

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. 我們犯罪跌倒的其它原因

我們現在想繼續之前的討論,就是我們該如何戰勝人生最大的問題——如何勝過罪。

之前我們看到,很多基督徒屬靈生命不成長的兩個原因,他們仍然一再犯罪跌倒的原因。第一個原因是他們缺乏對上帝的敬畏之心,另一個原因是缺乏信心。要知道,信仰本身是非常私人的。我們基督徒知道主耶穌可以說明人不在罪上跌倒。可如果僅僅將它視為理智上的一個事實,那這個事實是連撒但都瞭解並相信的。若真想要在面對誘惑時,相信主耶穌能幫你不至跌倒,則需要真正的相信,你真正信心的程度將決定你是否能被主說明,在罪上得勝,而這份相信的第一步,就是相信《聖經》所說的,罪是極其嚴重的。只有當你相信罪的嚴重性,才會渴望從這惱人的「疾病」裡被拯救,得到自由。所以說,這份相信是極其重要的。

當你認識到這一點,便有兩件事你肯定會做。第一,就是在面對誘惑時,你會趕緊逃走,因為你不想將自己暴露在危險裡。什麼樣的人會將自己暴露在危險裡?就是那些認為自己不軟弱的人。覺得自己軟弱的人會想要逃開。這也是《聖經》所教導我們的:逃避少年的情欲,逃避不道德和敗壞(提摩太后書 2 章 22 節)。保羅在這裡告訴提摩太(即使是像提摩太這樣真心追求神的人),要逃避少年的情欲,逃避偶像崇拜,逃避敗壞。所有這些訓誡,在提摩太前書 6 章,哥林多前書 1 章,哥林多前書 10 章,以及哥林多後書 2 章,你看到保羅說,逃避、逃避、逃避、逃避——逃,要用跑的。那麼我們為什麼需要逃?那是因為我們知道自己是軟弱的。要知道,假如我們能夠遵守就這一條訓誡,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?

能看到自己肉體軟弱的人,會做的第二件事,就是切切的向神禱告尋求說明。 你知道嗎,禱告代表承認軟弱。 人都會在什麼時候禱告?甚至是不信神的人?那就是他們真的遇到麻煩的時候,當沒有人能夠幫他們的時候。 主耶穌教我們的禱告其中一個內容就是,請救我們脫離試探。 為什麼我們得做這個禱告?因為那是我們在承認自己的肉體是軟弱的。 有人可能會覺得,像提摩太這樣的人,在基督裡的生命已經很成熟了,應該不會有陷在肉欲裡的危險,然而就算是這樣,也仍需要這個「逃避」。

所以,當我們意識到自己的軟弱,就不光想要逃避這些誘惑,更想要向神禱告,「主啊,求你說明我。 給我力量來勝過這軟弱。」就如同我們需要明白罪的嚴重性,我們同樣需要看見自己肉體的軟弱。

《聖經》所揭示的絕妙真理中的其中一條就是,「耶穌基督曾凡事受試探,與我們一樣」(希伯來書 4 章 15 節)。 主耶穌在地上生活的時候,並沒有隔絕于試探之外。 馬太福音 4 章為我們清晰描述了三個領域裡,祂是如何被試探的。 而希伯來書 4 章 15 節告訴我們,祂在所有領域都被試探過,所有我們會受試探的領域,然而祂沒有犯罪。

主耶穌是如何做到從不犯罪的?是因為祂的「預設設置」就不會犯罪嗎?在這我們不想過度的探究主耶穌道成肉身在世時的屬性。 因為對於祂肉身的很多奧秘我們的頭腦是無法明白的。 甚至就連我們自身的很多屬性,我們的頭腦也是無法明白的。 心理學家們一直在試圖解釋「人格」,卻仍不能全部理解。 想要完全理解主耶穌的一切內在是不可能的,我們也不想去這個嘗試。 但有一件事我們是清楚的,那就是,主耶穌常常禱告。 這是為什麼?

