

Do not Give the Devil a Foothold

“Neither give place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:27 KJV)

Have you seen how a man rides on a horse? They will put the saddle on the back of the horse and at the end of the saddle there is the stirrup that will have a foot hold that the rider can put his foot on it and jump on the back of the horse.

Have you seen a man how he is climbing a high wall? He will use the small protrusion or the small hollow spaces in the wall to put and stabilize his feet and climb the wall. These footholds and stirrups are small in size and it might not be of value to someone who is looking to the high wall or to the big horse, but these have big rule in achieving big things.

In the same way there are certain things in your life, you may call them small sins or small mistakes but they are footholds for devil to climb on you and bring havoc and destruction into your life. Jesus said, ***“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10 KJV)*** The thief is the devil and will use one or more of the followings that you call small sins or small mistakes in your life to destroy you.

1. Lies: ***“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.” (Ephesians 4:26 KJV)*** Telling lies is one of the things that Devil so delight to use. The Devil is liar and in the Bible is called the father of lies, ***“44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44 KJV)*** Not speaking the truth and not addressing the issue clearly but in obscure way, that will enable devil to flourish and causes you more harm. If someone is doing wrong, you don't need to say and pretend that all things are fine. You ought to speak up clearly that the following matters are wrong and need to be corrected.

2. Anger: ***“26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” (Ephesians 4:26 KJV)*** Anger is another foothold for the devil to destroy your life. Anger affects your body causing hypertension and heart disease. Anger will make you think and speak bad and that will also causes you to fight and break relationships with the people around you. Some people along the way they are angry and in constant struggle and fight with the people around them, but that is not the life that God had ordained for us, ***“20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” (James 1:20 KJV)*** Don't think it is normal that you are in constant fight and strife with the people that are around you. Even if they are not good, your anger is not the solution for your trouble but is the reason for things to go worse in your life.

3. Stealing: ***“28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” (Ephesians 4:28 KJV)*** Stealing is taking anything not belong to you without a permission. By stealing you are becoming partner of the devil. Small or big things you are taking without permission is

stealing. You may lose your job and your reputation with stealing. Some people they steal because they are in need but still they will receive the consequences of that, ***“30 Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; 31 But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.” (Proverbs 6:30-31 KJV)***

4. Laziness: ***“14 And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.” (Titus 3:14 KJV)*** Laziness is a foothold for the devil to come in and destroy lives. People certain times are stealing because they are lazy and don't like to work. They are depending on someone else effort for their living and that is not correct, that is taking advantage. ***“10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10 KJV)***

5. Unwholesome talk: ***“29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” (Ephesians 4:29 KJV)*** Observe what you speak very well. The way that you use your tongue will bring you either trouble, as we can read in ***Proverbs 18:6 “6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.”*** Gossips, lies, slandering, making stories, jokes and bad words all are unwholesome talk; the devil will use what you speak to bring you troubles. Or your speech will bring you blessings as we can read here: ***“20 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.” (Proverbs 18:20 KJV)***

6. Grieving the Holy Spirit: ***“30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30 KJV)*** The moment that you received Christ as Savior and Lord over your life you are sealed with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is living in you and is with you, and will grieve at the time you do sin against God. When you watch TV and don't pray and don't read the Bible, when you fight, steal, when you are careless about God and His work, going to parties, being along friends, doing immoralities, drinking alcohol, speaking bad things, or any pattern of worldliness and loving the world; these all and the like grieve the Holy Spirit and makes you susceptible to Devil's attacks.

7. Bitterness: ***“31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.” (Ephesians 4:3 KJV)*** Nursing grudges, hatred, unforgiveness and trying to exact vengeance on the people who had harmed you that will makes you more susceptible to fall into anger, brawling, slander and malice; and these all are footholds for devil that he can use to harm you.

8. Grumbling or murmuring: ***“10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.” (1 Corinthians 10:10 KJV)*** Grumbling or murmuring is keep complaining and arguing against people, against authorities and against circumstances of life. Grumbling is sin because it is finally directed against God and not against people. People grumble against other because of money, food, position, authority, etc. The unwillingness of the people to accept and to comply with God's will is the reason for them to grumble against one another. But this sin will bring God's wrath and anger on them: ***“9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the***

door.” (James 5:9 KJV) Therefore, “14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;” (Philippians 2:14-15 KJV)

9. **The love of money:** It is not wrong or sin to have money, but the love of money is sin and will lead you to dangers, “6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:6-10 KJV) To be content of what you have will bring you blessings and peace in your life, and will spare you troubles and falling into harmful situations. “10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. 11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?” (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 KJV) Therefore, “5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5 KJV) God will not leave you without satisfying your needs.

10. **Coveting, envy and jealousy:** “17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.” (Exodus 20:17 KJV) Coveting is desires to have the things of others, Coveting will either lead you to take advantage, to steal or to do other wrong things to possess what belong to others. But instead, look to Jesus and be satisfied of what you have and He will shine upon your life and He will bless you, “5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.” (Psalm 34:5)

11. **Lust:** Is sexual immorality and will lead you to adultery. “27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” (Matthew 5:27-28 KJV) Also notice that watching pornography is lust and immorality.

