

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

The topic of my sermon God willing will be breaking bad habits.

We all have personal weaknesses we struggle with
Areas of temptation where Satan tries to get us
A personal temptation such as:
Being honest
Anger
Gossiping
Subduing your eyes
Alcohol
Lack of confidence in God

The point is there are certain areas where the temptation will be higher and these areas we are more vulnerable to fall out of God's kingdom and into Satan's trap.

There was a strategy that the Germans used during World War II known as Blitzkrieg. At the time the Germans had smaller armies during battle. So what they would do is they would focus the majority of their energy at the weakest area on the opposing army.

Once they overcame the weakest area the rest of the battle was up for the taking

So the first step into overcoming any weakness is to identify where is it that I am most vulnerable.

Sometimes this is obvious for us and sometimes it is not so obvious
What helps to identify these areas is to figure out at what moments do you feel the most temptation to step out of God's kingdom.
Under what circumstances?
With what people?
Is it at work, with your friends, with your family?

We need to know what areas are our weaknesses not so we feel bad for ourselves, but so we know what we need to work on and when we need to be on guard.

We cannot fix what we don't know is not broken

Examine Yourself

[18:103] Say, "Shall I tell you who the worst losers are?"

[18:104] "They are the ones whose works in this life are totally astray, but they think that they are doing good."

[18:105] Such are the ones who disbelieved in the revelations of their Lord and in meeting Him. Therefore, their works are in vain; on the Day of Resurrection, they have no weight.

We are only as strong as our weakest link.

You can be kind, focused, patient, but if you are deliberately neglecting one key attribute from submitting 100% and being devoted 100% to God alone then Satan will exploit that one key aspect and then all your works will be in vain. That is why we have to uphold 100% of the scripture:

[4:44] Have you noted those who received a portion of the scripture, and how they choose to stray, and wish that you stray from the path?

What does society call someone who upholds all the federal laws, obey all the traffic laws, volunteers at a children's hospital, but robs houses? They are still a criminal.

Take the example of Adam and Eve. How many times did Satan need to dupe Adam for him to get evicted from Paradise? Satan only had to dupe Adam once.

But it is not to say that it is all over for us if we break a commandment. God has given us a life long chance to purify ourselves to rid our selves from sin and from Satan's trap, but we have to work hard to received God's recompense.

[90:4] We created the human being to work hard (to redeem himself).*

So unless we identify this weakness we will never know to fix it.

And it is a blessing from God that when we step out of God's kingdom we are reminded of our Lord.

Nothing Bad Comes From God

[4:79] Anything good that happens to you is from GOD, and anything bad that happens to you is from you. We have sent you as a messenger to the people,* and GOD suffices as witness.

*4:78 Bad things are consequences of our own deeds ([42:30](#), [64:11](#)), though God is the doer of everything ([8:17](#)). God created the fire to serve us, but you can decide to put your finger in it. We thus hurt ourselves. It is God's law that if you put your finger in the fire, it will hurt.

Take the example of the rare case of children who are born without the capacity to experience pain; such children do not survive for long, they have no means of discovering what can injure them, or what hurts them, no warning signals, and thus a minor cut can develop into a deadly infection, or a major illness can remain undetected until it is too late to fight it.

In this world we don't feel the direct repercussions when we step out of God's kingdom thus we can end up destroying our souls while we are unaware.

So once we see that we have this weakness the next step is to admit we have this weakness.

If I have a tendency to gossip
If I have a tendency to lose my patience
If I have a tendency to get upset or angry
If I have a tendency to complain

Let's not write off our weaknesses as no big deal.

If we don't admit we have this problem then we will never care or think to take the necessary actions to fix this problem.

Take the Example:

*Kill Your Ego**

[2:54] Recall that Moses said to his people, "O my people, you have wronged your souls by worshiping the calf. You must repent to your Creator. You shall kill your egos. This is better for you in the sight of your Creator." He did redeem you. He is the Redeemer, Most Merciful.

Imagine if Moses' people said listen Moses that whole calf thing that wasn't a big deal. So we messed up God will forgive us.

That is why in order to repent you have to first seek God's forgiveness.

If we don't admit we have a problem we will never seek God's forgiveness, and if we don't seek God's forgiveness we won't realize the damage we are doing to ourselves when we step out of God's kingdom and we won't be able to truly repent.

[11:3] "You shall seek your Lord's forgiveness, then repent to Him. He will then bless you generously for a predetermined period, and bestow His grace upon those who deserve it. If you turn away, then I fear for you the retribution of an awesome day."

*****REPENT*****

- 1) Examine ourselves
 - a. Locate Where are we weak
 - b. Where are we most tempted
- 2) Admit that this is a problem and that we need to take corrective measures to resolve this
- 3) Implore God

God knows that Satan's temptation can be very convincing to the majority of people

That is why God tells the believers to always seek refuge in God.

Chapter 112, 113, 114 (Absoluteness, Daybreak, The People) are like 911

[7:198] When you invite them to the guidance, they do not hear. And you see them looking at you, but they do not see.

