

JUDGES 6:1-5
SIN NEVER PROFITS!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Judges chapter 6 as we continue our study through the book of Judges.

As we have seen in our study of the book of Judges, the children of Israel have rebelled against the Lord, they went after other god's, and in the end, it brought them into bondage.

Now if that is all there was in the book of Judges, this rebellion against God and bondage, it would be a very dark book with no hope.

The wonderful thing we have seen, and will see over and over again, is that yes, man sins against God and God will place them in bondage. But God never places them in bondage to destroy them, but to restore them.

He allows them this chastening so that they will turn to Him and He can deliver them from the bondage that they are in.

And that really is the story of God you might say.

Man is not only born in sin, but he sins plenty on his own. Now man, when compared to other men, can see himself as being better or being good, but that is not the standard that God has required of us.

God's requirement for us to enter into heaven is perfection or to put it another way, we need to have the righteousness of Christ – ***PERFECTION!***

And that can be very discouraging because none of us are perfect and thus, on our own, by our own efforts, we can't enter into heaven! If we already have sin, we are imperfect and thus, how can we become perfect when we have this sin in our lives? We can't!

But God has given us a way into heaven, not by our own righteousness, but the righteousness of Christ that has been imparted into our lives by faith. Paul put it this way as he tells us in II Corinthians 5:21, **“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”**

The Living Bible puts this verse like this, **“For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!”**

And the Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness].”**

You see, it is not our righteousness, which are like filthy rags before a holy and righteous God, that gets us into heaven. It is the righteousness of Christ that has been imputed into our lives by faith that allows us to stand before God!

It is as Jesus said in John 3:16-17, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

That is how much God loves us, so much so that He died for our sins so that we can live with Him for eternity!

Now, in saying that, as Christians, we can sin, we can do things that the Lord is not pleased with, just as the children of Israel are doing here in the book of Judges.

And there is the positive point in this book of Judges, that as we see the children of Israel turn back to the Lord, He raises up a deliverer to deliver them from the bondage that they were in.

Now keep in mind that this apostasy in Israel, this turning from the Lord was not the whole nation at one time. There were different areas that were being affected and they went into bondage and were delivered by the Judge that God raised up.

We have looked at the southern region of Israel affected by this apostasy in Judges 3:5-31 and we saw the Judges Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar raised up.

Then we looked at the northern region of Israel affected by this apostasy in Judges 4:1-5:31 as we looked at the Judge Deborah.

As we move into Judges 6:1-10:5 we will see the central region of Israel affected by this apostasy and specifically we are going to be looking at first, the Judge Gideon. There are others.

Over the next few weeks we are going to see a buildup of sin and separation from God, and their turning back to Him, the reason for God to raise up Gideon, and again, we are taking our time going through the book of Judges because there are so many lessons the Lord has for us.

This morning we are going to focus on the topic – ***SIN NEVER PROFITS!***

And I think most if not all of us understand that. But what happens so many times in our lives is that we do some sin and we do it again and again, and we get so use to doing it that it does not bother us anymore.

Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

During my college years - in my infinite wisdom - it occurred to me that it made no sense to stop at red traffic lights when there was clearly no traffic around. So I began to stop only briefly - just long enough to check for cars - and then proceed. My stops became shorter and shorter, and eventually I no longer stopped at all. I simply checked out the landscape well in advance and - if no cars were coming - proceeded full speed through the red light.

One day something changed all of that, and I've never run a red light since. I was approaching an isolated light in an area where there was rarely traffic in the busiest of times. I had already checked out the landscape and was near the empty intersection when a car topped the hill to my left. It was too far away to pose any threat, but it did pose a problem: it was a police car. But that is not what changed my ways, because I got the car stopped and received no more punishment than a dirty glance.

What scared me enough to put an end to that practice was what occurred in the split seconds between spotting the patrol car and getting the car stopped. In that instant, my foot moved from the gas pedal to the brake pedal, and then back to the gas pedal! I did not will it to do that; my foot just did it. My foot did that because that is how I had trained my mind to respond. I had continually ignored what had once been a clear signal to stop - a red light - and as a result that signal was no longer clear.

The same occurs with sin. Our God-given conscience gives us warning signals, and we can heed those signals or ignore them. If we ignore them often enough, we may eventually fail to recognize them as signals at all.

