



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 34, August 25 , 2015 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

OVERCOMING THE POWER OF SIN AND INIQUITY!

I. THE DEEP WRITING OF SIN

"The sin of Judah is **written with a pen of iron**, and with the point of a diamond: it is **graven upon the table of their heart**, and upon the horns of your altars."— Jeremiah 17:1. Sins committed AND sins THOUGHT ARE DEEPLY written IN OUR hearts. Deeds are done, THOUGHTS ARE THOUGHT... and we THINK that when done, they are done *with*. They pass. THEY ARE DONE... AND THERE is NO FURTHER CONSEQUENCE! LIKE last year's snow THEY ARE NOW STRICTLY HISTORY.

HOWEVER, there is nothing more certain than THIS: All which we THINK and do leave DEEPENING traces IN OUR MINDS AND HEARTS. All SINFUL THOUGHTS AND DEEDS leave LINGERING marks deep within. All wrong-doing... all EVIL IMAGINATIONS write DEEP records on the memory.

Many a PERSON STRUGGLES WITH MEMORY□ filth, BITTERNESS... ALL DEEPLY WRITTEN IN MEMORY...

1. ACTIONS and THOUGHTS sink in as if forgotten;
2. THEY get overlaid with a multitude of others; but THEY ARE there, and memory will one day bring it to us. ALL THIS ANCIENT HISTORY NEEDS IS A TRIGGER!

A MAN TOLD OF THINGS that WERE WITNESSED AND THINGS that WERE THRUST UPON him as a young child... MANY OF HIS ADULT, SERIOUS SPIRITUAL BATTLES WENT BACK TO THOSE DAYS.

As another has said, "THE BRAIN IS HIGHLY FRAGILE AND WHAT YOU RECEIVE EARLY, PARKS THERE AND MAY HAUNT YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE— UNLESS YOU ARE SET FREE!

IT IS FACT... THAT A HUGE PERCENTAGE OF SEXUALLY TWISTED TEENS AND ADULTS WERE VIOLATED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.

MANY A CHILD HAS WICKEDNESS DONE TO THEM... AND UNDER GREAT THREAT THEY ARE WARNED THAT IF THEY EVER TELL— BAD THINGS WILL HAPPEN... that they or a loved one will be murdered!

ARE YOU LIVING WITH SECRET SLAVERY?

DO YOU HOLD A SECRET THAT IS DESTROYING YOU?

All sin pollutes the mind and the imagination. What are you writing in your mind, in your heart? WHAT IS ALREADY WRITTEN THERE...?

Sowing BRINGS reaping— are you sowing bitterness, resentment, anger, lust, greed, pride....??

DO YOU HAVE STUFF FROM THE PAST— HAUNTING YOU IN THE PRESENT? AGAIN: "THE BRAIN IS HIGHLY FRAGILE AND WHAT IT RECEIVES EARLY, PARKS THERE AND CAN HAUNT YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!"

"It is a miserable thing to have one's mind full of ugly foul forms painted on the inner walls of our chamber of imagery, like the hideous figures in some heathen temple, where gods of lust and murder look out from every inch of space on the walls... It may long lie dormant, as A VOLCANO, till great trees grow on the floor of the crater, but all the while the communication with the central fires is open, and one day they will burst out." (Alexander MacLaren)

II. Declaring War on Sin, INIQUITY, and Unbelief!

All of us (Men, Women, Youth and Children) MUST GET RID OF INIQUITY and Declare WAR on unbelief! As we do, we will experience great GOD-HONORING miracles in our family relationships, in our personal lives and in BIBLE-BELIEVING CHURCHES!

DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SIN IN INIQUITY

Iniquity is defined as— Deviation from right; wickedness; **Gross injustice**; a wrongful act; unjust thing or deed. **Sin** is the transgression of the law. Iniquity also involves a transgression of the law but it is more than that— Iniquity is GROSS INJUSTICE.

The most GROSS INJUSTICE is to say that Almighty God is wrong in any judgment or command He makes.

“O, I would never think of such a horrible thing at that!” But that is precisely what we do whenever we excuse or cover our sin, or blame others for our sin! When we cover our own sin, excuse our sin, rationalize our sin, or fail to agree with God that our sin is sin— we turn that sin into iniquity.

Adam's sin of eating the forbidden fruit turned to iniquity when he said in Gen 3:12 ...,“The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me...” **Realized or not, that ‘blame-shift’, that smokescreen was a subtle accusation that God had mismanaged his life.**

In reality, Adam was saying that his rebellion was God’s fault!

Again, when we excuse or cover or hide our own sin— it turns into iniquity. When God, the Righteous Judge, says that you or I transgressed the law— IF YOU OR I say anything other than to ask forgiveness through the Blood of JESUS, it can turn to iniquity.

Only the power of the Blood of JESUS covers the sin and EMPOWERS me to STOP DOING THAT SIN. (Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 1:7)

Repentance: When we repent, we agree with God that we were wrong; and, we agree to turn away and stop that sin. When we repent, then through the power of the Blood of JESUS, God will have mercy and cover that sin, and throw it in the sea of forgetfulness. God will give us power through the Blood of JESUS to stop that sin. He will not bring it up to us again. God is a merciful God who forgives sin. The Blood of JESUS will not only cover that sin; but, will empower us to win future battles over sin. (Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 1:7)

You see, the real Jesus came to save sinners and save them from their sinning!

Iniquity is GROSS INJUSTICE which, (instead of saying 'Amen' to the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit), blames/excuses sin on anything and/or anyone other than our own self. When enough iniquity is heaped up, iniquity becomes full, and one will no longer hear the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit. Iniquity gives **any excuse or any covering of any sin rather than** pleading for mercy through the Blood of JESUS.

