

ADMITTING WEAKNESS...WHEN FACING TEMPTATION

2 Samuel 11:1-5 In the spring of the following year, at the time when wars begin, David sent Joab and the Israeli army to destroy the Ammonites. They began by laying siege to the city of Rabbah. But David stayed in Jerusalem. 2 One night he couldn't get to sleep and went for a stroll on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking her evening bath. 3 He sent to find out who she was and was told that she was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah. 4 Then David sent for her and when she came he slept with her. (She had just completed the purification rites after menstruation.) Then she returned home. 5 When she found that he had gotten her pregnant she sent a message to inform him. (LB)

When it comes to the area of temptation, are you honest when it comes to "your" area of weakness in temptation. One of the realities in the life of King David, and in the lives of so many today that fall in temptation, and fail to avoid the danger zones can be summed up in one simple phrase, "a complete refusal to admit areas of weakness."

According to the text of 2 Samuel, David had sexual weaknesses. After all, if he didn't have those weaknesses, why would he have summoned Bathsheba into his presence after watching her bath? There is no evidence in this passage that David bowed to the Lord God and asked for strength, power and might. But rather, David surrendered to a "basic appetite" in his life, and surrendered to sexual temptation. After all, no doubt David knew he was the king, and knew that no one could stop him.

In the culture which David lived, such activities were not uncommon, just as they are not uncommon today. Yet, in the process of time, irregardless of how common ungodliness may have been, David realized that his actions were before a holy God. One of the reasons so many fail and fall in times of temptation is a complete failure to "own up to certain weaknesses".

Many today will do like David did hundreds of years ago when facing temptation. There will be a “justification” of “certain needs”. Sadly, many people today will walk into danger zones with this rational in their mind, “The Bible doesn’t say anything specific against it!” The Bible doesn’t deal with “gray” areas of life. Why? Because true saints of God are not to consider “gray areas” but rather are to become conformed more and more to the image of Christ. The call of God through His servant Paul was to “do all to the glory of God”. It is a wise person that is honest in prayer, and owns up to “areas of weakness” and claims the strength of God in their lives. When talking to the saints at Ephesus about their walk, Paul put it this way, “So be careful how you act; these are difficult days.” (Eph.5)

When we fail to admit areas of weakness we are playing into the hands of Satan, and we are deceiving ourselves about our personal weaknesses as well. Our Heavenly Father loves, us, and is quite sure that we will face "many" times of temptation. The question we must ask is this.... "Will I be honest with myself and with my Heavenly Father and be open about those times of temptations. He is not there to belittle us, but help us and guide us in all the temptations of life.