

#40

KILLER SINS

"I crave" - conclusion

A QUICK REMINDER:

The Nature of Salvation

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS
Salvation without Effort

"Make every **effort** to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to."

Luke 13:24 (NIV)

For this very reason, make every **effort** to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; [etc.] ...
... make every **effort** to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

2 Peter 1:5; 3:14b (NIV)

And an Awareness
THAT THE EFFORT (THE ABILITY AND THE SUCCESS)
IS FROM GOD.

For it is God who is producing in you both the desire and the ability to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:13 (ISV)

To NOT RELY on the SPIRIT would be totally foolish!

Are you so foolish? Although you began with the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by human effort?

Galatians 3:3 (NET)

We give GOD the credit
FOR OUR SALVATION,
AS WELL AS FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS.

It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or **effort**, but on God's mercy.

Romans 9:16 (NIV)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

THESE FACTS PROTECT US FROM TWO
TYPES OF FALSE TEACHERS:

- Those who teach that we must work to attain God's favor (or that good works in some way earn or bring us salvation).
- Those who teach that we can choose to live in sin and still be saved (or that we can be saved without any desire to pursue holiness).

**PART OF THE EFFORT ASSOCIATED WITH SALVATION
IS A WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT KILLER SINS.**

Just because we crave something...

That's NOT a good-enough reason for attaining it!

— If it's NOT GOOD, we must FIGHT it! —

WORLD

IF YOU WANT IT...
YOU SHOULD HAVE
IT!

JESUS-FOLLOWER

ONLY IF IT GLORIFIES
GOD AND IS AN
EXPRESSION OF LOVE
FOR GOD AND
NEIGHBOR!

SCHEDULE

PREVIOUS WEEKS: We learned about:

- ✓ THE SPECIFIC KILLER SIN, "I CRAVE."
- ✓ SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES about ALL Killer Sins.
- ✓ A VARIETY OF WAYS to FIGHT them.

TODAY: We wrap up our emphasis on "I CRAVE."

- ✓ A REVIEW, focusing on ways to fight "I CRAVE" and other killer sins.



- ✓ You must first be willing to
RECOGNIZE the CRAVE for what it is.

*It may be 1) good, 2) evil, or
3) determined by other factors.*



- ✓ ALWAYS Sinful and evil – this is a killer sin.
- ✓ Other factors (the "context") determine if it is good or evil.
- ✓ ALWAYS Righteous and good – this is NOT a sin.

WARNING: "NEUTRAL" CRAVINGS DON'T STAY NEUTRAL.
THEY BECOME EITHER GOOD OR EVIL.



Anything that is desired more than
"following Jesus" becomes an EVIL craving.

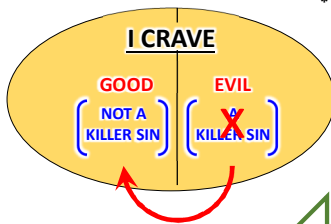


HAPPINESS	ACTIVITIES	CAR	ENTERTAINMENT
CAREER	HEALTH	FOOD	SECURITY
BUSY-NESS	MONEY	MARRIAGE	ATTENTION
FREE TIME	HOUSE	SPORTS	
HOBBIES	FANCY CLOTHES	GOOD REPUTATION	

(Many church-going fakes put things such as these ahead of following Jesus.)

✓ **REPLACE it: Change your focus to a GOOD craving.***

* (Or anything good!)



But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, ...

Matthew 6:33a (ESV)

If this is your #1 craving, there are many other good cravings you can also pursue.

THIS "REPLACEMENT" CONCEPT APPLIES TO ANY TYPE OF SIN:
We are to "take off" the old (sinful) and "put on" the new (righteous).

The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore **lay aside** the deeds of darkness and **put on** the armor of light.

Romans 13:12b (NASB)

You were taught, ... to **put off** your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ...

... and to **put on** the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephes. 4:22, 24 (NIV)

Do not lie to each other, since you have **taken off** your old self with its practices and have **put on** the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Col. 3:9b-10 (NIV)

✓ If it's a "neutral" crave gone bad, **REDIRECT** it, if possible.

If it's not done for God's glory, it is sin!
Even good cravings, not done for God's glory, are sin.

Whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, you must do **all** for the glory of God.

1 Cor. 10:31 (NLT)

Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Col. 3:17 (GW)

2. USING YOUR MIND

CHANGING YOUR FOCUS

✓ **Focus on God's Word – think about it and memorize it.**

And after fasting forty days and forty nights, [Jesus] was hungry.

And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

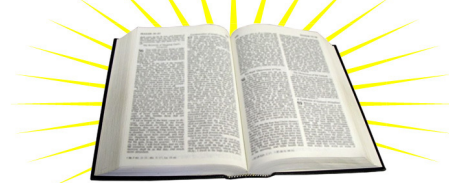
But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:2-4 (ESV)

THIS IS HOW JESUS OVERCAME CRAVINGS!

- Being hungry is a neutral craving.
- The devil turned it into a sinful craving.
- Jesus used Scripture to overcome the sinful craving.

THERE IS AN ENTIRE BIBLE JUST WAITING FOR YOU, TO PROVIDE HELPS AND IDEAS FOR OVERCOMING KILLER SINS!



But it takes a willingness to find out what it says.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET THE "RENEWED" MIND

that is a necessary part of salvation and spiritual growth.

... be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2b (NASB)

Once you were ... enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. / [You] have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Col. 1:21; 3:10 (NIV)

You were taught ... to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ...

Ephes. 4:22a, 23 (NIV)

WE REPEAT:

It takes a willingness to find out what it says.

✓ Focus on Jesus and what he did for you.

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Cor. 5:14-15 (NIV)

THIS APPLIES TO ALL WHO ARE SAVED – THOSE WHO NOW LIVE FOR JESUS.

THIS REFERS TO OUR UNION WITH CHRIST!

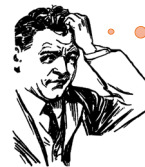
- Consider also the power of the Holy Spirit, which is part of living united with Christ.

✓ Preplan some other things to focus your attention on!

In addition to the Bible, God's given you a whole world of things to think about and to do!

... whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

Philip. 4:8 (NIV)



WHAT SHOULD I THINK ABOUT?

IF NECESSARY, WRITE DOWN SOME SUGGESTIONS ON PAPER!

IF IT IS...

- true
- noble
- right
- pure
- lovely
- admirable

For that matter, ANYTHING that is ...

- excellent
- praiseworthy

THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS!

✓ Some specific character traits to focus on.

These will help in overcoming "I CRAVE," as well as several other types of Killer Sins.

- **CONTROL / SELF CONTROL** – relevant for fighting many types of killer sins.
- **PURITY / CHASTITY** – especially if the craving involves sexual sin.
- **LOVE** for God and Neighbor – and how it is the opposite of sinful craving (especially sexual sin/lust).

EXAMPLE: SELF-CONTROL

Scripture has much to say about self-control. For instance:

- It will be present where the Spirit is present (i.e., in saved people).
- God, because of his grace (kindness), will teach us self-control.
- At the same time, we have a moral obligation to learn (and practice) it.

But the fruit of the Spirit is ... self-control; ...

From Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)

For the grace of God ... teaches us ... to live self-controlled, ... lives ...

From Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

... make every effort to add to your faith ... self-control ...

From 2 Peter 1:5-6 (NIV)

EXAMPLE: PURITY (moral cleanness)

Scripture has much to say about purity. For instance:

- It is the obligation and goal of people who have the hope of eternal salvation.
- We need God's help to become pure (morally clean).
- At the same time, we have a moral obligation to learn (and practice) purity.

So all people who have this confidence in Christ keep themselves pure, as Christ is pure.

1 John 3:3 (GW)

Create in me a clean heart, O God; ...

Psalms 51:10 (KJV)

... you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth.

1 Peter 1:22b (GW)

3. A WARNING

The Nature of the EFFORT

- ✓ Remember that it takes effort.
The lazy will not be saved.

Then, instead of being lazy, you will imitate those who are inheriting the promises through faith and patience.

Hebrews 6:12 (ISV)

THE SAVED: They use the power God has given them.

THE LAZY: Since they are unwilling to use God's power, he doesn't waste it on them.

- **EVERY TIME WE SIN:** It's us doing it (our "flesh" or sinful nature/habits/tendencies).
- **EVERY TIME WE DO GENUINE GOOD:** It's God's power displayed in us. (We can't take credit and boast about it.)



GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE POWER



to overcome killer sins and to live a holy life.

THIS WEEK
(and forever)

DO IT!

Use the power and overcome the sin!

Credits (1)

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