



How to Rise Above Unsatisfying Living

Five reasons we stay stuck in sin— and how to rise above!

First, we get a cheap _____ from sin.

Proverbs 10:23 (GNT), "It is foolish to enjoy doing wrong. Intelligent people take pleasure in wisdom."

Solution: Pray for the joy of the Lord, because "the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8:10, NIV).

Second, we won't _____ what we've done as sin.

Proverbs 30:20 (GNT), "This is how an unfaithful wife acts: she commits adultery, takes a bath, and says, 'But I haven't done anything wrong!'"

Solution: Take a searching and fearless moral inventory of yourself. "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9, NIV).

Third, we measure ourselves by _____.

Proverbs 30:12 (NASB), "There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, yet is not washed from his filthiness."

Solution: Measure yourself up against Jesus who left you "an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21, NIV).

Fourth, we won't _____ our sin.

Proverbs 14:9 (NIV), "Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright."

Solution: Fix your mistakes.

Fifth, we won't _____ our sin.

Proverbs 13:9 (GNT), "Stupid people refuse to turn away from evil. "

Proverbs 26:11 (GNT), "A fool doing some stupid thing a second time is like a dog going back to its vomit"

Solution: Putt your sins behind you, because "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death" (2 Corinthians 7:10, NIV).

John 1:1-5 (NIV)

"Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem....Now there is in Jerusalem...a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda....Here a great number of disabled people used to lie....One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, 'Do you want to get well?'"