



#72

Theme: Two Buckets

Scripture: James 1:14-15

*“Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.”*

A Thought:

Gentlemen, sometimes we wonder why we do not grow in our faith? Oh, we go to church, we are involved in church activities, possibly we even attend a weekly bible class. In our personal inner sanctum where the travails of our secret life exist and flourish (sinful desires) we confront the bully of all bullies: sin. The bully sin hangs on us like a sweaty t-shirt after a hard work out. Simply we live two lives. Factoid: fellows, our religious activities do not get us closer to our Lord Jesus. If we continue to have sin in our lives all this “religious” hustle and bustle is in vain. Evangelist Billy Graham says as much in his book The Journey “*Why don’t we grow in our faith? Sometimes it’s because of a particular sin we have tolerated and allowed to block God’s work, refusing to admit it or give it up.*” The bully Satan loves the idea that he can hover over us with our “sin secrets” and feed our appetites with sinful delights. He knows that religious activities are not a problem. However, our personal relationship with our Lord through conversation and prayer the bully Satan cannot handle. We can make the break from a sinful nature. Our Lord does not leave us at the edge of fuzziness. Remember Jesus was exalted by God Philippians 2:9-11b “*and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*”...tough luck Satan. Here is the scriptural slam-dunk as stated in Romans 8:1-2 (NIV) “*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*” Satan is a loser when we adhere to the second part of verse 2 “*because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*” Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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Talk to yourself:

- Is there condemnation for those in Christ Jesus?
- Think of sin as a bully...do you want to be bullied?
- Two buckets...(see below) which one should stay empty?
- Are you a slave to sin? Take some action...pray, study and seek guidance.

Scriptures to read: Psalm 103: 3; Proverbs 28:13; Psalm 103:3; Isaiah 64:6; Luke 17:3-4; John 8:7; Romans 6:23,8:1; 1Co15:3,57; Heb. 11:25; Col.3:5-6; 1John1:9

Quote: Blaise Pascal, Christian Philosopher.... *"We can only know God's will when we know our own sin. And those who have know God without knowing their wretchedness have not glorified Him but have glorified themselves."* (Goodreads.com)

Bottom Line: Men, to start off the day think of yourselves carrying two empty buckets. One bucket is spirit filled with Gods's blessings and fill to the brim with the Spirit of Life. The other bucket is empty and as the hours pass it starts to fill with what? Each hour what are you putting into the bucket? Fill in the blanks...you know exactly what I am saying or at least you should. King David knew what the other bucket would be filled with unless he prayed and honored the Lord with all his heart not in passing but, with all his heart, mind and soul. Listen to his conversation with the Lord in Psalm 141:4 (HCSB) *"Do not let my heart turn to any evil thing or wickedly perform reckless acts with men who commit sin. Do not let me feast on their delicacies."* Let's be blunt...sin is a bully a bully that savors the sinful appetite of us mortals. Okay, you're home, you parked the car in the garage and you take the two buckets out of the trunk. Which bucket do you leave in the grungy garage and which one will you take into the confines of your home...hmm? 1 Peter 4:2... *"As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God."*

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler,

Your bro, Ray

