

Entangled Again?

- Giving thanks to God on a regular basis is good for us for many reasons. **1Th. 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.** One reason is that it glorifies God for who he is and how powerful he is.
- Another reason to always give thanks to God is because it reminds us of what he has done. This reminder keeps us knowing just how far we have come and how important it is to steer clear of where we once were. **1Chr. 16:8 Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.**
- Many of us would love to just totally forget who we once were and that's ok. But we must NEVER forget how sin once had us bound and how God delivered us. Knowing the power sin had over us and how powerful God was in delivering us keeps us humble yet mindful. **1Chr. 16:12 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;**



- The enemy would love for us to totally forget where we once were so we can't spot the trappings that could possibly snare us again. When we get overly confident in our ability and our own power, we are vulnerable to our past and the old man starts peeking around corners of our lives. **Gal. 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath**

made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

- The devil has no new tricks so he keeps doing what he is good at. Whatever got you before is what he is gonna keep trying to get you again. Your deliverance was a blessing, but that doesn't stop him. **1Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:**
- No matter what you were delivered from, you can still be tempted by it if you put yourself in striking distance of it. We are humans with a sinful nature, so that is a formula for disaster if we do not put our faith and trust in God's power to save us from ourselves.

5 Strategies to fight the old man

1. **Familiar Spirits - Lev. 19:31 Regard not them, that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.** Familiar spirits mimic the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a comforter and brings comfort to us when our lives are in disarray. Familiar spirits do the same, but uses sin and lies. These are spirits people use to attack our senses and cause us to relive past experiences. When our mind wanders back into those places, our bodies will soon follow. We must rebuke these spirits and do it quickly or your will find yourself back where you use to be.
2. **Soul ties - 1Cor. 6:16 What? know ye not that, he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.** The enemy will use these to connect you with people against your own will. When you yoke up with people, it can form binding spiritual ties that hold you and many times, pull you into things that you really didn't desire to be in. When deliverance from bad relationships come, you must break the ties spiritually as well as naturally.

3. **Hard headedness - Prov. 14:8 *The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.*** A hard head will always make you pay! When you have been there before and got burned, then you should know better. Look around you. Are you making the same bad decisions you made before? Are you being ambitious again? Are you serving self again? Are you chasing the Jones' again? These are all formula's for disaster that you should recognize because you are probably paying for previous hardheadedness right now. Why would you go there again?

4. **Know your limit - Gal. 6:3 *For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.*** Don't try to act like you are impervious to temptation. Lying to yourself creates self righteousness. Then you are operating on will power and not God's power. We must always believe that it's by God's grace and power that we are able to be changed and not just sheer strength or might.

5. **Triggers - Phil. 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*** You better know what triggers the old you. God has changed your spirit and your soul, but your body is still your body. Certain triggers release memory pathways that can lead you back into bondages. Songs, Movies, Fragrances, etc. can all be triggers that flip switches in your body. You want God controlling the switch and not you. When you get lonely, when you get sad, when you need comfort, let the comforter of the Holy Ghost do the job and not what you did back in the day.

Summary - The longer you walk out deliverance, the further away the old man will be from you. The more space you put between you and who you were, temptation becomes less tempting. But this is not an occasion to feel you are above who you were, because had it not been for God's power, you would still be bound. Recognize that

it's not you, not your will, and not your power, but it's by God's power that we are all saved. Therefore, if we stick close to Him and His will, we will not fall.

Jude 24 *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*

