

AUTOPSY OF A MORAL FAILURE

Nobody is immune from temptation.

Stephen Arterburn in “Every Man’s Battle”: Our _____ brings a natural vulnerability to sexual sin.”

Whether it’s adultery or any other serious sin, it happens _____ at a time.

Ernest Hemingway in “The Sun Also Rises”: “So, how’d you go bankrupt?” ... “Two ways...Gradually and then suddenly.”

_____ your story before it changes you.

1. Warning Sign 1: You’re Not _____ the Battle

2 Samuel 11:1: In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

Skip Heitzig: The greatest battles happen when you’re bored, not when you’re busy.

2. Warning Sign 2: You’re in _____ Situations

2 Samuel 11:2: It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

If you’re prone to a particular sin, build a _____ around it.

Lecrae: People do not drift towards growth and discipline. We tend to drift towards complacency.

3. Warning Sign 3: You’re _____ the Lines

2 Samuel 11:3: And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

Craig Groeschel: If the grass seems greener on the other side, chances are it’s time to water your own grass.

Matthew 5:27-28: You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Men have a _____ ignition switch.

Once you push one line, the next one is easier to push.

Warning Sign 4: You’re _____ Up for Your Sins

2 Samuel 11:6-8: So David sent word to Joab, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and

how the people were doing and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.

The mind is a powerful muscle.

One of our temptations is to _____ the sin we commit.

Loving is not a feeling. Love is a _____.

Warnings Sign 5: You Do Something You Never _____ You Would Do

2 Samuel 11:14-15: In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die."

The enemy has a way of allowing your sinful actions to define you.

Your activity flows from your _____.

Warning Sign 6: You've Become _____ to Your Own Sinfulness

2 Samuel 11:23-25: The messenger said to David, "The men gained an advantage over us and came out against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, 'Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him."

Oftentimes, the closer you are to God, the _____ you feel.

Psalm 51: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

You cannot out-sin the grace of God.