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I think that was true of Israel. They had become so accustomed to sin, turning from the Living God, that once the Judge died, they went back to their old ways once again and back into bondage once again because – ***SIN NEVER PROFITS!***

We see this over and over in the book of Judges, that the people went back to their old ways as soon as the Judge died and that is exactly what the Lord said would happen in Judges 2:19, “**And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.**”

And look at what we have seen so far regarding this turning from the Lord after the Judge who delivered them died.

In Judges 3:11-12 we are told, “**So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died. And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord.**”

In Judges 4:1, “**When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord.**”

Now I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning into two main points. They are as follows:

THE BONDAGE OF SIN – JUDGES 6:1-2

SIN ROBS US – JUDGES 6:3-5

Before we get to our text this morning, let me share with you where they were at and it will lead us to what we will be looking at, the next stage in the cycle of sin for the children of Israel.

In Judges 5:31 we are told, “**... So the land had rest for forty years.**” And that leads us to where we will pick-up our study this morning, in Judges chapter 6, beginning in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us this morning as we look at the topic – ***SIN NEVER PROFITS!***

JUDGES 6

VERSES 1-2

After enjoying forty years of rest, a rest that was provided by the Lord, “**... the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. . . .**” Judges 6:1.

How can that be. Forty years of peace and prosperity and then this?

Make no mistake about it, peace and prosperity can lead us to complacency and apostasy!

Let me show you what I mean. Look at the church of Laodicea in the book of Revelation. They were self-sufficient, they didn’t need God, and thus, God was outside the church knocking to get in! They had it all, except the Lord, which is a big thing, the most important thing!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

Just before Israel and Judah fell to the Assyrians and Babylonians, God called several prophets to warn His people and urge them to repent. In recording the events of their times, these prophets paid particular attention to the prevailing attitudes within their societies, no doubt inspired by God for the benefit of His church. If we compare their societies and attitudes with our own, we can gain insight into the problems we face in the collapse of this nation.

What was the dominant attitude of the people in Israel and Judah just before their fall? In virtually every book by these prophets, warnings against attitudes of self-sufficiency, spiritual indifference, complacency, and self-satisfaction – Laodiceanism - are a major part of God’s message!

- <http://bit.ly/2WhtX3f>

Let me put it this way. Anytime you are living for yourself, where it is all about you, then you will deviate from God and live to satisfy self, and in the end, you will not believe how far away from God you have gone!

And that can happen with our walk with God. We can get so use to Him that we become complacent with Him. That joy we once had with the Lord is no longer there. The times we were so excited to go to a Bible study or serve the Lord, now we have all kinds of excuses why we can’t go.

I have seen this with people who get involved with so many other activities, that are not evil or bad in themselves, but it takes them away from church for a week, a month, a year and so on. And in the end, to make themselves feel better why they are not going to church as much, they blame the church, that it is their fault. And believe me, I have heard the excuses and that is just what they are.

And in the end, it takes you away from God!

I don’t think the children of Israel thought, “***Hey, let’s walk away from God!***” Not at all!

Maybe it just started with sitting down with the enemy, listening to them, fellowshiping with them. No big deal, just hanging out.

Pretty soon you are adopting some of what they believe into your life. It sounds good and let's face it, the enemy loves to entice us and the flesh is more than happy to buy into it.

And that is what these pagan religions did, they fed the flesh. Many of them were centered around sexual activity, and thus, many bought into it.

And as time went by, they walked farther and farther away from God and they did not even realize how far from God they had went.

Let me show you what I mean.

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had many good Kings, godly Kings. The Temple of God was in Jerusalem and people came to worship the Lord there.

And yes, the Northern Kingdom of Israel had no good Kings, no godly Kings. They were all bad. And so when you think of idolatry, falling away from God, you think of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

But, as bad as the Northern Kingdom of Israel was, the Southern of Kingdom of Judah became even worse!

They should have known better. They were warned by God. And they even saw their brothers in the Northern Kingdom of Israel go into captivity by the hands of the Assyrians for their idolatry. That is something that they should have taken notice of, but they didn't.

In fact, they even went farther into darkness, farther away from God. We are told in Jeremiah 11:9-13, **“And the Lord said to me, ‘A conspiracy has been found among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers who refused to hear My words, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers.’ Therefore thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will surely bring calamity on them which they will not be able to escape; and though they cry out to Me, I will not listen to them. Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to whom they offer incense, but they will not save them at all in the time of their trouble. For according to the number of your cities were your gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to that shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal.”**

Look at what the people were doing; they had made a conspiracy against God.

