

OVERCOMING OUR SINFUL DESIRES

Text: II Samuel 23:13-17

Key Word: Overcoming

Key Thought: There Is a Pathway to Overcome Sinful Desires

There are many wars which we must fight, but the greatest are often found with the struggles within us. We all have to war every day with thoughts, feelings and intents within our heart and soul. We are not exempt from these emotional trials simply because we have a higher standard of living. David was the king of Israel & Judah when he had these intense desires. God helped him learn an important lesson through this difficult time.

Our desires can be easily understood when we consider the problems associated with most diets. It seems like food looks better and tastes better every time you go on a diet. Many people have simply given up and went on the **SEE FOOD DIET**. They eat everything they see.

“A woman’s fondest wish is to be weighed and found wanting.”

The Bible Friend

“The story is told of a small girl who was showing the bathroom scale to her friend . . . *‘All I know is you stand on it and it makes you angry . . . ‘*”

1140 Epigram

1139 Thumb is Non-Fattening

*** A young mother thought it was time to break her little boy of thumb-sucking, and she decided to do it by psychology.

“Now, tell me, Johnny, does your thumb taste good?”

“No,” the boy admitted.

“Is it good to chew on?” The boy shook his head.

“Then what is good about sucking your thumb?”

“Well,” said the boy after some thought, “It’s nonfattening.”

Family Week
Paul Lee Tan

“Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations”
p. 332

Lets glean some of the wonderful truths that are tucked away in our text. I hope that the truths contained will help all of us **OVERCOMING OUR SINFUL DESIRES.**

I believe one of the greatest needs of the church today is to become balanced in its desires. I've become perplexed at some "experts" who try to **tell God** what they need to be a fruitful and vibrant Christian. If we could play **the part of listening** to all the prayer requests that God gets in one hour, we would soon realize that God doesn't give in to these swindlers.

I. RECOGNIZE THE TIMING (II Samuel 23:13)

II. REVIEW YOUR POSITIONING (II Samuel 23:13, 14)

III. REFINE YOUR REQUEST (II Samuel 23:15)

IV. REGARD THE DANGER (II Samuel 23:16)

V. REGRET THE RISK (II Samuel 23:16, 17)

I. RECOGNIZE THE TIMING (II Samuel 23:13)

The Bible says that this event took place during the time of harvest. This appears to be a time of continual weakness in the life of David. It was during this time that David also failed to overcome his desire to have Bathsheba as his wife.

"In the spring, at the time when kings go to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem."

II Samuel 11:1

The time of this event was just after the early harvest (in April and May). Again we find that David was tried during the **"harvest time."** This was time of festival celebrations. It was a time when one allowed their inhibitions to often run wild. It was time when one could easily forget past resolutions because of the abundance of wine and dance.

Timing is one of the most important areas to consider when Overcoming your Sinful Desires. Our enemy knows our weak times.

II. REVIEW YOUR POSITIONING (II Samuel 23:13, 14)

It was during this time that David had gathered with his men at the **cave of Adullum** (*lit - "retreat or refuge"*). **We must be very sensitive to the fact that our enemy does not rest just because we do. We may find a place of refuge while the destroyer of our life is encamped at the "Valley of Rephaim" (lit - "vale of giants or the mighty").** This was located just three miles south of Bethlehem. Since David was in the caves of Adullum, which were about 13 miles SW of Bethlehem, the Philistines were within a day of travel for David and his men.

II. REVIEW YOUR POSITIONING (II Samuel 23:13, 14) (Contd.)

Adullam was considered as David's **STRONGHOLD** (vs. 14). This stronghold was not a place that had a massive fortress that protruded into the landscape with majestic beauty. It was rather a place that David chose because he was able to hide from the Philistines. **It was simply a place that would conceal his movements.**

We always need to **Review our Positioning** in respect to the enemy of our soul. We must be careful not to give a **foothold to the devil (Ephesians 4:27)**. Another way of saying it is, **KNOW WHERE YOU'RE AT.**

III. REFINE YOUR REQUEST (II Samuel 23:15)

*"Oh that someone would give a drink from the well
near the gate of Bethlehem!"*

II Samuel 23:15

At surface value this request doesn't seem to be out of order. We all seem to have certain things we tend to desire based upon our upbringing. David had been born and raised around Bethlehem. **There are certain childhood memories and desires that will always stay with us.** Some are pleasant while others we only wish we could forget. **We must be careful not to allow our desires to set a root of discontentment in our lives.**

******* I remember a young woman who couldn't make the necessary adjustments to adapt to the Northern lifestyle found in Fort McMurray, Alberta. The long, cold winter nights have a way of playing on your emotions.

