

## **The Bait of Satan.**

**Week 5. Escaping the trap.** If you are reading *The Bait of Satan* book, then read Chapters 11 and 12.

Have you ever graded some sins as worse than others? What things have you considered 'weaknesses' in your own life while calling full-blown sin in the lives of others?

### **Pray.**

Spend some time praying together and ask God to open each other's eyes to recognize your need to forgive and to know He has given you the power and desire to forgive.

## **Step 1. Pause in Yahweh's presence together.**

**Play the song. "Holy Water" by *We the Kingdom*.**

### **Read:**

When we hold onto unforgiveness we are forgetting how much we need the Grace of God. When we hold onto unforgiveness, holding back the grace we have received towards others, we're deceiving ourselves that we no longer need God's Grace and forgiveness.

The following is excerpts from "*The Puritans and Spiritual Dryness: The sinfulness of sin*" by Brittany Proffitt.

*What makes sin sinful? What is the Christian's proper response toward sin? How do we deal with sin when God calls us to be holy and set apart?*

### ***The Wrong Way***

*The wrong way to deal with sin in the conscience is to ignore it – to not think the prick of the conscience is serious. Puritans would say that such an attitude is pure presumption of personal salvation, but will only pave the way to hell for you"<sup>1</sup>*

*John Bunyan (Pilgrims progress) warned of sin becoming "natural." Sin is sly, and just like Eve in the garden, we are easily deceived.*

***So, how do we guard against sin?***

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<sup>1</sup> **Beeke, Thriving in Grace, pg. 54**

*Do not silence the feeling of guilt when you sin. That guilt is evidence of your adoption as a child of God. This will drive you to your Father in heaven and awaken your heart more and more to the sinfulness of sin.*

*If we push the feeling of conviction away, we will feel **spiritually dry**.*

### **The Right Way**

*The right way to deal with sin is to be vigilant over the state of your heart and soul before God. Repent in prayer. Be held accountable for your walk of faith by a local body of believers. Stay in God's Word.*

*"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of the soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).*

*In 2 Peter we read "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). God has provided the Christian with His Word, the church, and the conviction of his own conscience as a way to fight sin. These combined provide a framework from which the believer can fight sin: submission to the Word of God, the community of the Church, and the prick of the conscience.*

### **Fight Well**

*The fight against sin is a fight of faith. This fight will one day be complete as we dwell with Christ forever in a New Garden. Our faith will be sight. We will have the Word of God in flesh, the company of all God's Saints, and our hearts will be conformed into the image of Christ – finally and fully.*

Remember that forgiving others is about faith. It's something we declare with our mouth. Often this happens long before we feel like forgiving.

## **Step 2. Reflect on a scripture**

Jesus shares powerful principles on forgiveness in the parable of the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:21-35. Carefully read this passage as a group and answer these questions:

- (A) Who is Jesus speaking to and how can you tell?
- (B) When Jesus told Peter to forgive seventy times seven, what was He really saying?
- (C) What two things happened to the servant who demanded that his fellow servant repay him?
- (D) Who do the torturers represent?
- (E) What is God showing you in this parable that you can apply in your life?

Jesus gave His life to save us from what we deserved—separation from God forever. While the subject isn't popular, it's one God talks about extensively. What is hell like? Check out these verses:

**Matthew 8:12, 13:42, 13:50, 22:13; 25:30; 25:41, and 25:46 – Mark 9:44 – Luke 16:23-24 – 2 Thessalonians 1:9 – Jude 6 and 13 – Revelation 14:10-11 and 20:10**

### **Step 3. Ask.**

What is the Holy Spirit asking you to do in light of the scriptures you have read? Is there someone He is asking you to forgive.

### **Step 4. Yield.**

Is there something the Holy Spirit is asking you to yield to- and area where you have to offend your flesh so you can say "yes" to the Holy Spirit?

Spend some time praying for each other.