Now what kind of conspiracy is Jeremiah speaking of?

They had turned from God and sought after the gods their fathers worshiped as they too refused to hear the Words of the Lord!

And thus, the judgment of God was going to come upon both the Northern Kingdom of Israel, who was already in captivity, and the Southern Kingdom of Judah for their idolatry, their turning from the Lord and judgment was at the door!

And think about it, they were doing these things and God was fully aware of their actions because you can’t hide anything from God.

Paul said in Hebrews 4:13, **“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”**

But they thought they could get away with it, they did not see a problem in what they were doing, and God says that they are wrong, that they are going to go into captivity for their actions.

And remember our focus here in these verses in Judges chapter 6 – ***THE BONDAGE OF SIN!***

When we turn from God we are in sin and sin brings us into bondage.

I realize that people who are living in sin don't see themselves in bondage, but they are.

Jesus said in John 8:34-36, “... **‘Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.’**”

True freedom is only found in Jesus, we are set free from sin in Him and we shall be free indeed!

Paul also said this in Romans 6:6, “**knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.**”

Paul opens up using the Greek word for “**know**” or “**knowing**” and that is GINOSKO.

This word speaks of taking in knowledge, the process of learning. And Paul is telling us that we need to take this in, we need to learn this by experience.

Why?

Because if we are going to have freedom from sins ability to control you, then you need to understand these things!

And what does Paul want us to know? That the old man is dead!

Now what does Paul mean when he tells us, “**that our old man was crucified with Him**”?

Some say that the “*old man*” is speaking of our “*old nature*” but I don’t believe that is completely correct.

You see, Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:22, “**that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.**”

The Living Bible puts it like this, “**then throw off your old evil nature-the old you that was a partner in your evil ways-rotten through and through, full of lust and sham.**”

Here in Ephesians Paul can’t be speaking of our old sin nature that we inherited from Adam because it does not grow corrupt, it is already corrupt!

I think Paul is speaking of our former behavior, the way we once lived. The old nature is, again, what we inherited from Adam and the result of that is that the old man or the old me has been put to death, buried with Christ, it is gone! We need to understand that!

Now, what does Paul mean when he says, “**that the body of sin might be done away with**”?

Listen carefully.

Kenneth Wuest, the Greek scholar, said that according to the rules of Greek syntax all of the references to “sin” in chap. 6 are actually referring to the “sin nature.” So then what Paul is really saying is “**. . . the body of the sin nature . . .**”

And, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones is correct when he says that by the term “body of sin” Paul is talking about the *old nature*, and its influence **on our physical body**.

Here’s the thing folks. The body itself is not sinful, as some might think. No, the body is basically neutral. Then what is the problem? The problem is this.

The body can be controlled by the old sinful nature or by our new nature in Christ! That is what makes the difference, who is controlling your life? And I like what my pastor had to say regarding this, “A tremendous fact is introduced here: the old man (the old me, the old life) was crucified with Christ so that the physical body need not be controlled by the sin nature any longer.”

And that phrase, “**that the body of sin might be *done away with***” in the Greek it is *Katargeo*, and I am sorry to say it does not mean destroyed or eradicated.

This phrase means to, “*rendered inoperative,*” “*made ineffective,*” that it no longer exerts a controlling force or power.

Why is that?

Because that sin nature is still alive, but the old man is dead and thus, the body is no longer controlled by or bound to, or forced to be the instrument through which the sin nature expresses itself! Praise the Lord for that!

Think about it like this. Before you were saved, before Jesus was your Lord and Savior, your body was the instrument of your sin nature because the old you, the old man was the slave to your fallen sin nature. But now in Christ the old man is dead, it was buried with Christ and the new man with the new nature was born in you. Thus, this new man wants to use your body as an instrument of righteousness, godliness and-so-on!

Yes, the old nature is still there but it does not have the old man to work through because the old man was crucified with Christ!

Paul put it like this in Colossians 3:8-10, **“But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”**

Again, listen to what my pastor said as he illustrated this point:

Let me use the illustration of an old steam powered train. You have the locomotive (the old man, with his evil desires), next you have the coal car (the old nature, which fuels the old man), and finally you have the body of the train (my physical body).

Before I knew Jesus my sinful nature (which I received from Adam) was fueling the evil desires of my old man which in turn used the body to satisfy those desires by moving the body in the direction that the old me wanted it to go.

