

## The Problem of Temptation Pt. 1

Written by Bob Stone

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INTRODUCTION: I think it can be shown that the people of any church will fit one of four basic situations in relation to moral failure. A. There are Christians like Joseph of the Old Testament, and

B. On the other hand, there are Christians who have had tremendous failures in the past and are still

C. There are also those who don't know Christ, and don't know or care that they are slaves to sin.

D. Finally, there are Christians who have experienced moral failures, and through a process such as

Finally, there are Christians who have experienced moral failures, and through a process such as we'll discuss here, they are now experiencing freedom.

This study is designed to be a special help to all those who fit into the second and third situations. It is also designed to give those who are experiencing present freedom and victory, a way to help those who are living a life-style of failure and defeat--see James 5:19-20.

For purposes of continuity, we will use illustrations from the area of moral failure (sexual sin), but keep in mind, the principles apply to all areas that are in need of restoration and rehabilitation.

What do you do when you have fallen into a trap of sin and you desire a way of getting out, but your failures have been long-term and your attempts to free yourself have failed? Or how can you help someone who wants help, but has been living a life-style of failure and defeat? As Christians, we can look at the problems of failure and defeat, and see wonderful help available.

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As we look at the problems of failure and defeat, we will see that:

I. **There are five basic ways in which freedom is achieved.**

A. **The first is to recognize that freedom comes from the Lord's grace and understanding.** If freedom is to be

1. It is important to see how Jesus "relates" to a person who is in sin.

a. On one hand, you will find Him advocating unparalleled moral purity in His teachings--Matt. 5:27-28.

b. On the other hand, He is also the one who says, "He who has obeyed, let him add his own method" of response.

Therefore, remember:

2. It is the Lord who wants to help you - freedom comes from Him! Understand, His work in us is often

Charles Durheim's words, "There will not be a single day in our lives when

So understand, His work in us is often a process, not an instantaneous cure. How then does this freedom

a. **First**, "recognize" what He has done for you. The Holy Spirit is still present, is He not?

This is a well known fact, but how does it apply to our sin?

b. **Second**, "remember" His death and realize that His death was for you. Shall we go on sinning?

The declaration of freedom from sin is found in Rom. 5-8. So read it often, and pray through it, claiming

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Looking back to Rom. 6, we see that:

- 1) Jesus' death for us has been deathed with him. His death, or we will certainly not be united with him.  
a) We do not have to struggle with sin any more, ergo, it is physically powerless to us.  
b) The trick of Satan is to get us to say to ourselves and others: "I can't get over this thing. I try, but I fail."  
c) We are no longer slaves - we are free. So, when a thought of defeat ("I can't help myself...") is formed, we must immediately say to ourselves: "I am free. I am free. I am free."  
d) Jesus' death and the same thing says to us: "I have died for you. I have died for you. I have died for you." The Definition of conversion is, consider it, as dead.
- a) As a child of God, we can keep sin dead or we can let it live. It's our decision. WE NOW HAVE AN A  
b) So picture your sins as being nailed to the cross with Jesus, and that they no longer have power over us.  
c) Then as a substitution, offer yourselves as instruments of righteousness.  
d) This is the first way freedom is achieved.

The first way freedom is achieved then is to recognize that freedom comes from the Lord. He accomplishes

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## B. The second way is to place yourself under the Lord's therapy.

1. This is like salvation. *Therefore, my dear friends, as you have received the kingdom of God and are being made holy, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*

a. The Lord saves us, but we must understand--working out our salvation is complex.

b. We long for the simple answer, the shortcut, but there's more to it than that.

C.S. Lewis writes in *Christianity and Morality*, something we were making up, of course we would make it easier.

Charles Dunhams also reflects on this. *God writes, "I'm not doing it! God must do it all!" is the wrong attitude.*

1) **Our part is obedience**-- "*...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling...*"

a) That doesn't mean we're working to get salvation; that is settled.

b) But it means **OBEEDIENCE** cooperative element we play in respect to our salvation, and that element is

Paul affirms this in *1 Cor 9:24-27* *That in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way that you will win.*

**Summary:** I offer Him my will, and by faith walk in the way He's calling with reverent fear and dependence.

2) **The Lord's part is to enable us to conform.** *But by working, you will help and to act according to his good pleasure.*

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3)The Lord's part is His blood, His strength, His wisdom, and His Spirit working in me enabling

4)Summary : The part we play is . I offer Him my will and walk in the way He's calling by faith

## 2.This is the Lord's therapy--it's radical and effective

a.If you are having ~~voluntary failure and always after the fact, the eye can see, but of a stray goat at tempta~~

This is an awesome statement. Why would Jesus say such a thing?

1)This is what is called a "hyperbole."

2)This is a figure of speech which ~~is called "hyperbole" in the Greek~~ "to throw." So, it's an overthrow, an over-shoot

3)This is a manner of speaking used in every culture, to some extent.

Examples in our culture would be:

a)It's raining cats and dogs. (Really?)

b)I got so mad I just blew up! (How did you get back together again?)

c)That's it! That's the straw that broke the camel's back. (Heavy straw!)

