

THE BOOMERANG EFFECT

Text: I John 5:18

Key Word: Boomerang

Key Thought: Why Do We Struggle to Keep to Our Decisions

*** As a young lad I grew up living in Horvitz Park. Not a day went by without something different taking place. I remember one day someone came to the park with a boomerang. I'd never even heard of such a thing before seeing it. This weird looking piece of wood worked great in the open space of the park. I watched with amazement. How could it return after anyone had released it with such intentional force?

I was asked to "Give it a try." My first emotion was one of fear. I could just imagine how much it would hurt if it returned with the same force that I threw it away with. But eventually I did try it. I must admit I wasn't as successful as the owner in getting it to work properly. There is a "knack" in how to throw things away. Some are good at getting things to return while others are not.***

In contemplating on this message I couldn't help thinking of the similarities that often take place in our spiritual life. How many times have we told ourselves that this will be the last time we will do a certain thing or go to a certain place? It's not easy keeping with decisions that we make. **It often takes more than simple determination to overcome a nagging habit.**

Today I want to speak about **THE BOOMERANG EFFECT** that often takes place in our spiritual life. By this I mean those things that keep recurring even after we've tried to forcibly remove them from our lives. God never intended that we walk in this manner.

"We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him."

I John 5:18

If this is true (and it is) then . . .

"Why Do So Many Christians Struggle Keeping to the Decisions They Make Not to Enter Back into a Habitual Sin?"

In answering this question I am going to look at three areas of weakness that Christians seem to often fall back into which leave them with a life that feels spiritually defeated.

I. THE PROJECTION OF WORRY (Matthew 6:25-34)
II. THE PERSISTENCE OF WANTING (Philippians 4:19)
III. THE PATHWAY OF WANDERING (Matthew 18:12-14)

I. THE PROJECTION OF WORRY (Matthew 6:25-34)

We can project many things from our lives. Some people project joy and happiness. Others seem to be surrounded with a peace that surpasses all understanding. We've all met people who have learned to be content no matter what they are going through (Philippians 4:11). Yet others seem to be worry warts. What good does worrying do anyway?

An Average Person's Anxiety Is Focussed On . . .

- 40%—things that will never happen
- 30%—things about the past that can't be changed
- 12%—things about criticism by others, mostly untrue
- 10%—about health, which gets worse with stress
- 8%—about real problems that will be faced

Source Unknown

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?”

26. Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

27. Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

28. “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

29. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

30. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31. So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

32. For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

*33. **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.***

34. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Matthew 6:25-34

I. THE PROJECTION OF WORRY (Matthew 6:25-34) (Contd.)

When Jesus told us *“do not worry about your life.”* He was telling us not to have *“a divided or a distracted mind.”* Our lives should not be projecting a state of worldly anxiousness. If so, we are declaring that God is unable to supply for our needs.

“There is scarcely any sin against which our Lord Jesus more warns his disciples, than disquieting, distracting, distrustful cares about the things of this life.”

[Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary](#)

Jesus focussed upon three things which we often concern ourselves about. He highlighted what we **eat**; what we **drink** and what we **wear**. There are many other things that we can worry about as well. In fact, if we choose to project worry through our **words** and **actions**, the devil will supply us plenty to worry about.

How You Can Tell When It's Going to Be a Rotten Day?

You wake up face down on the pavement.
You call Suicide Prevention and they put you on hold.
You see a **“W5”** news team waiting in your office.
Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles.
You turn on the news and they're showing emergency routes out of the city.
Your twin sister forgot your birthday.
Your car horn goes off accidentally and remains stuck as you follow a group of Hell's Angels on the freeway.
Your boss tells you not to bother to take off your coat.
The bird singing outside your window is a buzzard.
You wake up and your braces are locked together.
You call your answering service and they tell you it's none of your business.
Your income tax cheque bounces.
You put both contact lenses in the same eye.
Your wife says, *“Good morning, Bill,”* and your name is George.

[Source Unknown](#)

“Every evening I turn worries over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway.”

[Mary C. Crowley, “Be Somebody”](#)

II. THE PERSISTENCE OF WANTING (Philippians 4:19)

Worry often leads to wanting. Yet not everything we want is valid. We can attempt to convince ourselves that our “want” is a “need” but we can’t fool God.

“A storekeeper in Maine refused to buy a salesman’s wares. ‘*You must remember, young fellow, ’ he said, ‘that in this part of the country every want ain’t a need.’”*

Source Unknown

God has promised to meet our NEEDS not our WANTS.

“*And my God will meet **all your needs** according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 4:19

Some writers see this taking place in the future when we stand before God.

“The need shall be supplied **in glory and by glory; by placing you in glory** where you shall be **partakers of glory.**”

Vincent’s Word Studies

Yet in the original Greek language it is apparent that God wishes to bestow His blessings upon us **here and now in an abundant manner**. The word means to “*fill to the full*” all of their needs. We must remember that Paul was writing from a Roman prison. He was reflecting upon the fact that the Philippians had abundantly supplied for his needs (Philippians 4:15-19). **He also knew that God in turn would meet the needs of those who sacrificially gave on his behalf.**

Perhaps the reason why we want so many things is because they are not on our Lord’s shopping list for us. In other words, we are persistently attempting to convince God that we NEED something that He knows we really don’t. We can reach a point where we never have anything left over to give to the work of God because we are so captivated by our “wants.”

Everyone has something to give back to God. If not, then we are not properly using the blessings He is bestowing upon us. **Materialism can captivate our heart.** I would not want to stand before God at the “Bema Seat” of judgement and attempt to convince Him that I couldn’t give to God’s work because He had not met my needs. The truth will come out on that day.

III. THE PATHWAY OF WANDERING (Matthew 18:12-14)

A third direction we can foolishly take for our life is that of wandering down a pathway that leads nowhere but away from God. Many have walked this pathway. Many still walk this way. Sadly, even some Christians are dangerously wandering away from God.

*“This is what the LORD says about this people:
‘They greatly love to wander; they do not restrain their feet. So the LORD does not accept them; he will now remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins.’”*

Jeremiah 14:10

*“‘The days are coming,’ declares the Sovereign LORD, ‘when I will send a famine through the land— not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.
12. Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.’”*

Amos 8:11,12

It is clear that those who DO NOT wish to be led by God’s Word will find themselves aimlessly wandering in all directions and wearing themselves out. Their search (for what they know not what they are searching for) will only become futile. Jesus referred to them as lost sheep, wandering off from the flock.

*“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, **and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?**”*

*13. **And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.**”*

*14. **In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.**”*

Matthew 18:12-14

III. THE PATHWAY OF WANDERING (Matthew 18:12) (Contd.)

Are you like the sheep mentioned in the Bible that is lost because it has wandered off of the right track? Are you too proud to admit you are wrong? Are you going to continue heading in the wrong direction? Are you foolishly wasting precious time in your life?

“We all like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his way;”

Isaiah 53:6

We can either admit to our wrong and return to Jesus Christ or we can continue down the pathway of destruction. We all have a choice to make.

*“For we were like sheep going astray, **but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**”*

I Peter 2:25

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Date: Oct 13/24

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: I Surrender All - C

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Key Word: Habits

Key Thought: We Need to Honestly Identify the Habitual Sinful Patterns in Our Lives

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“Why Do So Many Christians Struggle Keeping with the Decisions They Make NOT to Enter Back into a Habitual Sin?”

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III. THE PATHWAY OF WANDERING (Matthew 18:12-14) - *Jeremiah 14:10; Amos 8:11,12; Isaiah 53:6; I Peter 2:25*