

Sins of Omission, Self-rule/Self-reliance **James 4:17**

There were two sons in the Taylor family in England. The older one was quite ambitious and turned his attention toward Parliament and prestige. But Hudson Taylor, the younger, chose to give his life to Christ, so he turned his face toward China and obscurity. Hudson Taylor is known and honored on every continent as a faithful missionary and as the founder of the China Inland Mission. When you look in the encyclopedia to see what the other son has done, you find these words, “The brother of Hudson Taylor.” One moral of this story is expressed well in 1 John 2:17: “The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever” (NIV).

James 4:17 *Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*
(Prayer)

Up to this point, we've covered six categories, all dealt with the bad things we shouldn't do yet we did, which caused us to sin. All the other sins come about because of the sin of omission. Because the sin of omission is failing to do what you ought to do. Today, we'll looking into good things we should do, which we don't do, and it still cause us to sin. Now the sins of commission are easily seen, but the sin of omission is not easily seen. Sin is not just avoiding evil. It is coming face to face with evil in hand to hand combat. If you look at the passage in your Bible, you see that this sentence comes at the end of the paragraph about planning what you will do tomorrow. (Read James 4:13-17) As James highlights the need to turn every day over to God, he reminds us that God has a positive agenda for our lives. God has not simply told us what to avoid, He has told us and modeled for us what we should be doing.

Failing to do what a church ought to do – We Are One in the Spirit - No man has the right to be at peace when his brother is at war. You don't mind letting the other brothers give the money. You don't mind letting the others do the soul-winning while you enjoy the church. You don't mind if others share the vision to build buildings to reach this community for Jesus Christ. You are quite content on the East side of Jordan (Numbers). Some of you don't know how hard many work at the ministries God has given this church. It is not that you are fighting against the ministries but failing to do your part. That is the sin of omission.

But let me point out 4 specific sins of omission that we need to avoid.

1. To know of needs without helping.
2. To be gifted without serving.
3. To know the truth without telling.
4. To hear the good news about Jesus without responding.

Now the Bible says the fool says in his heart there is no God. Let me tell you the bigger fool is the man who knows there is a God yet lives his life as if God doesn't exist.

Three crucial principles of victory over sin and self. (See pp. 66 – 72)

(1) Choose to “die to self” in your daily life

a. Say no to thoughts, attitudes, or actions that are of the flesh

b. Matthew 16:24-25. *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save*

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his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. Identify “cross” as whatever it takes to do the will of God.

c. Romans 6:6. *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--* Because Christ is in us, we already have the power to die to self, but must choose to do so. The key is repentance and faith.

No Conspiracy with the Enemy

The further point to note is what took place when Gideon destroyed the idol in his father’s house. We will never destroy Satan and his kingdom, we will never destroy what is represented by the Midianite tyranny if privately, behind the scenes, there is any kind of complicity with that kingdom. In our case the problem is not in our father’s house but in our own hearts. There seems to be something inside us which is in alliance with the kingdom of darkness, a false altar which has to be overthrown to make way for God’s altar. Before Gideon could go out and save Israel, recovering among them the honor due to the Lord’s name, something had to be dealt with in the background of his own life.

The altar and the name! It is impressive and significant how often these two are linked together in the Scriptures. A key point of Gideon’s whole story was that altar. It symbolized a new relationship and harmony between God and himself. Where there is an altar for the Lord’s name, and where He finds His full satisfaction, there the glory of the Lord is secured and that being so it is peace - Jehovah Shalom. It seems that up to that point there was some uncertainty with Gideon, but after that there was no more uncertainty. The great victory was sure from then onwards.

