

Victory Over Besetting Sins

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV

Introduction

The Cypress structure on Interstate 880 in Oakland, CA, appeared to be sound. Those in rush hour traffic on the afternoon of October 17, 1989, were perfectly secure until 5:04 pm, when the earthquake began to shake the structure. Hidden weaknesses caused the collapse of the structure and the destruction of those pinned between the two sections.

Our besetting (hidden, habitual) sins are the hidden structural weaknesses which will cause our lives to collapse when shaken by unexpected temptation. Unless those sins are corrected, our lives are headed for destruction.

I. Causes of besetting sins

Romans 1:32 NIV Although they knew God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Exodus 34:7b KJV ...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and upon the children's children, unto the third and fourth generation.

- A. Past sins
- B. Sins of parents

II. Besetting sins are perpetuated by

1 Chronicles 36:15-16 NIV The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.

Hebrews 10:26 NIV If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left.

- A. Disobedience -- a form of idolatry--
- B. Prayerlessness
- C. Ignorance of God's word

III. Overcoming besetting sins

Psalms 51:10-12 KJV Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

1 Corinthians 10:13a NIV No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted above what you can bear.

- A. Confess your sin to God and repent
John 1:9 NIV If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- B. Stop looking at the temptation
1 Corinthians 10:13b NIV But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
- C. Take a stand against the sin in God's strength
Ephesians 6:10 NIV Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.