

The Sin That So Easily Entangles

Hebrews 12:1-2

1. Lying and/or deceit

Lying is simply the act of deliberately presenting something as truth which is known (by the 'liar') to be untrue. Deceit is any act aimed at the concealment, distortion, or misinterpretation of truth.

- “Lying lips are an **abomination** to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.” (Proverbs 12:22 ESV)
- “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.” When Ananias heard these words, he **fell down and breathed his last**. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.” (Acts 5:4-5 ESV)
- “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.” (Colossians 3:9-10 ESV)
- “You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.” (Psalm 52:4 ESV)
- “You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord **abhors** the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.” (Psalm 5:6 ESV)
- “Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips and harbors deceit in his heart; when he speaks graciously, believe him not, for there are **seven abominations in his heart**; though his hatred be covered with deception, his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.” (Proverbs 26:24-26 ESV)

2. Selfish ambition/being self-focused or self-centered

Someone who doesn't serve the needs of others. They are worried about and/or focused on themselves.

- “But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be **disorder and every vile practice**.” (James 3:14-16 ESV)
- “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4 ESV)
- “but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there **will be wrath and fury**.” (Romans 2:8 ESV)

3. Jealousy/envy

Envy means being discontent or longing for someone else's advantages. Jealousy means unpleasant suspicion or apprehension of rivalry.

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- “A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the **bones rot.**” (Proverbs 14:30 ESV)
- “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” (Psalm 23:1 ESV)
- “Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?” (Proverbs 27:4 ESV)

4. Gossip

Gossip is conversing casually or without restraint about other people, and it often includes details that may not be confirmed as true.

- “A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer **separates** close friends.” (Proverbs 16:28 ESV)
- “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.” (Ephesians 4:29 ESV)
- “But avoid irreverent babble (ungodly babble), for it will **lead people into more and more ungodliness,** and their talk will spread like gangrene.” (2 Timothy 2:16-17a ESV)
- “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” (Proverbs 18:21 ESV)

5. Complaining

This does not mean processing difficult circumstances or emotions; this is when you choose to regularly speak negatively or whine about things.

- “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,” (Philippians 2:14-15 ESV)
- “Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves.” (John 6:43 ESV)
- “Moses also said, “You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has

heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.”” (Exodus 16:8 NIV)

- *“We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.” (1 Corinthians 10:8-10 ESV)*

6. Pride

This is elevating one’s own opinions and thoughts above God’s authoritative Word. Pride can manifest as arrogance, boasting, independence, defensiveness, perfectionism, and other similar traits.

- “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God **opposes** the proud but gives grace to the humble.”” (James 4:6 ESV)
- “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18 ESV)
- “When pride comes, then comes **disgrace**, but with the humble is wisdom.” (Proverbs 11:2 ESV)
- “One’s pride will **bring him low**, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.” (Proverbs 29:23 ESV)

7. Slothfulness

Deeper than just laziness, slothfulness can look like a lack of motivation or a loss of purpose that results in idleness. Slothfulness is also linked with someone who takes but doesn’t give.

- “Do not be slothful in zeal [zeal is defined as great energy or enthusiasm toward a cause], be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.” ([Romans 12:11](#))
- “So that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises.” ([Hebrews 6:12](#))
- “The desire of the sluggard **kills him**, for his hands refuse to labor. All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.” (Proverbs 21:25-26 ESV)

8. Haste

Haste is doing things too quickly without waiting on God to speak or for wise counsel from others.

- “Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet **misses** his way.” - Proverbs 19:2 ESV
- “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.” - Proverbs 21:5 ESV

- “It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.” - Psalm 127:2 ESV
- “For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight, for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.” - Isaiah 52:12 ESV
- “Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.” - Proverbs 14:29 ESV

WHAT TO DO:

1. Repent

- a. Repent to God first in prayer.
- b. Confess to a trusted friend(s) and let them pray for you.
 - i. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” — James 5:16 ESV

2. Seek the kingdom & Jesus

- a. Renew yourself in truth by seeking God and His Word. This can look like praying the scriptures listed in this document over yourself, doing a word study in the Bible to find more truth around what you’re struggling with, asking for accountability in community, and sowing into the kingdom wherever Jesus leads you to.
- b. “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” - Matthew 6:33 ESV
- c. “But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit”. - 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 ESV

3. Tend your heart

- a. In your time with Jesus in the morning and throughout the day as you need!
 - i. (Psalm 139:23-24) Search me God—is there any wicked way in me? Am I entangled with any sin? Do I have bitterness or enmity with anyone?
 - ii. Is there anyone I need to forgive? I forgive, release, and bless them. Repent for your own sin, renounce any lies connected to the offense, and ask Jesus what he has for you in exchange.
 - iii. [Tending your heart PDF](#) and [video](#)

Other Tools:

- Learn to LOVE
 - “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
 - We love because he loved us first.
- Encouragement // Choose to Bless
 - But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Heb 3:13)
 - Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. (Proverbs 11:25)
 - Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.” - 1 Peter 3:9 ESV
 - Weapon of Blessing Podcast from Upperroom—
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/upperroom-dallas-podcast/id1264255966?i=1000654852974>
- Honesty
 - The tongue has the **power of life** and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (Prov 18:31)
 - Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)
 - As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and **bear fruit with patience**. (Luke 8:15)
 - Who shall send the hill of the Lord...he who does not swear deceitfully (Psalm 24:3-4).
- Cheering on wins in your heart and externally (win for 1, is a win for all)
 - If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. (1 Corinthians 12:26)
 - Love is not self-seeking (1 Corinthians 13:5)
 - Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Phil 2:4)
- Trust God
 - ““Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it **does not cease to bear fruit**.”” - Jeremiah 17:7-8 ESV