

OVERCOMING MORAL FAILURE

(2 Samuel 11:1-5)

Every believer, young and old alike, is susceptible to sexual temptation. If we choose to ignore our vulnerability to sin and assume that we are above the possibility of moral fall, we have already taken the first step toward spiritual failure (1 Cor. 10:12). The will of God for every Christian is to pursue and cultivate sexual holiness (1 Thess. 4:3-7). As we reflect on David's fall into sin, let's consider five principles on how to overcome moral failure.

- 1. Realize the danger of _____.**
David didn't just fall suddenly to sexual immorality. It was a gradual process of spiritual decline and moral deterioration. The course of his spiritual life was downward. David compromised his moral convictions as he indulged himself to polygamy (2 Sam. 5:12-13; Deut.17:14-17) He did not only abandon his administrative duty as commander in chief of his army (2 Sam. 11:1). Even worse, he abandoned his spiritual duties and disciplines as a child of God (Ps. 55:17; 141:2; 2 Pet. 3:14,18).
 - 2. Renounce _____.**
When David saw Bathsheba, he didn't just look at her. His lingering glances turned into lustful desire (2 Sam. 11:2). The battle against sexual sin begins in the heart and leads to forgetting and dishonoring God Himself to make provision for the sinful passions of the flesh (Matt. 5:27; Rom. 13:14; Col. 3:5-6).
 - 3. Remember to heed _____.**
There are divine restraints placed before David's path. The Lord used David's servant to remind him that Bathsheba was married (2 Sam. 11:3-5; Exod. 20:14,17). But David ignored God's warning. We should consider how callous our hearts could become once the strivings and promptings of the conscience are disregarded (Ps. 51:3).
 - 4. Recognize the tragic consequences of _____.**
God warns us of His displeasure and judgment upon sexual immorality (Heb. 13:4; I Thess. 4:3-8). David was graciously forgiven by the Lord, but he was not excused from the devastating consequences of his sin (2 Sam.12:10-14; Gal. 6:7-8; Num. 32:23).
 - 5. Resolve to deal with sin through _____.**
All of us, like David, have fallen short of the moral standard of God. We have committed sexual sins in our hearts and have lusted and yielded to the sinful passions of our flesh. The good news is this: Jesus died on the Cross in order to forgive us and purify us from our sexual failures (Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). The best defense against moral failure is God's steadfast love captivating our soul and Christ's purifying grace empowering our hearts (Psalm 51:1-2,10-12).
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