(2) God breaks old self patterns so as to release His life through us.

a. God’s primary method is the conviction and revelation of the Holy Spirit through Scripture

b. Sometimes He breaks our self patterns through the circumstances of life: trials, temptations. (like the refining of metal; See Proverbs 17:3

Years ago a missionary told of a time, while he was away on a preaching appointment, his wife and little daughter stayed at the home of a friend. On the bedroom wall just over the bed where they slept, there was a picture of Jesus that was reflected in the large mirror of the dressing table across the room. When the child woke up on her first morning there, she saw the picture reflected in the mirror while she still lay in bed, and exclaimed to her mother; “I can see Jesus through the mirror!” When she sat up to take a better look, she brought her own body between the picture and the mirror, so that instead of seeing the picture of Jesus reflected, she now saw herself. So she lay down again, and again she saw the picture of Jesus. She was up and down several times after that with her eyes fixed on the mirror. Then she said, **“Mommy, when I can’t see myself, I can see Jesus; but every time I see myself, I don’t see Him.”** The child spoke a greater truth than she realized, for it is true that when self fills our vision, we do not see Jesus!

(3) A vital spiritual principle is that of total reliance on Christ’s strength rather than human ability.

a. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 and Galatians 2:20

b. We have excellent strategies, methods, and training available today, but we must never substitute them for deep spiritual cleansing, fervent prayer, genuine repentance, and utter dependence on the Holy Spirit.

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The segments of the two circles. (Self-centeredness: A new house, getting ahead at work, recreation, making a name for himself) There is nothing wrong with many secular interests **as long as they do not crowd out the things God wants us to do.**

Do the same with believers dominated by Christ. (Church worship and service, a Christian home, ministry to people, job integrity) The real battle is often in the heart of the man who is going to serve God; it is as though the Lord has to fight him before He can fight through him; having subdued and silenced his flesh by the mighty power of the cross, then He can lead His servant out to the battlefield around and use him for the honor of His name. God's warriors are those who through the cross are brought to enjoy God's peace in their own hearts, and then in the power of that peace they can bring to bear His victory on the kingdom of darkness.

Depending on our own human ability often fail us and sometimes even lead us to Depression: The physical exhaustion was with me all day and night. I was sure that others could see that I was not doing my job adequately. Meeting with people, which had been a real joy earlier, I now dreaded. I knew I had nothing to offer them. How could I save anyone from drowning when I was sinking myself? Questions overwhelmed me: Would others see my tiredness and complain? Would they understand why my energy is depleted? Would they think I am lazy or crazy? Would I lose my job? These ideas plagued me constantly.

The **Roman Road** – simplicity of the gospel - Memorize them this week.

Romans 3 ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, –

Romans 6 ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5 ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10 ⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

The first thing God told him to do, was to tear down his father's altar to Baal (a pagan god of the Canaanites), and build a proper kind of altar to the LORD. Gideon obeyed. That night, he tore down the altar of Baal and built an altar to the LORD. When the men of the town learned about it the next morning, they were angry. But Gideon's father would not let the men of the town harm his son.

Are you a committed Christian, believing that God is equipping you even now? If so, then you must:

1. **Be a diligent reader of God's Word.**

As you study Scripture, you're beginning to understand how much God loves you. If you're not convinced of his absolute love for you, you won't be able to handle any crisis that comes. And you become convinced of his love only by devouring his Word.

2. **Cultivate intimacy with God daily, through quality-time prayer.**

Our Lord wants us to cry out to him in our times of crisis. But prayer during our hardships isn't enough. We have to seek our Father in good times as well. Our faith isn't meant to be merely situational. It has to come from a developing relationship with the Lord.

3. **Trust that God won't allow you to face any trial without making a way for you to endure it.**

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Should a great trial come upon you, you don't have to worry whether you'll be strong or faint. Our Father gives grace when it's needed. And if you've developed a close, intimate relationship with him, he'll pour his enduring grace into you when you need it.

Invitation:

With the coming of Christ, God fulfilled His plan for a new covenant: salvation by grace through a faith commitment to Jesus as Savior. As Christians, we still have to deal with our “old sinful natures.” God expects believers to do our best to live by His commands and standards. When we fail to do so, we need to do as David did when he faced up to his sins with Bathsheba: In 2 Samuel 24:10, we read, “*I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.*” In a very special prayer in Psalm 51, David poured out his remorse to God, confessing and repenting of his sins and pleading for God's forgiveness.