

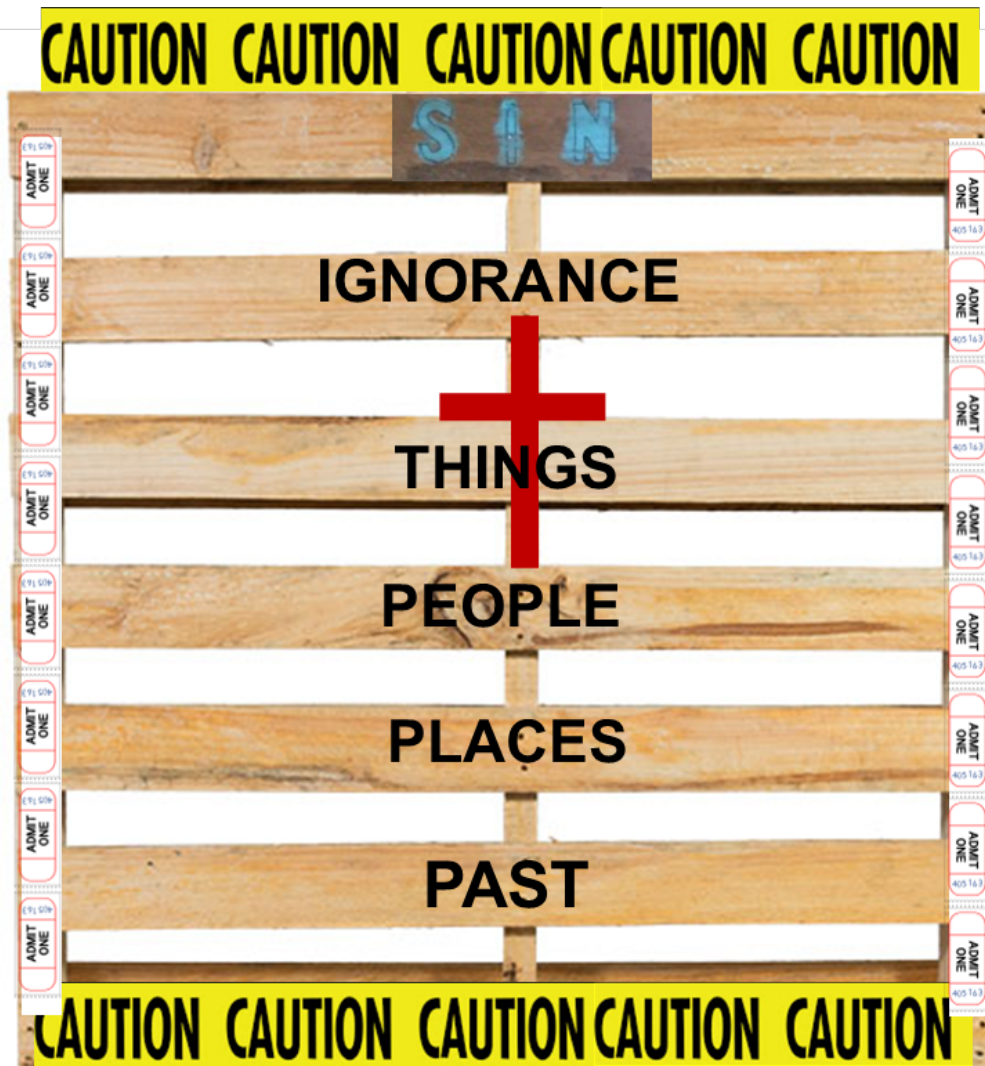
Spiritual Bootcamp & More Lesson 8— CAUTION: SIN & IGNORANCE

Don't give the enemy a foothold.

*Watch Lesson 8 video(s) on spiritualbootcampandmore.com.


The first half of Bootcamp focused on your right hand. You learned more about *who you are, where you are, what you have, and what to do (He must increase; i must decrease)*. This last half is designed to help you recognize the schemes of the enemy (dirty left hand), which will continually attempt to fight against you and all that God has planned and purposed for you. As has been said before, you never want to focus on the enemy because that is a sure way to get out of balance. However, it is crucial that you understand what the Bible says about the ways he attempts to gain an entrance, an upper hand, or let's say a foothold into your life. Cunning, devious, crafty, and sly are but a few adjectives to describe your ancient foe. He studies you thoroughly and knows your every weakness more than you do. He is very patient in waiting for "an opportune time" (Luke 4:13) in which to step onto your scene.