[7:199] You shall resort to pardon, advocate tolerance, and disregard the ignorant.

[7:200] When the devil whispers to you any whisper, seek refuge in GOD; He is Hearer, Omniscient.

[7:201] Those who are righteous, whenever the devil approaches them with an idea, they remember, whereupon they become seers.

[7:202] Their brethren ceaselessly entice them to go astray.

[23:96] Therefore, counter their evil works with goodness; we are fully aware of their claims.

To Be Protected From Satan

[23:97] Say, "My Lord, I seek refuge in You from the whispers of the devils.

[23:98] "And I seek refuge in You, my Lord, lest they come near me."

Submitters

[41:33] Who can utter better words than one who invites to GOD, works righteousness, and says, "I am one of the submitters"?

[41:34] Not equal is the good response and the bad response. You shall resort to the nicest possible response. Thus, the one who used to be your enemy, may become your best friend.

[41:35] None can attain this except those who steadfastly persevere. None can attain this except those who are extremely fortunate.

When the Devil Entices You

[41:36] When the devil whispers an idea to you, you shall seek refuge in GOD. He is the Hearer, the Omniscient.

Do you see a pattern. God first encourages the believers to counter evil works with good works and then tells us to seek refuge in God. Because these are the times that we need God the most. These are the times when Satan is going to try his utmost to try to drive a wedge.

Satan has open range on all people "Except those among (God's worshipers who are devoted avsolutely to (Him) alone." 15:40, 38:83

So by imploring God and seeking refuge in God alone we can overcome the temptation, the weaknesses, the bad sinful habits.

If we truly care to overcome our weaknesses then we must implore God in advance. Don't wait and do it after all else fails.

Don't do it right before your final

Do it before you sign up for your class, before you start studying

If you know you are going to lose you patience when you are in traffic and you know traffic is worst after work. Implore God before you get in your car.

If you know Mondays are always busy at work then implore God on Sunday.

Pray before you start your day

Implore God before you leave home

When you wake up

Before you retire at night.

We can give all the lip service we want, but if we truly want God's approval and refuge implore ahead of time

[13:11] Shifts (of angels) take turns, staying with each one of you - they are in front of you and behind you. They stay with you, and guard you in accordance with GOD's commands. Thus, GOD does not change the condition of any people unless they

themselves make the decision to change. If GOD wills any hardship for any people, no force can stop it. For they have none beside Him as Lord and Master.

Don't wait till you are knocked down to implore, don't wait until you are depressed, implore God now.

The Believers

[3:191] They remember GOD* while standing, sitting, and on their sides, and they reflect upon the creation of the heavens and the earth: "Our Lord, You did not create all this in vain. Be You glorified. Save us from the retribution of Hell.

The Bad Weather Friends

[10:12] When adversity touches the human being, he implores us while lying down, or sitting, or standing up. But as soon as we relieve his adversity, he goes on as if he never implored us to relieve any hardship! The works of the transgressors are thus adorned in their eyes.

Jonah

[68:48] You shall steadfastly persevere in carrying out the commands of your Lord. **Do not be like (Jonah) who called from inside the fish.**

[68:49] If it were not for his Lord's grace, he would have been ejected into the desert as a sinner.

[68:50] But his Lord blessed him, and made him righteous.

The toughest part of this process is making the decision to change for the better

Then of course Satan will try his utmost to bring you back to his side, and this is the test.

So use the advice God gave to Adam.

[7:19] "As for you, Adam, dwell with your wife in Paradise, and eat therefrom as you please, **but do not approach this** one tree, lest you fall in sin."

God is telling us if you know you are weak in some situations and are going to fall victim to Satan's scheme then avoid them entirely if you can.

If you are tempted to drink

Stay out of places where you will be tempted to drink

If you are in situations where you may lose your temper. Leave. Implore God – grow your soul.

What about battles that take place in our own heads. Thinking badly of others, harboring suspicion or ego.

By thinking of the temptation it becomes that much more of our thoughts

And thoughts have a tendency to move toward what we spend our time thinking about

So we need to avoid temptation either physically or mentally. If you know you will be tempted refrain God will reward you – God will strengthen your heart – if you show you care more about God than about the temptation God will protect you from sin for being one of God's constituents.

Example of eagles.

When eagles are being pestered by crows. The eagle doesn't waste its energy fighting off the crows, what the eagle does is that he flies to an altitude the crows can't stand.

[6:125] Whomever GOD wills to guide, He renders his chest wide open to Submission. And whomever He wills to send astray, He renders his chest intolerant and straitened, like one who climbs towards the sky.* GOD thus places a curse upon those who refuse to believe.

What about situations you are provoked without forewarning?

Boiling point

If you knew that this was all a show would you be upset when you are experiencing the event? This life is an illusion, and at all times God has 100% control there is not an atom in the heavens or earth that is out of his control. So it is at these times that we will have to submit to our Lord and see if all our deeds were in vain or if they did truly grow and develop our souls.