着标杆直跑，要得神在基督耶稣里，从上面招我来得的奖赏”（腓利比书 3 章 13-14 节）——这标杆就是让我们品格的各个方面，都变得完全像主耶稣基督一样。使徒保罗这般态度的结果是什么？就是这不光防止保罗的基督生命停滞不前，还同时帮助他远离犯罪。保罗告诉提摩太，不光要逃避诱惑，还要不断追求正直、圣洁、爱心与温柔。

在基督生命里的任何时刻，若是我们对自己的进步感到满足，那个时刻都是危险的。因为往往那就正是我们即将跌进罪里的时刻。这样的时刻，我们该问自己：“我还在继续向前吗？我是否仍然渴望在每个领域都更加像主耶稣？当我看到自己有不像主的地方，我是否感到哀伤？我是否会向神大声呼求帮助，主啊，我对你有信心。”就从今天开始吧，我的朋友，每次看到自己不像基督的地方，都请向神大声呼求，尔后观察自己的生命是否每天都在变化。