

Studies in Christianity Christian Living #10

S#1.

Waging the War Within

S#2.

Text : **II Samuel 12: 1-10 ; Psalm 51: 1-13**

A. Last week we introduced this subject. We saw that :

S#3.

1. We approach God with an inflated self-image.

a. We all tend to think that we are pretty good folks. (*I don't ...*)

b. The very best we can be on our own is a losing investment.

Luke 17: 10 – So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.' S#4.

c. We are corrupted by sin so all our efforts to be righteous fall short.

Isa. 64: 6 – For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;

2. We come into the kingdom with unrealistic confidence in our piety.

S#5.

a. In this body one will never get to the point where he will never sin.

I John 1: 8– If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins S#6.

b. We are in a constant battle against powerful spiritual forces.

Eph. 6: 12 – For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. S#7.

c. The devil is always making accusation to God against Christians.

Rev. 12: 10 – Then I heard a loud voice in Heaven, saying “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.” S#8.

** Remember Job chapters 1 & 2. Job was the most righteous man ...*

3. We Christians tend to live with unrealistic expectations of our potential.

a. We erroneously think we can keep our commitment to live sin free.

Rom. 3: 23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

b. Absolute piety is a noble goal, but no one has ever reach it except Jesus.

Rom. 3: 10 – as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one,”

4. Sin is all around us and temptation is ever before us so at times we all yield,
 - a. We all fall short of what God expects of us. **S#9.**
Matt. 5: 48 - You are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is Perfect.
 - b. We break God's law.
I John 3:4 – Everyone who practices sin, also practices lawlessness;
 - c. We all break the law of the land.
Rom. 13:2 – Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God;
 - d. We can't even follow our own law that we formulated for ourselves. **S#10.**
Rom 14: 23 – But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, ... not from faith is sin.
 - e. We sin by desiring to do evil that we don't actually do.
I John 3: 15 – Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, ...
 - f. We sin by not doing good things that we know we should do.
James 4: 17 – one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin

B. Because spiritual lawlessness is all around us and all of us commit sin we must all learn to deal with it. Thus, this lesson is about how we deal with sin. S#11.

1. We must limit our exposure to sin.
2. We must develop a distain for sin.
3. We must realize that all sin is against God.
4. We must openly own our sin and repent.
5. We must repent on an ongoing basis.

I. We must limit our exposure to sin. S#12.

A. We live in a fallen world so it is impossible to be totally isolated from sin. S#13.

1. Jesus prayed that we not be taken out of the world, but that we be strengthened.
John 17: 14 – I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **15** I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
 - a. We must function IN the world but must never become OF the world – part of it.
 - b. Our remaining different will cause some to hate us. (*Light in darkness*)
2. The Apostle accepted that Christians would have to deal with sinful people. **S#14.**
I Cor. 5: 9 – I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; **10** I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.

B. Christians choose their friends carefully.

S#15.

1. **Psa. 1: 1** – How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked. Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
2. **I Cor. 15: 33** – Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."
3. Your "light" will often be evaluated by the company you keep.

C. The Christian must filter what he programs into his thinking.

S#16.

1. Television has become almost totally corrupt. (*TV is addictive.*)
2. Electronic media is loaded with foul language and evil intent.
3. Electronic pornography has become an epidemic for women and men alike.

D. The greatest danger is from those who are close enough to lower your guard.

II. We must develop a distain for all manner of sin.

S#17.

A. The Christian's goal is to "walk with God", to have fellowship with Jesus.

1. Our God is holy and righteous.
 - a. **Isa. 5: 16b** – And the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness. **S#18.**
 - b. **Lev. 19: 2** – Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ' You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.'
2. If we are to have fellowship with God, we must also be holy.
 - a. **I Pet. 1: 15** – but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; **16** because it is written, :You shall be holy, for I am holy."
 - b. We are kept holy by the continual cleansing of the blood of Jesus.

I John 1: 6 – If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin **S#19.**

B. We hate sin because our Lord hates sin.

1. **Psa. 5: 4** – For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You. **5** The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity. **S#20.**
2. **Psa. 11: 5** – The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates.
3. **Prov. 8: 13** – The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I (wisdom) hate.

C. We hate sin because we are commanded to hate sin.**S#21.**

1. **Amos 5: 15** – Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate!
2. **Psa. 97:10** – Hate evil, you who love the Lord, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

III. We must realize that all sin is against God.**S#22.****S#23.****A. The prophet David was very much aware of this he expressed this perfectly.**

Psa. 51: 4 – Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge.

1. David had used his position to violate a married woman.
2. David had caused the death of her husband.
3. David had involved others in his plot. (*Joab, even Uriah himself*)
4. David brought reproach on his family and the nation.

B. Sin is a rejection of the will of God and He takes it personally.

1. When Israel wanted a king, God took it as a personal rejection.

I Sam. 7: 7 – The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. 8 "Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day — in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods — so they are doing to you also.

S#24.

2. To those Jesus sent out to proclaim His gospel message He said :

S#25.

Luke 10: 16 – The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.

C. Any time we sin we break the heart of our Heavenly father.

1. Do you remember how you felt when your son did wrong ?
2. Sin embarrasses God in the spiritual realm. (*God's Angels see, Satan's angels see*)

IV. We must openly own our sin and immediately turn from it.**S#26.****A. When confronted, David owned His sin and repented.****S#27.**

1. **II Sam. 12: 14** – Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."
 - a. David did not deny what he had done,
 - b. David did not make excuses attempting to rationalize or lessen his sin.
2. **Psa. 51: 3** – For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

B. We all sin and must follow the example of David and ALSO of Simon S#28.

Acts 8: 20 – But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! **21** You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. **22** Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. **23** For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." **24** But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me." (*transition to #5*)

V. We must repent on an ongoing basis. S#29.**A. Neither David nor Simon lashed out at the one who confronted them.**

1. As they accepted their sin and dealt with it so must we.
2. David tried to hide his sin for over a year, but God knew it all the time.
3. God gave David time to repent before confronting him with his sin.

B. No matter how well hidden, God knows every sin you have or will ever commit.

1. **I Cor. 4: 5** – Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but S#30.
wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden
in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then
each man's praise will come to him from God.
2. **Heb. 4: 12** – For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any S#31.
two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of
both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of
the heart. **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things
are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

C. You and I sin daily so we have to deal with sin daily. S#32.

I John 1: 8 – If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

S#33.**D. Like David we must plead for and strive for a “new heart”, a transformed mind.**

1. **Psa. 51: 10** – Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
2. **Rom. 12: 2** – ... but be transformed by the renewing of your mind ...

S#34. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**II Samuel 12: 1-10**

1 Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said, "There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor. **2** "The rich man had a great many flocks and herds. **3** "But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb Which he bought and nourished; And it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, And was like a daughter to him. **4** "Now a traveler came to the rich man, And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; Rather he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

5 Then David's anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die. **6** "He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion."

7 Nathan then said to David, " You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel, ' It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. **8** 'I also gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! **9** 'Why have you despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. **10** 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

Psalms 51: 1-13

1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. **4** Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. **6** Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. **7** Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **8** Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. **9** Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. **11** Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. **12** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. **13** Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.