

*“And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.” Hebrews 11:15 KJV*



Our instinct is to avoid or flee danger. Those working in dangerous environments are at first extremely cautious, but over time, they become familiar with the danger and are less cautious. For this reason much machinery requires two hands or two-step on/off switching for safety. Many high steel workers have neglected their safety harness, trusting their own ability, with fatal consequences! This is also true of many believers. A man who raised an anaconda from a young snake and in his later years they found him crushed to death by his “pet.” He forgot - a snake is always a snake! At first believers fear and abhor sin and flee to Christ for redemption, but over time familiar sin gets bigger and bigger until it eats them! *“For the wages of sin is death!”* We find ourselves only concerned with staying away from sin, but over time focus on sin lessens and we become complacent and even tolerant of it. An old man who lived on the mountain was hiring a carriage driver. He took three applicants up to a sharp bend in the steep road where it dropped off on one side hundreds of feet. He asked each in turn, “How close can you drive to the edge without going over?” The first replied, “About two feet.” The second said, “I could probably get within a foot.” The third hesitated and then said, “I’m not that good. I’d stay as close to the mountain as I could.” The old man exclaimed, “You’re hired!” He wanted to avoid the danger, not flirt with it! Our primary focus should not be on how much sin there is in our life, but on how much Christ is in our life! *“Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Looking unto Jesus; the Author and Finisher of our faith!”* Remember Lot’s wife? She was warned not to look back, and was turned into a pillar of salt because of one backwards glance. I need not be so mindful of the sin in and around me as I am of obeying God’s Word! Bright light reveals the tiniest imperfections. *“Faith cometh by...the Word of God. Let this mind be in you.”* You cannot say you have faith if you do not know and obey God’s Word! *“He that saith, ‘I know Him,’ and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him.”* We either obey through faith or disobey through unbelief. You will never reach east by going west! East and West are directions, not destinations. Repentance is obedience: obedience a direction! Don’t look where you’ve been: Look where you’re going!

Our sins should stay beyond our view,  
As we pursue the Way that’s true,  
We cannot pause or turn around,  
Or unto death we will be bound! ~CGP

When we encounter evil in thought or deed, we should immediately turn our thoughts to obeying God’s Word. Christ prayed for us, *“I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil...through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth.”* God’s Word is our only protection from evil!

*“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.” James 1:13-16 KJV*