



August 1, 2010

The Yo-Yo Effect

Everybody has problems. Everyone has weaknesses. That is what Satan knows about us. He explores these things and learns to exploit them to wear us down, hoping that we will give up. Therein lies the problem. When we start our lives as Christians we are not as strong in many areas as we need to be. One may find it difficult to attend the services regularly or give up certain things that are not right in God's sight. That creates a problem area until we resolve these issues in our minds and make the necessary commitments. In the process of doing that we may bounce back and forth in our service to God. We may attend faithfully for a while and then when problems arise, or we want to have a little more fun that we feel we're missing out on, we take a spiritual vacation from God and sink into the world and our own behavior. Over time we come to our senses and realize that we have been engulfed in sin once more and need to correct that. Now the problem intensifies because we begin to feel the guilt of being separated from God. One may be embarrassed to come back into the fold, confessing their error, and making needed correction. We see some who spend a lifetime like a yo-yo on a string. Continually overcome by their own weakness and then out of service. They make corrections at some point and then a while later fall into the same trap. Over time the end result of this is that one may resign themselves to their state and just stay out of service. There is a fatalistic attitude that goes along with this. I have heard some folks make a statement such as, "Well, I'm know I'm going to Hell but I can't do anything about it." Really? That statement reveals a lack of resolve on our own part. James talks about the duality that exists in our minds and the need to focus on God and serving him. "***A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.***" (Jas 1.8). Those who have been newly converted, or have been Christians for some time but are struggling with their commitment to God, continually deal with these issues because they have not made the determination that they are going to do what is necessary. As James points out, other areas of life will more than likely mirror this. Many people have good intentions but fail to follow through on their plans. They fail to follow through because being a Christian may not be much more than going to church. In that case there is little understanding of what it means to be a Christian. One may make excuses for their weakness but excuses are not worth anything and generally are a way of avoiding responsibility. Some may think that God will understand and overlook what they are going through because he knows they are weak. Take a look at what the scriptures say about that. The writer of Hebrews states, "***Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.***" (Heb 10.38-39). God will make no provision for Christians who fail to make the necessary effort to do what they need to do. Some excuse themselves due to lack of knowledge or ability. This is the same excuse the one talent man made to his lord. We see the end result of that. "***And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***" (Matt 25.30). Some justify themselves by thinking that God loves them, and though they are not actively working (which they excuse themselves from), they are going to be all right because at least God has them and he loves them. What we miss is that if we are not actively serving God and doing what he wants us to do we are separated from him and have lost the promises God has made to the faithful. A question comes to mind. When life becomes overwhelming, what problem ever gets resolved by taking God out of the picture? Satan wants us to think that's a solution and sometimes we believe him. The Devil is just playing with us. We become the yo-yo. Satan just pulls the string. Are you dizzy enough to want to stop?

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