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

你知道嗎,我們越感覺強壯,越不會去禱告;越感覺有能力,越少禱告。那些在每件事上都意識到自己無助的人,才會在每件事上向天父尋求說明——無論是智慧、力量或是指引——這樣的人會不住禱告。當一個人覺得,「哦,這件事我不用天父的說明,自己就可以完全應付,我有能力衡量各個方面的重要性並做出正確決定。」這樣的人是不會禱告的。然而主耶穌則是常常禱告。祂在選擇十二個門徒之前徹夜禱告,因為祂不想做出錯誤的決定。

這些事表明主耶穌的力量是通過禱告,從天父而得來的。我們的力量不夠是因為我們禱告的不夠,或是不夠迫切。希伯來書第 5 章告訴我們,基督在肉體時大聲哀哭,流淚禱告。請想像一下,你腦裡有這個畫面嗎?主耶穌基督,這位完全人在地上時,需要大聲哀哭、流淚禱告?你還記得自己上一次痛哭禱告是什麼時候嗎?這其中的區別是什麼?你覺得我們不比主耶穌需要更多的禱告嗎?祂在永恆裡與父一直同在。祂不像你我一樣有罪的天性。然而,祂常常禱告。那麼你我不該更多的禱告嗎?

真正的謙卑表現在認識我們肉體的軟弱。我們每個人都是軟弱的,只是我們不常意識到這軟弱。能認識到自己軟弱的人,會在看見危險的時候趕緊逃開,會哭求說明。因此,這是人跌倒的第三個原因,就是沒有立刻從誘惑面前逃開。他們愚蠢的將自己暴露在誘惑的面前,也不呼求說明。

接下來,我想要告訴你很多人跌倒在罪裡的第四個原

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。彼得說如同主耶穌在肉身裡時受苦一般,我們必須將受過苦的心志作為兵器,因為僅自己們的肉身受過苦,才可能與罪隔絕(彼得前書 4 章 1、2 節)。這句經文並不是很好懂。明顯這裡所指的並不是軀體受的苦,因為很多軀體上受過苦的人都並沒有停止犯罪。這是我們都知道的事情。要不然醫院裡早就充滿了不再犯罪的人。彼得所說的,「如同基督在肉身受苦,你們要用同樣的心志來武裝自己,因為能夠承受肉體的痛苦而不犯罪,才能去行神的旨意。」這裡指的是,寧願去承受那種否定自我肉體意願的痛苦,也不從丁點的罪惡念頭獲取快感,這樣的心志。

我們每個人在面對誘惑時,都是面臨選擇的,要麼縱容自己沉迷其中獲取快感,要麼抵抗並拒絕。後者總是意味著一定程度的受苦。這裡的經文所指的受苦就是這個。彼得說,在你面對誘惑之前,就要用這種抵觸來武裝自己。換句話說,你必須用這樣的態度來武裝自己,「我寧願受苦,也不要去享受一刻罪惡帶來的快感。」我們在腓利比書 2 章 8 節看到,主耶穌存心順服,以至於死。也就是說,主耶穌的態度是,寧願死也不犯罪。這看起來似乎是非常激進的態度——我寧願死也不要違背我的天父所吩咐的哪怕最小的事情。這就是祂「存心順服,以至於死」的意思。主耶穌呼召我們跟隨祂的腳步,就是同樣的意志,寧願受苦也不要違逆上帝。

許多基督徒屬靈生命不長進,不斷跌倒的第五個原因是因為他們沒有試圖竭力進到完全。他們滿足于自己已取得的進步就停止不前。假如你滿足于二年級,就不會想要進到三年級了。這幾乎是肯定的,因為你覺得自己已經比這些大部分還在幼稚園和一年級的都強

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。只有當你決定繼續前進,告訴自己,「我要克服更多的事情,繼續向前面的標杆前進」,爾後你才有可能進步。保羅說,「我只有的一件事,就是向著標杆直跑,要得神在基督耶穌裡,從上面招我來得的獎賞」(腓利比書 3 章 13-14 節)——這標杆就是讓我們品格的各個方面,都變得完全像主耶穌基督一樣。使徒保羅這般態度的結果是什麼?就是這不光防止保羅的基督生命停滯不前,還同時說明他遠離犯罪。保羅告訴提摩太,不光要逃避誘惑,還要不斷追求正直、聖潔、愛心與溫柔。

在基督生命裡的任何時刻,若是我們對自己的進步感到滿足,那個時刻都是危險的。因為往往那就正是我們即將跌進罪裡的時刻。這樣的時刻,我們該問自己:「我還在繼續向前嗎?我是否仍然渴望在每個領域都更加像主耶穌?當我看到自己有不像主的地方,我是否感到哀傷?我是否會向神大聲呼求說明,主啊,我對你有信心。」就從今天開始吧,我的朋友,每次看到自己不像基督的地方,都請向神大聲呼求,爾後觀察自己的生命是否每天都在變化。