4)This form of speech was totally understood by the disciples. They knew He wasn't advocating a lit

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- a) If they believe the message, they should have been practicing it by cutting the chopping block to go
- b) It is so sad when some have not understood this and taken Christ literally. (See Appendix)
- c) It is a manner of speaking, as in Psalm 119:25, "For my iniquity, I am unclean; than for a rich man to enter the house of God."
- d) Many strange interpretations have developed over this passage because of failure to see the hyperbole.

This sponsors an important question, however. Even though Jesus used a hyperbole, He is correct. If we think about it, we see the cause of the strong pull in the area of the eye.

- b) One is the power of touch which is related to the hand. Therefore,

2) In those two areas, remove that which is leading to sin, i.e., lust, verse 28.

**SPECIAL NOTE** you or someone you know is unmarried and is in a relationship that is out of control, I have

**c. In a general way, let's view each of these two gateways to sin.**

1) If you have a problem in a relationship to the eye, certain environments causes you to sin, then you have to

**Here's an idea** because there makes an eye covenant Job 31:1; Psalm 119:37

- \* Job, in covenant, made his eyes not to look upon a woman with an adulterous heart
  - \* In Psalm 119:37, David asks the Lord to turn his eyes away from beholding
- If you haven't already done so, make a covenant with your eyes so that you will have victory over this area.

2) If your problem is in the hand, you discipline yourself to cut it off. When possible, express your power. Once we are in bondage to something, we can't just slowly ease out of it. We will have to stop it completely. For instance, the main principle of A.A. is, that you don't ease out of alcoholism, you cut it off. You stop

3) **Summary** : Whatever sense causes us to sin, we cut it off, whether it be the ear, the tongue, the

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Why is it necessary to be so radical?

3. This will save us from *losing one part of your body than for your whole body*

a. Weigh the cost and be obedient; the inconvenience and pain is worth it in comparison to the ultimate cost.

NOTE: It makes no difference what our theology is...if this is not eternal judgment, then it is certainly just.

b. In simple terms, it's better to lose a part than the whole.

c. Therefore, weigh the cost and be obedient; the inconvenience and pain is worth it in comparison to the ultimate cost.

2) We need to weigh the cost and be obedient; the inconvenience and pain is worth it in comparison to the ultimate cost.

The Lord's therapy is radical and effective, but trust God that He has something to put in its place that is better.

C. The third way freedom is achieved involves a new input and mindset for the mind. By necessity, this is a radical change.

1. This is the middle step in the process of change. We need to have our brains washed and new attitudes put in our minds.

-- What is needed is to have our brains washed and new attitudes put in our minds.

-- We can't exist with the old attitudes.

-- Before positive action can be lasting, new attitudes must replace the old ones--v. 23.

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-- So if we want to put on the new self--v. 24, then we must first replace negative and sinful attitudes.

a. For instance, what are a few examples of our ~~current~~ **current** attitudes?

- 1) **Your body** . Is it a tool for self-gratification--your servant, to give you any kind of joy you want?
- 2) **Women or men** Are they objects or necessary evils to be exploited and manipulated to get what you want?
- 3) **Artificial substances** (drugs, alcohol, etc.). Are they a way to get happy--to deal with loneliness?
- 4) **Wealth, possessions** . Are they necessary for fulfillment and contentment?
- 5) **Your enemy**. Is he or she someone to hurt in order to get revenge?
- 6) **Stealing** . Do you long to get something for nothing, even if you have to cheat or rip someone off?
- 7) **Church** . Do you see it as a place to get something, but where you feel no obligation to contribute?

b. For complete ~~diversity~~ **diversity**, to take a different attitude, you will need to change your attitude. Only a change of mind is needed.

- 1) **Your body** . It must change from a tool of self-gratification to a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you.
- 2) **Women and men** . They aren't objects to be manipulated or exploited, but are made in the image of God, and are to be loved as you love yourself.
- 3) **Artificial substances** . Joy and happiness comes as a by-product of a proper relationship with God--Ps. 19:8--*"The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the lord are righteous, bringing gladness of heart."*
- 4) **Wealth, possessions** . Fulfillment cannot be from the acquiring of things. Scripture indicates our attitude should be: Eph. 5:18--*"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."*
- 5) **Your enemy**. Our attitude should be one of love, but of goodness towards God. Rom. 12:21--*"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*
- 6) **Stealing** . Our attitude should be one of sharing with those in need, not one of stealing from them.
- 7) **Church** . The church should be a place where we help one another, not a place where we are helped.

**Summary** : These are just a representative sampling of attitude changes that are needed. Whatever

What should our minds be set on? Generally speaking:

2. **The new mind is to be set on what the Spirit desires.** *the sinful nature, have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*



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a. We now focus away from our own desires to what the Spirit desires.

In the area of moral failure:

b. We recognize our main self-organizing mind, receive what to constantly about his perspective Lord's desire

More specifically, how do we fill our minds with the right input?

3. The new input that comes from the therapy of God's Word.

a. We need to change our attitude by thinking God's thoughts.

How do we begin to think God's thoughts?

b. We do that by memorizing and meditating on God's Word.

- Ps. 1:1-3 *Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners*
  - Ps. 119:9 *How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding his mouth with words of knowledge*
- 2) When Scripture becomes a focus of our thinking through memorization and meditation, it will have a

So we need first, recognize the freedom comes from the word. We need to involve