If you take away the locomotive, the coal car has nothing to feed and the train becomes inoperative.

The same is true with the old man. Take him away and the old nature has nothing to fuel and therefore the body, as the instrument of sin, is rendered inoperative.

- Pastor Phil Ballmaier

Dr. Martyn-Lloyd-Jones gives to us another helpful illustration of the believer's relation to his old sinful disposition. He pictures two adjoining fields; one is owned by Satan and God owns the other. And a road separates these fields.

Before salvation, a person lives in Satan's field and thus, they are totally subject to his jurisdiction.

But, after a person is saved, a person works in the other field now and they are subject only to God's jurisdiction. As he works in this new field, there is still the problem of the other field and thus, the believer is often enticed by his former master who is trying to get that person to go back to his old sinful ways. And Satan often does entice a believer; he succeeds in temporarily drawing the believer's attention away from his new Master and his new way of life. But he is powerless to draw the believer back into the old field of sin and death. You see, we have been delivered from the tyranny of Satan, but not the temptation of Satan!

Paul put it like this in Ephesians 4:17-32, **"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another. 'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all**

bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

In other words, walk in that newness of life that you have in Christ and don't be taken captive by Satan; you have been freed from Sin! Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh!

And again, listen to how bad it had gotten in the Southern Kingdom of Judah! **“For according to the number of your cities were your gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to that shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal.”** Jeremiah 11:13.

Do you really think that anyone in the Southern Kingdom of Judah saw this coming? They didn't. Life went on and a compromise here and a compromise there, led to more and more complacency and before you knew it, they had as many gods as they had cities, and they had altars set up on every street to worship these gods.

Make no mistake about it, and we will see it over and over here in the book of Judges, sin will bring you into bondage and you will become a slave to it as you move farther and farther away from God.

The solution is to repent and return to the Lord!

Here in Judges, after enjoying those forty years of peace and prosperity it led them to complacency and apostasy and God oppressed them by the hand of the Midianites.

Keep in mind that the Midianites were blood relatives, half-brothers to the children of Israel for Midian was the son of Abraham and his wife Keturah.

And now for seven years these Midianites oppressed the children of Israel, which may not sound like a long time, but when you look at what they were doing to the children of Israel, it was far too long!

I want you to see the difference of walking with the Lord and walking apart from Him. Here we see the bondage of not walking with Him, they were hiding in caves, in dens! And if you read on here in Judges chapter 6 you will see that they were not even allowed to harvest their grain without the Midianites coming in and stealing it! And we will talk about that more as we read on over the next few weeks in this chapter.

But what is it like to walk with the Lord, what is the picture that we see for those who are following after God?

In Deuteronomy 32:12-14 we are told, **“So the Lord alone led him, And there was no foreign god with him. He made him ride in the heights of the earth, That he might eat the produce of the fields; He made him draw honey from the rock, And oil from the flinty rock; Curds from the cattle, and milk of the flock, With fat of lambs; And rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, With the choicest wheat; And you drank wine, the blood of the grapes.”**

They followed the Lord and the Lord blessed them, they, in a sense, were riding on the high places and not hiding in dens and caves!

But listen to what else Moses tells them or warns them, wants them to remember, **“But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation. They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear. Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you. And when the Lord saw it, He spurned them, Because of the provocation of His sons and His daughters. And He said: ‘I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, For they are a perverse generation, Children in whom is no faith. They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation. For a fire is kindled in My anger, And shall burn to the lowest hell; It shall consume the earth with her increase, And set on fire the foundations of the mountains. I will heap disasters on them; I will spend My arrows on them. They shall be wasted with hunger, Devoured by pestilence and bitter destruction; I will also send against them the teeth of beasts, With the poison of serpents of the dust. The sword shall destroy outside; There shall be terror within For the young man and virgin.”** Deuteronomy 32:15-25.

Now here is the reason they fell away from God – ***PROSPERITY!***

And that prosperity led them to ***COMPLACENCY!***

You see, when things are going well you really don’t need God, at least that is what many think. You have everything you need. Moses tried to warn them, but they did not listen!

Think about it like this. You have your two-camel garage.

You have your four wheel or four leg transportation with a sunroof, and I guess it is all open, and-so-on.

