



Week of January 25, 2010

## Tinsel on the Track

When I was a boy my parents gave my brothers and me an electric train for Christmas. I still remember the feelings of anticipation as the three of us set up the tracks. Once everything was ready to go we plugged the transformer into the wall socket and turned the switch to start the train. Nothing happened! We checked all of the wires and double-checked the power supply, but the train wouldn't move! After a half-hour of frantic attempts to fix the problem, my Dad discovered that a piece of tinsel had fallen across the tracks. The electric power was short-circuited by tinsel on the track!

If you are not experiencing God's power in your life, it may be that you, too, have "tinsel" on your track. Is there sin in your life that is short-circuiting the Spirit's power? Are you meeting with God regularly and throughout the day? Have you been obedient to some spiritual leading in your life? Have you surrendered your SELF to Him in every area? Check for "tinsel on the track" and take steps to remove it so that the power flows freely once again.

The *Seven Deadly Sins* are not recorded in the Bible as a formal list. However, there's no doubt that the Bible warns against each of these transgressions in various passages. Historians trace the origin of the *Seven Deadly Sins* back at least to the time of Pope St. Gregory the Great (590-604).

Listed below are the "*Seven Deadly Sins*." Put them in rank order from 1 (*most deadly*) to 7 (*least deadly*) in terms of their influence on your life.

- \_\_\_ **Anger**     *"For man's anger does not bring about the righteous life God desires." James 1:20*
- \_\_\_ **Envy**     *"For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every evil practice." James 3:16*
- \_\_\_ **Gluttony**   *"Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is their shame ..." Philippians 3:19*
- \_\_\_ **Greed**     *"... Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." Luke 12:15*
- \_\_\_ **Lust**     *"That each of you should learn to control his own body, not in passionate lust like the heathen do who do not know God." 1 Thessalonians 4:4,5*

\_\_\_ **Pride**     “... *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*” *James 4:5*

\_\_\_ **Sloth**     “*A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.*” *Proverbs 20:4*

How do your top three *deadly sins* serve as barriers in your life?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Go before God and confess your top three *deadly sins*. Yield control of your life back to Him. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). Pray through this verse sentence by sentence claiming by faith God’s promises.

*“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”* (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Now ask God to show you the “way of escape” for each of your top 3 *deadly sins*.” Listen for His still, small voice and write down in the space below what He has told you.

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