

The Pull Of Sin

If you have ever played with a magnet you will know that as a piece of steel gets closer to a magnet, the two items almost jump suddenly together.

The reason for this is a principle of physics, the magnetic pull is stronger when the items are closer.

Mathematically stated, the pull at one inch is 100 times stronger than it is at 10 inches, and 1,000 times stronger than at 31.6 inches.

There is a parallel between magnetism and the pull of sin.

Based on this physical lesson, we can learn how to fight against that pull of sin.

The closer we get to the source of sin, the stronger will be its pull –

The opposite is also true.

The further we get away from a situation that could cause us to sin, the weaker will be the pull or temptation of sin.

We can use this principle to our advantage.

It is easy to keep the piece of steel away from the magnet, likewise we need to stay as far away from sin if we are to successfully resist its pull.

James 1:13-14 [New King James] *“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”*

We are tempted to sin by our own lust, uncontrolled desires.

Not everyone is tempted to sin in the same degree by the same thing.

We need to know our weakness and to stay well away from any situation where our weakness will be tested.

Proverbs 5:1-10 [New King James] *“My son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my understanding, that you may preserve discretion, and your lips may keep knowledge. For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of hell. Lest you ponder her path of life, her ways are unstable; you do not know them. Therefore hear me now, my children, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honour to others, and your years to the cruel one; lest aliens be filled with your wealth, and your labours go to the house of a foreigner;”*

This Proverb brings out this principle in instructing a young man to avoid being seduced by an immoral woman, [verses 3-8].

The principle is – stay far away from situations in which you are tempted to sin.

Proverbs 7 deals with the same topic, showing the results of a foolish young man who did **not** stay away.

He was devoid of understanding, [verses 7-8].

He passed near to the harlot's house, [verses 21-22].

With enticing words she caused him to yield to sin, and he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, [verses 24-26].

Immoral women have destroyed the lives of many men, slaughtering their reputation and lives.

Not just a few but many are drawn into sinful lives in this way.

Therefore we need to take heed lest we fall in the same way.

We should never “*play around*” with sin –

If we “*play around*” with a magnet and a piece of steel, trying to bring the piece of metal as close as we can to the magnet without them touching, sooner or later we will misjudge just how close the magnet and metal are, just how strong the magnet's pull is, or how well we can resist the pull of the magnet.

Eventually they will be too close and they will crash together suddenly before we can stop it happening.

In the same way, we cannot “*play around*” with sin, trying to get as close as we can to a situation which will cause us to sin, without falling into sin.

If we try this, we will fall every time.

This principle of staying away from sin applies to all kinds of sin.

For example, alcoholism –

An alcoholic should never keep alcoholic liquor in their home.

For many people, liquor is not a strong temptation, but an alcoholic who hides bottles of alcoholic liquor in the house is guaranteeing that they will continue drinking.

Physical distance is not enough –

The principle of staying away from areas where we are tempted to sin will not always work because sin has its root in our thoughts.

Every physical action is the result of our thoughts.

Therefore, physical distance alone is not enough to keep us away from sin.

An alcoholic has only to think how much they would like to have an alcoholic drink.

Dwelling on that thought will quickly develop into an intense desire that leads to leaving the house to buy a bottle of an alcoholic drink.

Because wrong thinking can lead us to sin, we need to keep away from sin mentally as well as physically.

Matthew 55:27-28 [New King James] *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

To put mental distance between ourselves and sin, we need to put God’s sinless thoughts and words into our minds.

To drive out wrong thoughts, we need to see sin from God’s point of view, to abhor sin as He does, because of the pain and suffering it brings on to human beings whom He loves so much.

John 3:16-17 [New King James] *“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.”*

This is how much God the Father loves each of us.

Returning to the example of the alcoholic.

When they are enticed to drink, they need to put into their minds all the reasons why they must not drink.

I do **not** want to mess up my future life and that of my family.

I do **not** want to become a slave to alcohol.

I do **not** want to find myself in a drunken state in which I don’t know what is happening to me and around me.

Thoughts like this can put a mental distance between us and sin.

Conclusion –

2 Corinthians 5:10 [New King James] *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*

The Creator God is going to judge whether He gives us eternal life and a place in His created family after death as to how we use the physical life we now have.

This is a reality, whether we believe it and accept it or not.

Ecclesiastes 12:1, 14 [New King James] *“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’:” ... “For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*

The younger we start to resist the pull of sin, the easier it will be for us in the end of our life, [Proverbs 22:6].

Philippians 4:8 [New King James] *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things.”*

If our minds are constantly thinking on such things and all of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, there will be no place for sinful thoughts.