

The Ease of Sinning!

How easy do you suppose it is to sin?

Most generally, a devout individual would immediately deny that sin would easily come into their life. That's understandable, seeing as how Solomon said, "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; But Jehovah weigheth the spirits" (Prov. 16:2). Nevertheless, the scriptures are plain about the dangers of sin.

The Hebrew writer, having identified the importance of living by faith, said, "Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us..." (Heb. 12:1). The term "easily" as defined by Vine's is "probably a figure from a garment, 'easily surrounding,' and therefore easily entangling." It has been my experience that some people have a specific sin that comes to mind when the passages is read. However, based upon the text, the "sin which doth so easily beset us" is in contrast to the living by faith, which was well described by the prophet, saying, "Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God" (Heb. 3:12). Thus, Peter said, "Ye therefore, beloved, knowing these things beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own steadfastness" (2 Pet. 3:17).

How "easy" is it? That depends on what the heart wants.

Here is a thoughtful scenario: When Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, attempted to slay all of the seed royal, she missed by one, i.e., "Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash (Jehoash) the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons that were slain, even him and his nurse, and put them in the bedchamber; and they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not slain; And he was with her hid in the house of Jehovah six years" (2 Kgs. 11:2-3). Jehosheba had a husband by the name of Jehoiada: Jehoiada was a priest. Joash (Jehoash) was hid in the house of the Lord for six years during which time his uncle, Jehoiada, had instructed him: "Jehoash did that which was right in the eyes of Jehovah all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him" (2 Kgs. 12:2). Thus, "Joash did that which was right in the eyes of Jehovah all the days of Jehoiada the priest" (2 Chron. 24:2).

Then it happened: "Jehoiada waxed old and was full of days, and he died; a hundred and thirty years old was he when he died" (2 Chron. 24:15), then an evil influence enticed Jehoash: "Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. And they forsook the house of Jehovah, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their guiltiness." (2 Chron. 24:17-18).

To add to his sin, "And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of Jehovah, so that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken Jehovah, he hath also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at

the commandment of the king in the court of the house of Jehovah. Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, Jehovah look upon it, and require it.” (2 Chron. 24:20-22). Who would have thought? Ross Triplett, Sr.