HERE IS AN AWESOME REASON why we need to understand the difference between sin and iniquity:

Matthew 7:22-23—

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you:

Depart from me, ye that work INIQUITY!”

The eternal Kingdom of God is filled with redeemed, forgiven sinners. The Kingdom of God will not have workers of iniquity. The problem with iniquity is that in making the excuse for the sin we not only refuse to repent, but we are in reality calling God an unjust or unrighteous Judge. **We judge God when we** excuse our sin and turn our sin into iniquity. For any sin to be forgiven we must admit it is sin for which we are solely responsible!

Psalm 38:1,4 — Even a real Believer may be heavy laden with iniquity. For months King David excused his sin and refused to repent. However, because he was God’s child he was chastened with heavy guilt so that ultimately he cried out,

“O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. **For mine iniquities** are gone over mine head: as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.” GLORY TO GOD, there came a day

when David was troubled by his iniquity and fled to God for mercy. HOPE REVIVED!

Warning:

Be sure to distinguish between the convicting work of the Holy Spirit and a demonic attack of discouragement.

To experience HOPE and FREEDOM, I must no longer excuse any sin. I must be like David and take full responsibility: **Psalm 38:18**— “For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.” (Psalm 51)

WARNING:

Once we have stopped making any excuse for any sin and agreed with God that it is sin and asked that the sin be covered by the Blood of JESUS — **Don't let Satan beat you up with any past, forgiven sin.**

It is a demonic discouraging spirit that would say that sin from which you have repented and which you have asked God to cover, is not gone, and not forgotten by God.

(Note: Positionally, once we are savingly in Christ— all sin (past, present and future) has already been once and for all forgiven.

But in daily practice— we still must repent: Put off sin, mortify the deeds of the flesh and put on Christ!)

IN DAILY SPIRITUAL BATTLE the answer is the

On-going power of the Blood of JESUS,

The indwelling Holy Spirit, and

Not making excuses for sin.

Have we hidden any sin from God?

Do we have any unconfessed sin? If we do not have 'hidden' sin or sin we are excusing— then with clear conscience, let us praise God for the Blood of JESUS and the power of His resurrection life!

Never give space for iniquity or unbelief!

JESUS says, "Go and SIN NO MORE!"

Cut sin no slack.

The Real JESUS saves us from the law of sin and death and gives the Power of the HOLY SPIRIT to stop sinning.

It is the Holy Spirit who not only convicts us of sin but KEEPS us from unbelief.

The difference between belief and faith is the Holy Spirit.

Faith is belief, acting upon the Word of God by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.

IT IS DEADLY to think that we will get away with hiding or excusing a sin and it is deadly to think the Lord has abandoned us.

Numbers 21:4-6: "(Israel) journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea...and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. **And the people spake against God, and against Moses,** Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread; and the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died" (Numbers 21:4-6).

When the Bible tells us that our loving Heavenly Father sent fiery serpents upon his own people, and that they died from the snake bites. We can't ignore the very clear message:

God will not allow such iniquity and unbelief among his people!

After all that our precious Lord has done for us, the most hurtful accusation we can make against Him is that He has neglected us... or

mismanaged our lives by what He has brought or allowed. **We are to beware of such unbelief, especially in difficult times.** Don't allow iniquity or unbelief.

Even at his lowest point, David wouldn't allow himself to wallow in unbelief. He cried, "For in thee, O Lord, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God" (Psalm 38:15). Moreover, it was a wonderful day when he stopped making excuses for his sin! (Psalm 32/51)

The example of David in Psalm 38 is very instructive for us: **First he would not allow UNBELIEF and then he checked for INIQUITY. Psalm 38:15—** For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God. **Psalm 38:18—** For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.

David experienced despair and depression because of his sin— SIN COMMITTED AND TOPPED OFF WITH HIDING.

He experienced MIRACLES OF FORGIVENESS AND WAS RESTORED AND FULL OF JOY WHEN HE STOPPED MAKING EXCUSES, REPENTED OF HIS INIQUITY AND UNBELIEF!

THE SAME MIRACLES AWAIT ALL IN CHRIST! Taking our cue from Psalm 51 and Psalm 32 and applying what we find by enlightenment of the Holy Spirit—

All of us (Men, Women, Youth and Children) MUST GET RID OF INIQUITY and DELCARE WAR on unbelief!

As we do, we will experience great GOD-HONORING miracles of love and joy restored in our family relationships, in our personal lives and in BIBLE-BELIEVING CHURCHES! [Note this message was developed from sources saved on my computer from many years back... unfortunately, original sources not kept]

May Grace Abound To All! James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Questions call Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

WEDNESDAYS:

☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities;

☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— **(For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)**

☐ **6:30pm— CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— NEXT, AUGUST 27, 11:00am, The Life of David! Cindy Bell, teaching. {Meet in Ladies Sunday School Room: Come in FRONT doors of the church auditorium or the SIDE door at the top of the IRON STEPS!}

* **EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in ROMANS}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES! AUGUST 30:

1. 9:30am, Sunday School

2. 10:45am, Worship Service

3. NO noon meal or afternoon service.

4. SPECIAL FIFTH SUNDAY EVENING OF PRAISE— 6:00PM

We gather as a body of believers to PRAISE THE LORD through the sharing of various songs, hymns, Scripture songs; by sharing Scriptures and testimonies.

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!* For the 2015-2016 school term we are offering **Second through Twelfth grades**. Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden— they must be protected.***

[http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?
content=presentingACE](http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE)