

7 Things God Hates

Proverbs 6:16-19

Calvary Bible Church

February 9, 2020

Lesson Five: Feet that run to evil

And though we cannot wholly shut Satan out of our imaginations, we should be cautious that we do not willfully provide fuel for his flame; but entreat the Lord to set a watch upon our eyes and our ears, and to teach us to reject the first motions and the smallest appearance of evil. —John Newton

Opening Illustration: Have you ever been around a really hyper dog? No matter what the owner of the dog does, it seems that nothing can contain the raw energy and power of a hyper dog. Why are some dogs like this? Because that is their instinct. They are what they are and unless they are diligently trained, they can do nothing else.

Can people be this way? Can they function simply on unbridled instinct? Can they run to evil with an ease and a sense of nature that can sadden and amaze us? If we're honest, do we not find that we are just as prone to certain sins that it seems just as effortless and natural as a hyper dog?

I. Review/Introduction

A. *God hates:*

1. Haughty eyes
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that devise evil plans.

II. God hates feet that run to wickedness.

A. *Other occurrences of this in the Bible?*

1. **Proverbs 1:15-16** My son, do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path, ¹⁶ For their feet run to evil, And they hasten to shed blood.
2. **Isaiah 59:7** Their feet run to evil, And they hasten to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, Devastation and destruction are in their highways. [See Context]
3. **Romans 3:15** "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

B. *What is the main problem here?*

1. The main problem being addressed here is a rashness, a quickness to run to evil without properly thinking things through.
 - a. Obviously, however, this is not to say that sin is fine so long as you are slow about it.
 - b. The point here is that there is often an impulsive, hungry eagerness to evil that must be restrained in us if we are to please the Lord.
 - 1) **2 Peter 2:12** But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

III. Why do we struggle with feet that run rapidly to evil?

A. *Because we have a nature that craves sin. It is difficult for us to restrain that which comes from within ourselves.*

1. **Romans 3:15** "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, [See context]

B. *Because our fighting against sin requires strength and energy.*

1. Paul describes and acknowledges this inner conflict that comes with wanting to obey the law.
 - a. **Romans 7:15-20**
 - b. **Galatians 5:16-26**

IV. Why are fast feet so dangerous?

A. *We may rush to act without weighing the consequences!*

1. **Luke 14:28-35**

B. *We may rush to a wrong judgment:*

1. **Proverbs 18:13** He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.
2. **Proverbs 18:17** The first to plead his case seems right, Until another comes and examines him.

V. What are we to develop instead? What is our alternative? *Self-Control*

A. *What does the Bible say about self-control?*

1. It is a central aspect to our belief system and message.
 - a. Notice that self-control is a central aspect of the message Paul shares with an unbeliever!
 - 1) **Acts 24:24-25**
2. It is something that we must be mindful of, even when we are engaged in strategic times of deprivation.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 7:5** Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
3. It is necessary to achieve our goals.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 9:25** Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
 - b. We are instructed, then, to practice the same type of self-control that athletes must do to win.
4. It is a fruit of the Spirit
 - a. This tells us that self-control is not ultimately to be sought in the self, but in the Spirit. We understand that this virtue comes from Him.
 - 1) **Galatians 5:22-24**

VI. What can we do about this?

A. *We can recognize the danger of temptation and do what it takes to prevent it.*

1. **Ephesians 6:11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
2. **2 Corinthians 2:10-11** But one whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *I did it* for your sakes in the presence of Christ,¹¹ so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

B. *We can resist the temptation when it manifests.—We don't have to act this way!*

1. **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
2. **1 Peter 5:8-9** Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
3. **James 4:7** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

VII. Conclusion—*Sadly, sometimes your sin will win.*

A. We will never be perfect on this side of Heaven. However, if it must win, make its victory as hard-fought and difficult to attain as you can.

1. God loves our struggle against sin, and He loves us even when we lose.

If you find your lack of righteousness to be your sickness, it makes your soul an object of his compassion, and not an object of God's wrath. Here is the difference between the remaining sin of a saint, and the corruptions in the ungodly. When your children are sick, you love them as well as when they are healthy. —Jeremiah Burroughs