

Besetting Sins and Noble Vessels

Besetting: constantly attacking or harassing

A besetting sin seems so hard to overcome. Our greatest temptations come from our besetting sins. These are also the sins that we sometimes despair of ever mastering. Yet when we do master them, we eat from the Tree of Life. We are rewarded with wonderful overflowing life when we put our besetting sin under our feet (Gen 4:7).

Our besetting sins drive us in one of two directions: to discouragement or to Messiah. A besetting sin might often come to you as an accusation. An accusation is not pure truth but rather a little truth mixed in with a destructive amount of falsehood.

For instance, your besetting sin might be that you easily *feel* rejected by others. Of course, anybody knows that it is not really in the heart of our brothers and sisters to reject us. But nevertheless, it *feels* so true.

Many times your besetting accusation will come to you when you are not expecting it. This is why we are being trained to be *warriors*. Not just taught, but trained. Training means being taught with authority — disciplined. We're all being disciplined to become overcomers. Overcomers are those who love Yahweh more than their own lives. At the end of the age, there will be both overcomers and defeated ones in the Body of Messiah. But it is our Father's heart that we would *all* be overcomers. Overcomers are those who judge themselves, those who are willing to suffer pain in their souls for a little while, as they master their besetment to be obedient. If we are going to sit on our Master's throne one day then we must first command our own spirit. If we don't take dominion over the different unclean spirits that come to us, how will we exercise rule over anything greater in the future? The rulers of the next age are being prepared right now in this age, even right here in Island Pond.

"Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit" (*Pr 25:28*).

There are many besetting sins. You may not have the same ones as your brother. One thing is for sure, though, your besetting sins will either "make you or break you." The valley of decision where we learn to overcome is the struggle against our besetting sin. Our Master even allows our besetting sins to be a training ground for us. We are learning to trust our Father, but we want our Father to be able to trust us too. This training that we're undergoing is not in vain but it is to form us into *Noble Vessels* — men and women that can be trusted with our Father's highest purpose (2 Tim 2:20-21). Trials come to test our faith. Fire is there to purify the good foundation that's been placed in us. "Blessed is a man who preserves under trial, for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Sovereign has promised to those who love Him" (Jms 1:12). Also there is *Pr 25:19* — "Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot is confidence in a faithless man in the day of trouble." Let's bend every effort, and be *diligent* to gain our Father's approval. 1 Tim 2:15 — If we cultivate faithfulness to Him in our days of trial, then He will know He can trust us under all kinds of pressure in the years to come. He will know our response to pressure, to attack. He will be able to predict our behavior.

Your besetting sin is your own personal yoke, your own *cross*. But as we judge ourselves and choose life instead of giving in, we eat from the Tree of Life and we give life to others as well. We will have to confess our besetting sins hundreds of times. "Gold is tested in the fire, and chosen men in the furnace of humiliation" (*Ecc 2:5*). But if we are open about them and bring them to the light, then their power in our life will be broken more and more. This is good news! Our besetting sins are not an endless well that we will never get to the bottom of. There is a Balm in Gilead. The mighty Spirit who lives within us is able to heal us. Greater is He who lives in us than he who is in the world. Violent men take the Kingdom by force! (*Mt 11:12*). We are weak little lambs in the flesh but learning to be fierce warriors in our *wills*. Remember, the *spiritual* worth of a man is his will.