

THE DANGER OF PASSIVITY

INTRODUCTION:

1. In our lives as Christians, we must be active – whether standing and fighting against the enemy or developing and maturing as a child of God.
2. We must beware the danger of passivity.

I. IN TEMPTATION

- A. Example: *Adam* (Genesis 3:1-6)
 1. Adam was present at the temptation, for he was “with her.”
 2. Adam was not deceived by the serpent (1 Tim. 2:14).
 3. Yet, he did nothing to stop his wife and willfully partook of the forbidden fruit himself.
- B. When tempted, we must be active.
 1. In preparation
 - a. Knowing it will come (1 Cor. 10:13)
 - b. Knowing from whence it comes (James 1:13, 17)
 - c. Knowing how it will come (1 John 2:15-16; Matt. 4:1-11)
 - d. Then, avoiding as much as we can
 - e. Yet, clothing ourselves with armor (Eph. 6:13ff)
 2. In faith (Ephesians 6:10; 1 John 4:4)
 3. In resistance (James 1:14-16; 4:7-10)
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Study
 - c. Fellowship
 - d. Fighting (Eph. 6:11-12; Lk. 13:24; 1 Cor. 9:24-27)
 4. In escape (1 Tim. 6:11; Gen. 39:7-12; 1 Cor. 10:13)
- C. In temptation, to be passive is to be defeated.

II. IN GROWTH

- A. Example: *Hebrew Christians* (Hebrews 5:11-14)
 1. The fault was their own, for they had become lazy.
 - a. The word “dull” means, “sluggish, slow, lazy, slothful.”
 - b. They were lazy in their hearing; thus, they had not grown.
 2. They had been Christians long enough to be able to understand and teach others.
 3. They were malnourished for they were content to remain in their immaturity – drinking milk instead of eating meat.
 4. They were unskilled in the word for they lacked experience in using it.
 5. They were weak for they failed to exercise spiritually (1 Tim. 4:7).
- B. The danger of passivity in growth is that we will drift away from truth and salvation (Hebrews 2:1-4; 12:5; Matthew 16:8-9; Mark 8:18).
- C. We must be active in acquiring Bible knowledge.
- D. We must be active in strengthening our faith.
- E. We must be active in developing Christian character.

III. IN WORK

- A. Example: *Israel in the Wilderness* (Numbers 13:30 – 14:4, 22-24)
- B. Example: *The Thessalonians* (2 Thessalonians 3:7-15)
- C. Example: *The Laodiceans* (Revelation 3:14-22)