

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

HOW TO CONDUCT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

RLJ-1081

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PART 6C: PROTECTION FROM THE PAST

There is nothing more devastating in a person's life than when you are unable to let go of the past failures. A Christian living in the past is to a degree dead to the present time and certainly doesn't have a future. It is important to understand that we must live and act in the present and not in the past or future. At this very moment, all we have is today, when our heart is beating and we take one breath at a time. **Proverbs 3:27-28; Hebrews 3:7-15; Matthew 6:34; James 4:13-15**

LIVING IN THE PAST

It has been said, "You are the sum total of all the decisions you've made during your lifetime." This is a true statement, but it is also something that can be changed. For instance, a drug addict might have struggled with drugs for 30 years, but he can make the decision today that he is not going to be a slave to drugs anymore, and it will change his entire life.

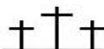
Yesterday is in the past, tomorrow is in the future, and today is a gift, that is why it is the present. Or to put it another way: yesterday is gone, tomorrow we have not seen, but we have today! **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

FAILURE

- King Saul was unable to let go of the past. He had gotten used to the admiration by the people in Israel, and when they heaped praise upon David, it filled Saul with great anger. **1 Samuel 18:5-16**
- Saul had gone against the Lord in the past, and instead of living in repentance and seeking the Lord, he was unsuccessfully trying to revive his glory days of old. **1 Samuel 13:9-14**

VICTORY

- King David was sinful like any other man. He lusted after another man's wife and had sexual intercourse with her even though she was a married woman. When Bathsheba became pregnant, David called Uriah home from the war front, made him drunk and tried to send him home where he would sleep with his wife so that he would think that he had made Bathsheba pregnant and would never suspect that it was David who was the father. When Uriah refused to go home, David sent him back to the front and ordered Joab to have him killed. Afterwards, David took Bathsheba to be his wife.
- When David was confronted by God's prophet, he confessed his sins and repented. **2 Samuel 12:9-14**



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- ❑ David knew the following three things: 1) He had been forgiven; 2) The child would die as a result of his sin; 3) The sword would never depart from his descendants. David made a decision not to live in the past but to accept his punishment and move on into the future. **Psalm 51:1-19**

ERASING THE PAST

- ❑ The Apostle Paul had a terrible past. He had given his entire life to the study of the Talmud and had become a master in Judaism. He was a Pharisee and belonged to the upper echelon. It is estimated that he was around 35 years old when he encountered Jesus. **Acts 9:1-18**
- ❑ Instead of grieving over the 35 lost years, Paul realized that his past couldn't be undone and all he could do was live in the present and plan for the future. **Acts 9:19-22**
- ❑ What else do we know about Paul and his mindset?
 - He had peace with God because he had understood the love of God. **Romans 5:1-11**
 - He knew that his position in the kingdom of God was not of man, but of God, and no man could take that away from him. **Galatians 1:1**
 - At the end of his life, Paul was content and had no regrets! **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

LIVING IN THE FUTURE

From personal experience, I know this is a terrible way to live. From the time I was a little boy, I lived in the future. I was always looking forward to the time when big things would happen and life would be good. By living this way, I could never enjoy what was happening at the moment, I couldn't enjoy my friends, my home, or whatever I was doing. I was always waiting for the future to come. It was not until I was around 50 years old that God showed me that the Devil had stolen every day in my life and instead of enjoying each day as given to me, I couldn't wait for the day to be over, so I could just move on into the future. I did not take time to smell the roses so to speak but it was always about being in a hurry to get to the future. **John 10:10**

REPENT, FORGIVE, FORGET AND MOVE ON!

- ❑ Your past needs a funeral! **Galatians 2:16-20**
- ❑ One of my pastors, Barrett Lampp at First Southern Baptist Church in San Rafael, California told me this: *"When I leave a church and move to a new location, I never have any more contact with the people I left behind."* I thought that was very cold, but now I understand the reasoning. When he took on a new church, in order to be focused and successful, he needed to let go of the ministry in the past.
- ❑ When the woman caught in adultery was taken to Jesus, He told her to go and sin no more. **John 8:3-11**

- ❑ A person living with *regrets* has not been able to receive God's total forgiveness. **Psalms 103:1-12**

YOU MUST TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR MIND

The spiritual battle takes place in the mind, therefore, we as Christians must take control over the mind and every thought and bring it to the captivity in Christ. **Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6**

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?