CAUTION: "The Big 6" Footholds Satan uses against you



“The Wooden Pallet”: Turn back over to the previous page and take a long hard look at this decorated wooden pallet. It is a visual reminder of just a few of the major ways the enemy attempts to gain footholds into our lives. Each of the slats represents one of the “big 6” categories he uses, thus the yellow “CAUTION” tape. The “Admit One” tickets might not be quite as obvious as they decorate the edges. Many times because of our own sin or ignorance, we give the enemy a free ticket right into our life. He is a legalist and takes full advantage of our missteps. The enemy also loves to “pile on,” and he seldom travels alone. Our “Admit One” usually turns into “Admit Many More.” We’ll use the decorated wooden pallet for the remainder of Bootcamp. In this lesson we’ll discuss two top footholds the enemy uses: SIN & IGNORANCE. Take a look at the word SIN on the photo of the pallet. The paint bled right into the wood. That certainly drives home the point that SIN is never neat or clean— it seeps all around and can even be difficult to see at times. You’ve probably heard the quote, “Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.” Only Jesus Christ has the remedy for all sin— present, past, and future. Billy Graham said that “the cross shows the seriousness of our sin, but also the immeasurable love of God.” The antidote to SIN and the rest of this old wooden pallet is the immeasurable love of Jesus on the “Old Wooden Cross.” “Indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39, NLT).

Definition of sin: The Greek word for sin is *hamartia* (Strong’s Concordance 266) and it means *missing the mark; loss; forfeiture because of missing the mark; not empowered by God but self*. Sin can be by omission or commission in thought and feeling, or speech and action. If hitting the bullseye is obedience to God’s Word, then anything that “misses that mark” is disobedience or sin. Sin is not a gray zone. It is not little. It is always big to God. It cost Him His Son.



“SIN”
(Greek: *hamartia*)

- “Miss the mark”
- “Forfeiture of power”
- Grieves the Holy Spirit and quenches the flow

St. Augustine’s “four stages” of man:

- Stage One: Man was born *able to sin*.
- Stage Two: After the fall man is *not able not to sin*.
- Stage Three: After conversion man is *able not to sin*.
- Stage Four: After glorification man is *not able to sin*.

Read Genesis 3 (The Fall of Man). What were the first recorded words of Satan (disguised as a crafty serpent)? “Did God really say...”

What were the first recorded words of woman?

“We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

Isn’t it interesting that the first recorded words of Satan are to a woman, and the first recorded words of woman are to Satan? Eve should have never engaged him. She made the first mistake by ever listening to his question. She listened, *then she spoke truth*, but then she listened again, and this time he spoke the lie, “You will not surely die.” The rest is history— the original sin because she listened then believed the father of lies and deception.

Have you been conversing with the enemy recently? _____

Could there be a “sympathetic base of operation” in you? The enemy should have “nothing in you” to work with. This “sympathetic base of operation” means that there is something in you that the enemy successfully works through over and over. So he sort of “has a base of operation” (like a receptor or a hook) to trick you into believing his lies. A common example would be fear or worry. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any “enemy base” he is operating from in you, and use the space below to write down anything that you already know, or is revealed.

Write the words Jesus spoke from John 14:30, Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC).

“I will not talk with you much more, for the prince (evil genius, ruler) of the world is coming. And he has no claim on Me. [He has nothing in common with Me; there is nothing in Me that belongs to him, and he has no power over Me.]”

Write Genesis 4:7 “If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

What is “crouching at your door”? sin “It desires to have you but you must master it.”

Why is sin so rampant in the camp?

- 1) No fear of a Holy God— don’t realize the consequences of sin

1) Don't know the Word (ignorance).

Write Exodus 20:20 "Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.'"

In John 5 Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. He sees him again in the temple (verse 14) and says, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

Write James 1:15 "Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

Read James 4:17 and fill-in-the-blank: "If anyone, then, knowing the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin to them."

Read Hosea 4:6 and fill-in-the-blanks: "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. 'Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of God, I will also ignore your children .

Read Deuteronomy 11:1,22-28 (NIV) and fill-in-the-blanks: "Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always ... If you carefully observe all these commands that I am giving you to follow— to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways and to hold fast to him— then the LORD will drive out nations before you, and you will dispossess nations larger and stronger than you. Every place you set your foot will be yours...No man will be able to stand against you...See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse — the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known."

Deuteronomy 11 is a multiple choice test with the answer key! ***Blessings flow from obedience; curses flow from disobedience.***¹ It is just that simple. We curse ourselves every time we "miss the mark." It is our fault. The devil did not make us do it, but he will certainly take advantage of it. The real enemy is either ignorance of the Word, or worse, a failure to obey it.

