

## The First Step

The first step away from God is a choice we make. We decide to take the first step down the slippery slope, the first step away from God. The evil one sets us up to take that first step through deception and temptation. Learning to be victorious over the demonic strongholds in us includes learning how we are deceived and then how the iniquities in our heart take us down those slippery slopes.

### A. Understand Your Environment

1. Born **in** sin. Psa 51:5
2. Evil one blinds our minds. 2 Cor 4:4
3. Self deception. Jam 1:22-25; 2 Tim 2:25-26
4. Our sin invites demonic strongholds. Jam 1:13-15; 3:16; Eph 4:26-27
5. Recognize sin by the Word. 2 Tim 3:16-17
6. The fall hurts only when you reach the bottom. The first step may even be carnally enjoyable.

### B. Immerse Yourself in the Word

1. Choose the Word as the standard for everything.
2. Let the Word, with action, drive out the iniquity from your Heart, Soul and Mind
3. Growing in the Word 1 John 2:12-14  
Strong in the Lord / Word of God Abides in you / Overcome the evil one

### C. Avoiding the First Step

1. Look for anything in you that steps outside of the Word of God.
  - a. Cultivate a heart that hungers for God and holiness. Matt 5:6
  - b. Be aggressive to get the sin out. 2 Cor 7:1; Jam 1:21
  - c. Set up guards in your life in areas of weakness. Jam 3:16; 5:16
    - o Avoid unforgiveness and strife.
2. First Step = Thought of temptation to sin.
  - a. Don't let the thought take root, treat as sin and R.R.B. 2 Cor 10:5
  - b. Treat the memories of sins as sin
  - c. Avoid triggers (i.e., thoughts/incidents which are "hot" buttons). Avoid lynch-pin sins which take you downhill really fast.
  - d. Very vigilant – devil can't get you to sin unless you entertain the thoughts.
3. Do not **ACT** on the thought of sin.
  - a. Acting on the thoughts or memories puts it in the heart. Jam 1:22-25
  - b. Break Curses of the thought and the action. 2 Tim 2:25-26
4. Do not **SPEAK** the thought of sin.
  - a. Your tongue guides your life. Jam 3:2-8
  - b. If the devil controls your tongue, he has you. Pro 18:7
  - c. Affirm scriptures on the tongue. Psa 19:14; Psa 141:3
  - d. Turn your tongue over to the control of the Holy Spirit.
  - e. A thought unsaid is a thought that is dead.

### D. Go and Sin No More

1. Woman caught in adultery – "Go and sin no more." John 8:3-11
2. Man at pool of Bethesda – "Go and sin no more, lest something worse comes." John 5:8-14
3. Stay in the anointing to avoid sin. 1 John 3:6
4. Having escaped sin (pollution of this world) through the knowledge of God, do not go back. 2 Pet 2:20-22