

~ *God's Way of Escape* ~

4 principles for getting back in fellowship with God *by Evangelist James Hood*

“Wherefore* let him that thinketh he standeth **take heed** lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful**, who will not suffer [allow] you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make **a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it” (I Corinthians 10:12-13).

** because of the examples of Israel's sin against God describe in vs. 1-11*

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of **his own lust**,* and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and **sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death**. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:12-17).

** This indicates that your lusts may be different from someone else's; you have your “own way” (Isa. 53:6).*

All sin starts in the heart/mind. Though your outward actions may not be wrong, your heart may be desiring “all that is in the world: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” **If the Holy Spirit is convicting you of sin right now, whether it is external or only internal, you must deal with it the same way—God's way.**

1. Repent

“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isa. 55:6-7).

What is the Lord working in your heart about? Has He exposed any wrong? What do you need to turn away from?

Wrong Desires _____

Wrong Actions _____

King David said, “I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin” (Psalm 38:18). Will you do this?

“He that covereth his sin shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Prov. 28:13).

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we **confess*** our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9)

** Confess means to say the same thing God says, or agree with God about your sin. Praying, “Lord, please forgive me of my many sins,” is **not confession**. God wants you to name your sin to Him and fully agree with Him about it. Confession includes repentance (turning away) and godly sorrow. Many people are sorry that they get caught and want to be forgiven for selfish reasons. Very few people are sorry that they sinned against the holy God and desire His forgiveness so that they can please and glorify Him. *What about you?**

2. Renew your mind

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

Input determines output.

~ If you allow sinful things in through your eye gate and ear gate, your mind becomes filled with evil. Sinful thoughts and actions will be the result. “He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption” (Gal. 6:8a).

~ As you bring good things into your mind (God’s Word, good music, good books, etc.), pure, holy thoughts and actions will be the result. “He that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Gal. 6:8b).

“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth [from now on] **walk not as other Gentiles walk**, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

“But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: ① that ye put off concerning the former conversation [manner of living] the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ② **and be renewed in the spirit of your mind**; ③ and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:17-24).

Daily memorizing, reviewing, and meditating on God’s Word is the fastest way to victory.

My plan for renewing my mind with God’s Word: _____

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| “He sent His word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions” (Psalm 107:20). |
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3. Resolve

- To say “no” to temptations – “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies . . .” (Rom. 6:12).
- To be pure for Christ – “. . . glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God’s” (I Cor. 6:19-20). “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour” (I Thess. 4:3-4).
- To be accountable to other Christians – “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But **exhort** [encourage / urge] **one another daily**, while it is called Today; **lest any of you be hardened** through the deceitfulness of sin.
“. . . Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:1-2).

My resolve(s) for the glory of Christ: _____

4. Rely on the Holy Spirit moment by moment for strength to do right (Psalm 71:16 and Jude 24-25).

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would . . .

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16-17 & 22-25).

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4).