Make no mistake about it, Israel was very blessed, and they turned from God, thought they did not need Him any longer and thus, in their prosperity it led to complacency and they turned away from the true and living God and turned to idols, demons!

And isn't it interesting what people turn to when they turn away from the true and living God! They turn to idols, false gods, and like I have said, they are really demons who can't do anything for them, anything that will bless them, be good for them.

Demons will kill and destroy people's lives because their master, Satan does that! In Jeremiah 2:13 God warned His people, "**For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns - broken cisterns that can hold no water.**"

In other words, these false doctrines, these false religious teachings, these false religious systems can't hold water, they are empty, they are full of holes. And this sin, this departing from the Lord will bring you into bondage to the Devil, the Flesh and the World!

On the other end of the spectrum we have God's truths, His Word, which is pure, it is living, it is powerful, it is life giving and life sustaining.

You see, the philosophies of this world are truly empty, the world's religions are empty, and yet when you turn away from the true and living God this is what you are left with and this is where you will gravitate towards!

So here in Judges 6:1-2 we see – ***THE BONDAGE OF SIN!***

As we read on listen to the bondage that the Midianites brought upon the children of Israel in the next few verses as we look at – ***SIN ROBS US!***

VERSES 3-5

I am not sure many of us think about sin like this, not only the bondage it brings us into, but sin robs us of the blessings that God has for us!

Let me share what was going on here and then I will make the application and show you what sin will rob us of.

First of all, regarding the Midianites, they were a nomadic people and they basically covered the area south of the Dead Sea and then over towards Gaza, which was located along the Mediterranean Sea.

Now because they didn't stay in a location long, being nomads, they didn't plant crops, but they would trade for what they needed.

But here they see a far better solution.

They would wait for the children of Israel to harvest their crops that they planted and then they would swarm down upon them like locusts, stealing their crops.

It was so bad that there was not even enough left over to feed their animals.

And these Midianites were a long-range threat as they traveled on camels, which could go as far as 100 miles per day!

That is why, as we read farther along here in Judges chapter 6, we see Gideon threshing wheat down in a winepress. You don't thresh wheat where there is no wind, you do so higher up so as you threshed the wheat it would be separated from the chaff by the blowing wind.

That is what sin did in their lives. It not only brought them into bondage, but it robbed them of the blessings of the harvest, the fruit of their labors!

And that is so true of us. Sin robs us and you can work and work and, in the end, it profits nothing, you come up empty because there is no fruit from sin, lasting fruit that is.

But as you follow the Lord, He will provide what you need.

For believers, when we sin, it has a direct effect upon our lives and even upon others!

Here is a big one in regard to what sin does in our lives, what it robs us of.

SIN ROBBS US OF OUR ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND SPIRITUAL TRUTH!

Now you may not agree with that, but listen to what Paul wrote in I Corinthians 2:9-12,

“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

You see, the Holy Spirit helps us to understand the things of God, the will of God for our lives. We are completely dependent upon the ministry of the Holy Spirit if we want to learn anything and be able to discern right from wrong, true from false! But, if we are in sin, we will not want to hear from God!

And here’s the thing, ***SIN QUENCHES THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES!***

Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 5:19, **“Do not quench the Spirit.”** And the idea here can be seen like this. Think of the Holy Spirit as the fire in our lives and what sin does is it is like a wet blanket that quenches the fire or the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We need to be open to what the Holy Spirit is showing us and then we need to obey what He is telling us to do so that we don’t quench the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

Maybe that is why so many Christians are lacking the ability to understand spiritual truth and able to discern what is of God and what is not!

We also see that ***SIN ROBS US OF FRUITFUL BIBLE STUDY!***

And what I mean by that is that it ends up being the reading of some words, there is no real fruit from what we are reading.

David wrote in Psalm 1:1-2, **“Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.”**

Do you see that we are fruitful and there is joy as we read, as we study as we are taught the Word of God?

But for the ungodly or the wicked, or the sinner, there is no joy, it is work and there is no fruit from reading and studying the Word of God!

We also see that ***SIN WILL ROB US OF JOY!***

Make no mistake about it, God wants us to be joyful, He wants our joy to be ***FULL!***

In I John 1:4 John writes, **“And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”**

And this joy I am speaking of is that inner joy that the Lord brings to our lives and then that joy that is inside of us overflows outwardly, in the things that we do and the things that we say.