12. **Friends:** “33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” (1 Corinthians 15:33) You need to be aware of your relationship with people. Regarding the people with you in work places or people studying with you, you need to limit your relationship with them, only to be limited to the field concern. But after work and study, your fellowship should be with your family and with the brethren of the church.

13. **Drinking and Gluttony:** Eating much, drinking wine, and eating fat will lead to poverty, “For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty.” (Proverbs 23:21 KJV) “He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.” (Proverbs

21:17 KJV) As well as drinking alcohol and eating much will lead to sicknesses and affect your body health.

All these above footholds and sins are dangerous for you and are the way for you to be destroyed by devil. For this reason this message is in your hearing to help you to come out from all that and be ready to follow God's help and blessings as you are willing to obey the following steps to get rid of Devil's footholds in your life.

A. **Recognize the footholds of the devil in your life:** You have the above list that we mention and that will help you to see them, in addition sit with God and with His word and He will show you clearly other footholds that you may not be discern now in your life.

B. **Admit them as sin:** Some they call the above sins mistakes. But that is not correct because unless you accept them as sin then you will not be delivered from the work of Devil. To accept them as sin is that you realize that you need to repent and turn away from them toward God.

C. **Write down in a small paper all the footholds of the devil in your life and daily kneel down at Jesus' feet and ask Him to cleanse you from them:** As you daily praying and asking the LORD to remove these footholds in your life then you will find after a while that you are freed from many of the footholds that you are praying and asking God to remove from you.

D. **Discipline yourself:** Go into strict training and put your body under subjection, “24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27 KJV) Do your best in that. Cut everything that may ignite sin and bring you into temptation that you cannot resist.

E. **Change the atmosphere or the people that you are in contact with:** Cut and avoid friends, invitation to parties, facebook, TV, U-Tube, and everything that might causes you to be exposed to sin.

F. **Ask help from Jesus:** “18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” (Hebrews 2:18 KJV) Continue read and meditate on His Word and pray to Him continually to help you and deliver you from these bondages.

G. **Come to the church leaders and open up your life:** “16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16 KJV) We as church leaders more than willing to sit down with you and council you if you are willing to open up your life and to accept advice from us.

My Dear and beloved: “8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9 KJV) Don’t say about your sins are small mistakes, they are the reason for you to suffer. It is a time for you to wake up, to repent and work with God to be cleansed from all these sins and footholds of the devil: Lies, anger, stealing, laziness, unwholesome talk, slandering, making stories, grieving the Holy Spirit, bitterness, murmuring, the love of money, taking advantage, coveting, envy, jealousy, lust, friends, watching TV, U tube, facebook, pornography, eating much, drinking alcohol, etc.

As you humble yourself before God and show willingness, ask Him to reveal to you your sins and shortcomings, then the LORD will show you and let you see sins in the way that God see them so that you can repent.

The following are the summary of the steps that you can use to get rid of the devil’s footholds in your life.

A. Recognize the footholds of the devil in your life:

B. Admit them as sin:

C. Write down in a small paper all the footholds of the devil in your life and daily kneel down at Jesus’ feet and ask Him to cleanse you from them:

D. Discipline yourself by cutting everything that may ignite sin and bring you into temptation that you cannot resist:

E. Change the atmosphere or the people that you are in contact with:

F. Ask help from Jesus:

G. Come to the church leaders and open up your life so we can help you to come out from such troubles:

This message is to help you to come out from all that and to make you ready to follow God and receive His blessings as you are willing to obey.

Let us pray.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life.

Lord, thank you for revealing your Word to me and especially those sins that I am not aware of.

Confess and renounce all your sins and all the footholds of the devil in your lives.

Ask God forgiveness and renounce lies, anger, stealing, laziness, unwholesome talk, gossips, jokes, slandering, making stories, grieving the Holy Spirit, bitterness, murmuring, the love of money, taking advantages, coveting, envy, jealousy, lust, friends, watching TV, You tube, facebook, pornography, eating much, drinking alcohol, etc.

Lord give me the direction and the way out of all my wrong doings. Lord please cleanses me from the following footholds _____ and give me the direction and the way out of all these sins. Lord truly I need your help, hear my cry and come and bring me up out from the mire of sin. I really Lord determined to follow you wholeheartedly and to be cleansed and be a noble vessel in your hand to be used for your glory.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who are repenting and who are renouncing their sins and the footholds of the devil in their lives. Lord once again builds them in the truth. Lead them to follow you and walk in your ways. Give them Lord self-control and perseverance to continue in the narrow way that lead to life, and to live in holiness. Lord protect them and provide all their needs, and help them to grow and got mature in you.

Lord I pray also for us as church lead us how to help those who are in such bondages and they need deliverance from such sins. Lord give us more patience, love and kindness to continue to extend loving hands to those who are in such bondages till they are completely delivered.

Lord bless and sustain our church. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord protect us and spare us hurts and troubles. Lord give to us more of the Holy Spirit gifts to be ready to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the message of the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: www.churchofgoduae.com.

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:

First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)

ACCOUNT NAME:

RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF

ACCOUNT NO.:

1576003753162014

IBAN:

AE380351576003753162014

SWIFT CODE:

NBADAEEACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email:
thebread1@gmail.com.

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please
be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email:
thebread1@gmail.com.