

IMPACT

I Must **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Galatians 6:1-5 “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, *considering yourself lest you also be tempted*. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load.”

Quote: When dealing with temptation, we must be careful ourselves and compassionate with others who fail.

Paul warned all believers against getting spiritually cocky! He wrote, “Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”¹ *When it comes to temptation, no one is a “special case.”* Flattering ourselves by thinking that we have a “handle” on “the victorious Christian life” is a recipe for disaster! When warning his son against the deceitful enticements of sinful people who were greedy for gain at any moral cost, Solomon wrote, “Surely, in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.”² The pathway to entrapment and destruction may be through a door that looks innocent and welcoming. “There is a way that *seems* right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”³ The Scriptures make it abundantly clear that “...the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He ponders all his paths. His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin. *He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.*”⁴ When we sin, it is because we become complacent, careless, or carnal. We get caught in a trap of our own making by ignoring the way of escape that God always provides!⁵ We take for granted God’s grace and long-suffering.

Before we can ever come alongside a fellow Christian who has faltered or even failed, we must have the attitude, “There, but for the grace of God, go I.”⁶ When it comes to the battles that we all face, we need to show concern and compassion for others who are struggling. We can be so busy judging their faults and failures

that we don’t judge ourselves by the same standard! *Instead of showing compassion, our spiritual pride leads to judging others wrongfully or justifying our sins as not as bad as theirs.* Christians who are seeking to be led by the Holy Spirit in their own struggles are to do what they can to restore those “caught in the cords of sin.” The word restore literally means ‘to mend’ or ‘repair,’ and was used of setting a broken bone or repairing a dislocated limb.⁷ This implies compassion and gentleness. In the spiritual realm, restoration of a fellow Christian also necessitates a spirit of humility that acknowledges that we, too, have yielded to temptation and have been in need of understanding, prayer and encouragement ourselves.

When we encourage those who are carrying a heavy weight of guilt, we fulfill the law of Christ, which is to love one another as He loved us.⁸ That kind of humble,

Carefulness and Compassion

helpful love is not an option, but a command. Christ said, “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! *First* remove the plank from your own eye, and *then* you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”⁹ Someone wisely said, “If we must judge, let us first use the mirror on our own wall for practice.”¹⁰ Instead of hurling hard words and haughty looks at others, we are to examine our own deeds against the Bible’s standard and then demonstrate the compassion that God has shown to us time and time again. Gratitude for grace is the doorway to the joy that comes with helping others with their struggles. When was the last time that you praised God for His longsuffering with your shortcomings? When was the last time that you helped a brother who had fallen short?

1 | Cor.10:12 2 Prov.1:17 3 Prov.14:12 4 Prov..5:22-23 5 | Cor.10:13
6 Attributed to John Bradford, English preacher and martyr 7 MSB;
Heb.12:12-13 8 John 13:34 9 Matt. 7:1-5 10 Anonymous