But if we are in sin, that joy inside of us is missing and we are trying to replace it with outward joy and that sin we are filling our lives with will never last because outside circumstances will change. Make no mistake about it, sin will rob us of that inward joy that overflows in our lives.

We also see that *SIN WILL TAKE AWAY THAT EXCITEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE!*

And to explain what I mean, listen what King David said after his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah. In Psalm 32:3-4 he wrote, **“When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.”**

You see, sin had brought a dryness to his spiritual life. His physical life was full of pain. His emotional life was all over the place.

And we see here again that loss of joy in David’s life and in the lives of those who are in sin. The excitement is gone and now it is just work, work, work!

God did not save you so you could work for Him. He saved you so that you can love Him, and it is out of that love we have for Him that we serve Him!

We also see that *SIN WILL ROB US OF OUR PEACE!*

This again is that inward peace, the peace of God that overflows in outward peace in our lives.

Paul put it like this in Philippians 4:6-7, **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”**

We also see Paul tell us in Colossians 3:15, **“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”**

Now maybe you are wondering how sin robs us of this peace.

It is because we know we are sinning, and it causes an anguish of heart and an anguish of heart is a loss of peace!

Remember, that is what David said in Psalm 32:3-4 as he spoke about his sin, **“When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.”**

And this is an important one, *SIN HINDERS OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD!*

In I John 1:3, 6 we are told, **“that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. . . . If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”**

John is not saying that we lose our salvation if we are in Christ, but our fellowship with God is broken because sin has broken that fellowship. And when John speaks of sin he is speaking of continual sin, that it is something we are doing over and over again. That will rob us of our fellowship with God.

And I think that just makes sense. As Christians, if we are in sin, we will not want to be in the Word of God, we will not want to go to church, we will not want to be around Christians, and as you can see, our fellowship with God is broken because we truly do not want to hear from Him!

I think you can see that sin will rob us of all that God has for us just as it did for the children of Israel!

Listen carefully to what one writer had to say about sin and what it robs us of. We are told,

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

Sin is our most persistent, determined, and pernicious enemy. Sin seeks to rob us of every good thing God has designed for us. Paul tells us that sin brings death (Rom. 7:11). Yet it is very subtle. Sin creeps into our lives when and where we least expect it. It packages itself so attractively that we are lulled into thinking that it cannot really harm us (2 Cor. 11:14-15).

Sin stealthily and relentlessly entangles our lives. We will never be able to run the race marked out for us as long as we are entrapped in sin. We free ourselves from sin's only if we recognize it for what it is. If we call sin a "mistake," a "bad habit," or a "weakness," we will never escape its grasp.

We must not blame our sins on others. We must not allow pride to convince us it is too humiliating to admit the sin in our lives. Sin can blind us to its presence. It does not always command our attention but rather, it subtly and pervasively robs us of the spiritual power and victory that could be ours. The good news is that there is no extent to which sin can entangle us that God's grace does not abound still more to free us (Rom. 5:20).

Has sin robbed your joy? Has it prevented you from being the best husband, wife, son, daughter, or friend you could be? Is it keeping you from spiritual maturity? If you have become entangled with sin, God can release you immediately, no matter how desperately entangled you may have become!

Here's the thing. When we sin, it has an effect on us as well as others. We lose our spiritual sharpness. Confession is the only thing that can bring that back. Therefore, it is vital that Christians confess their sins, not for salvation over and over again, but for fellowship. God does not want us to get use to sin, but to be aware of it so we don't hold onto it!

And that is what we see here with the children of Israel. They are in this bondage because of their sin, and we read in Judges 6:6, "**So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.**"

Why did the children of Israel cry out to God?

It was not because of their sin but because of the oppression of the Midianites.

How do I know that they did not repent of their sin?

That is simple. God will send a prophet to rebuke them and if they truly repented of their sin, He would not have sent this prophet to do that! And we will see that more next time.

The thing I want to drive home this morning as we bring this study to a close is ***THE BONDAGE OF SIN!*** Again, I don't think anyone gets into sin thinking they will eventually be in bondage to it. But that is the reality, so don't go down that path. Don't open the door to sin for its desire is to rule over your life. Let the Lord rule your life, He loves you and has what is best for you!

And secondly, ***SIN ROBS US!*** It robs us of everything God has for us, and all that joy, that peace, the fruit will be hampered.

Remember what Jesus said in John 10:10, "**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**"

Come to Jesus, follow Him and enjoy that abundant life that He has for you!