

DON'T GIVE THE ENEMY A SEAT AT YOUR TABLE

It's Time To Win The Battle Of Your Mind . . .

LESSON 5 – GOD'S INVITATION ALWAYS STANDS

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:13-16 (NIV)

Paul did not believe his past disqualified him from accepting Jesus' offer in the present. He recognized that he had been *guilty* of falling short of God's holy standard—that he was "the worst" of sinners **1 Timothy 1:15**. But he did not allow that guilt to lead to *shame*. He did not allow the guilt he felt from his past to *define* who he was as a new creation in Christ.

It is important for us to recognize the depth of our sins so we can understand the mercy and grace of God. We must allow our guilt to lead to *repentance* – a 180-degree turn from the direction we were headed to the direction of our Good Shepherd. We *can't* allow that guilt to lead us away from the dinner invitation that our King has extended to us.

GOD'S INVITATION

God recognizes that we are still in a battle.

1. Satan **tempts** us and **deceives** us. If we're not able to immediately defend ourselves with the Word of God, or if we're not in a community of people who can help us through that moment of temptation, we might fall.

"For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world." 1 John 2:16 (NIV)

- A. When we do fall, the most amazing thing happens. The one who tempted us in the first place becomes the one who turns around and then **accuses** us.
2. The enemy wants to convince us that we are in a **unique** situation.
"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind." 1 Corinthians 10:13a (NIV)
 - A. But God wants us to know we are all on an even playing field. What has come into our lives has come into everybody else's life. He will always provide a **way out**.

*"God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a **way out** so that you can endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13b (NIV)*

- B. The "way out" always starts as a big **door**—come to know the Almighty, get into a community of faith, get friends around you who want you to grow up in the faith.

"Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be

infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”
Ephesians 4:13-15 (NIV)

But often we pass by that door. When we do, the doors along that spiral of sin and temptation get smaller. There is still a way out, but we better act now. Go through that door!

Quote ~ “The Only Way Out is Through” ~ Robert Frost

3. The enemy loves to **isolate** us in the guilt-and-shame quagmire of our sins—especially the ones we keep hidden.

“Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.”
Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)

- A. **Confession** enables us to break out of this isolation. It frees us from the endless cycle of sin and shame that the enemy wants to establish in our lives.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9 (ESV)**

Quote ~ *The enemy wants to define you by your scars. But Jesus wants to define you by His scars. The grace of Jesus Christ removes your old identity and replaces it with a brand-new identity. You are a son or daughter of God. You are a child of the King. You are written into God’s will. You are a beneficiary of the lavish love of God, which has changed you from failure to family. Grace not only cancels guilt and shame-grace also redefines you. You are a beloved family member of God, and because of that you are given a seat at the table with Almighty God.* ~ **Louie Giglio**

- B. The enemy knows that if he can put **condemnation** in our story, he can keep us locked into a cycle of temptation and sin. Condemnation does in our lives what it did in Adam and Eve’s story. When they heard God walking in the cool of the day. . . they decided to hide from Him.

Condemnation & Conviction

- **Condemnation** comes from the **enemy**. **Conviction** comes from the **Holy Spirit**.
- Condemnation is born out of **guilt**. But conviction is born out of **grace**.
- Condemnation leads us to **conceal** our sin. This is where Adam and Eve found themselves.
- But conviction leads us to confess our sin. It leads us to **repentance**.
- Condemnation leads us to **rededication-to vow over and over** that we will never commit that sin again. Conviction leads us to a place of **absolute** and **total surrender**.