For years we heard this lady expressing her discontentment. She couldn't accept the fact that God would send her to such a wasteland. The natural beauty of her homeland beckoned her to return. She desired the simple life over the new one that had so many pitfalls within its pleasures.

One year God gave her the opportunity to return "home" to visit her family and friends. She returned with a new outlook. Many of her vivid memories were soon clouded with the changes that happened while she was away. **The appeal to return "home" soon faded away and she settled in where she was.** *******

David desired a taste of the "good old days" which quickly lost its flavour.

IV. REGARD THE DANGER (II Samuel 23:16)

Some of our desires can place those we trust and value into a place of danger. I'm sure that David never expected his words to be carried out. He knew that the well water was located in a place of great danger. Perhaps that is why it held such a value in his mind.

There is no doubt that we are tempted to desire things that can bring about great danger in our lives. Have you ever wondered why people continued to live such loose lifestyles with the strong possibility that they would be infected with the HIV virus which leads to AIDS? Why would someone take such risks with their lives for a few moments of pleasure?

*** I will always remember the vivid example given to our class of students at Trinity Western University during a summer course that I took with Dr. Earl Wilson. This respected psychologist had been offering counsel to a large case of clients who were suffering from the results of sexual sins.

He described the dangerous encounters that they would place themselves and their loved ones into on a regular basis. Many were eventually trapped by their desires. But the most striking example was not found in his clientele but rather in himself.

This distinguished doctor of psychiatry shared with us the downward spiral of sinful tendencies that gripped his own heart. He described to us his emotional state while he in the process of writing a book title "Sexual Sanity." According to his evaluation he was "Sexually Insane" at the time. He placed himself in a great danger to the place where he was soon exposed and lost his reputation and practice.

His wife stood at the back of the class as he described the three years of hell he went through in recovery. Danger was set to the wind and he had to face the music.

A pin could have been heard dropping in the class until one student asked if he could give him a hug for being so honest with us. It's the longest hug I've ever witnessed in my life. There was hardly a dry eye in the room and a great appreciation and respect toward him for his openness and honesty. ***

V. REGRET THE RISK (II Samuel 23:16, 17)

It's one thing to put your own life at risk, it is quite another to place someone else's life in great danger. King David's desire brought about a series of events that took the bravery of three chief men to accomplish the unnecessary task.

"Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?"

II Samuel 23:17

"Drinking the water, therefore, would be nothing else than drinking their blood."

Keil & Delitzsch
Vol 2, p. 496

"Did David look upon that water as very precious, which was got at the hazard of these men's blood, and shall we not much more value those benefits, for the purchasing of which our blessed Savior shed His blood?"

Matthew Henry
"Genesis to Esther," p. 247

When we realize that our sinful desires caused Jesus Christ to risk His life for us, we should be humbled to the point of immediate and long-lasting change. God help us through the power of His blood to overcome the things that have been overcoming us.

6518 Enemy to Come Up

*** At the battle of Gettysburg, a general reported to Longstreet, the commanding officer, that he could not bring his men up again. Longstreet answered sarcastically.

"Very well; never mind, then; just let them stay where they are; the enemy's going to advance, and that will spare you the trouble."

Paul Lee Tan
"Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations"
p. 1444

We must always remember that the attacks of the enemy are relentless. We will never reach a point where we will be able to sit back and relax and not struggle with sinful desires. At one extreme it may be pride while at the other it may be a host of imbalanced desires.

Apply the principles that this text speaks on and you can be assured to find victory through Jesus Christ over the sinful desires that we all face.

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Date: Nov 10/24 (Updated)

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD - Gm

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