Discussion time: If walking in obedience to God's commands (not suggestions) is a problem, what is the real underlying problem? What is the root of disobedience? Read the scriptures below to help answer these questions.

The underlying problem is a "faulty love walk." The root of disobedience is rebellion—the original sin.

John 15:14 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (ESV).

1 John 2:3-6 "We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says 'I know him,' but does not do what he says is a liar, and the truth is not in him. This is how we know that we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."

¹ Jo Hancock, *His Vessel Ministries* ©

Let's Get Practical and Transparent:

1) Transfer the scriptures that the Holy Spirit has highlighted onto index cards and meditate on them throughout the day. The alive Word over and over will rewire your mind.

2) The best way to find out what you don't know is to ask. "You don't know what you don't know" certainly can apply to sin that could be hidden from you. You know they are called "blind spots" because we can't see them.

Pray Psalm 139:23-24. Be still and listen. "Search me, O God, and *know* my heart; test me and *know* my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

The Hebrew word for *know* in this passage is *yada*. *It means to make it known to you* (Strong's Concordance 3045). Of course God already knows everything about you. To quote Max Lucado, "God loves you just the way you are, but He *refuses* to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus." This transformation process (sanctification) is the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit, but you have the choice of cooperating with Him or not. Getting up on the "spiritual surgery table" and staying there is what you need to do. Keep asking Him to shine His Light and show you what you don't know. He looks at the heart motive behind everything you do, say, or think. You are asking Him to "make it known to you" so you can confess it and get cleansed. Praying this verse daily will result in amazing growth.

The enemy does not want to lose his foothold thus base of operation so he's fighting hard for you to either do nothing or simply keep playing defense which gains zero territory. You have everything you need in your (His) righteous right hand to crush the enemy's nasty left hand. ***It's time to play offense.*** Greater is He who is in you (1 John 4:4). You can do it because you are more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37). This is how the Kingdom of God advances in and around you. "And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it" (Matthew 11:12).

3) After praying Psalm 139:23-24 what did He reveal to you and what are the action points He wants you to take?

When God reveals where we have "missed the mark" intentionally or unintentionally, there must be confession *and* repentance (the decision to "turn around"). You U-turn from the sin towards God. My "spiritual Father," Dr. R.T. Kendall, says it best, "Spiritual maturity is closing the time gap between sin and repentance." Sometimes the confession needs to extend to another person. Let the scriptures below guide you.

1 John 1:8-9 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

James 5:16 "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

4) Are there any additional action points you need to take?

5) Let's get practical concerning "ignorance of the Word" or simply "not hearing" His Voice. One of the more common complaints heard amongst believers is "I can't hear His Voice." The answer is usually sitting in their laps— their Bible. There is no formula other than getting into the alive Word so that the alive Word gets into you. *He is always speaking.*

Do you have a *daily* Bible reading plan? _____ Are you consistent? _____

If you are not disciplined in reading and meditating on the Word, the enemy is absolutely thrilled. The last thing he wants for you to do first thing each morning is the collection of fresh manna for you and "those in your tent." If Jesus had to get up "very early to meet with His Father" then how much more do we need that anointed time. "The Word, Prayer, & Praise" each morning are crucial for consistent, victorious, abundant living. Next lesson, we'll talk about some of the more common reasons that intimacy with the Father gets crowded out, but for now maybe it's time to "begin again" if you've fallen away from getting in the Word and prayer consistently. Intimacy with Jesus takes place over time and discipline. There are no shortcuts. The facts are that we all make time for whomever or whatever is the most important to us. "The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me..." (John 14:21 AMPC).

6) What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do to "begin again" if you have not developed these spiritual disciplines of Bible reading and prayer?

7) If being disciplined getting into the Word and prayer is a strength for you, but has not always been, this would be a great time to share your testimony of how this happened and the results you have experienced. Use this space to briefly share your testimony. Please include practical tips. _____

8) **For those wanting to go deeper...** The secret is the secret place of intimacy with Jesus. Everything flows from that place. The answer to every problem is found there. The strategy to loosen every foothold of the enemy is there. The peace and joy you need 24/7 is there. The secret place is His Presence. Check out *100 Days in the Secret Place* compiled by Gene Edwards (Classic writings from Madame Guyon, Francois Fenelon, and Michael Molinos on the deeper Christian life). Another classic is *Practicing His Presence* by Brother Lawrence.

Congrats on completing Lesson 8! Trusting that some enemy territory of SIN & IGNORANCE has been exposed and crushed. A right handed "Most High Five"! See you at Bootcamp group.