

Angie's Marriage Column – February 27, 2008

My Sin is lying to Husband about Finances – Can You Help!?

Marriage question: I am in a marriage that is on the brink of divorce. I have been a slave to sin for over ten years now and can't break free. I have "phases" where everything seems to be great and then like second nature, it happens again. My sin is lying to my husband about finances (I've gotten us into debt with credit cards, personal loans, cash advances) and I also have taken money from my children's savings accounts to get groceries or for just frivolous spending. I have a problem with money too and I am tired of living in its control. I want and desire to be the Christian wife my husband wants and needs, and more importantly, the wife God commands me to be. Can you help? We are in debt, struggle from week to week and can't afford counseling. God bless you for your website. You've given me a glimmer of hope!

Guidance: *“Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness”.*
(Psalm 119:36)

We have to ask God to give us His understanding into the His marvelous ways so we will not be in want – so we won't feel we need to have stuff to feel good about our life and ourselves. As with any sin, we need to repent of our sin and ask Christ to help us in our erring ways. As you have said yourself, you have become a slave to this sin. You can break free from this weakness by humbling yourself to Christ and asking Him for the understanding you need.

Your sin is not only lying to your husband but also allowing selfish desires to take a precedent over your life. Debt is the grease of covetousness – it is like oiling the temptation. The temptation to spend what we don't have and to consume more than we need is what keeps us in debt and it causes all kinds of other conflicts within the family unit. **It is a vicious cycle of temptation until we finally allow ourselves to give up control and allow God to give us the contentment and peace we need.** Once we have our needs met through God we don't need money and stuff to make us feel good anymore.

Frivolous spending and buying expensive things that put us into debt is not just a daily temptation but also a form of addiction. We want to feel good inside and when we buy stuff it gives us a “feel good” enjoyment, but it is only temporary. What is making us not feel good and the need to spend money and buy stuff is something else that is bothering us within ourselves, which means we need inner healing from God.

It is like the food addict who cannot stop eating, or the gambler who cannot stop gambling, or the spendthrift, or the alcoholic who can't stop drinking -- It's all addiction. It is addiction because we have a compulsion to think we need it for survival. It is our security blanket - our happiness - our treasure. Or is it??? **the truth is you don't really need those things for happiness and pleasure but most of us don't know that because we have not yet accepted Christ in our life** - we're still following our own path and understanding, and we are trapped. What we need to do is GIVE IT UP, follow Christ and God's understanding. That's what we need to do.

You have to be willing to give up spending money that you simply do not have and one way to do that is first, take care of your debts. Pay all the people, institutions, and companies you own monies too, and then stop using credit cards! Get rid of them! If the cash is not in your pocket, don't buy it, it is as simple as that.

You're probably thinking how can I buy a home and a car without credit? Well, with a little bit of due diligence and faith in God you can do it too; please see the articles at the bottom of this column for more on that. Understand this: God wants you to have nice things and to enjoy them too, but He wants you to love and need Him more than the things you have.

We must stop and take notice that as believers where our treasures really are. If we are Christians as we claim to be, then why are our treasures in worldly things? You see, it is a priority thing.

As Christ Ones our first and foremost priority should be loving God and doing His will, and this is where we err and get ourselves into debt in the first place. We do not have our priorities in the proper place. If we base our life upon worldly things we will surely believe those things are a part of who we are as people. But when you base your life upon God's kingdom,

you will find that the “need” to have stuff and to spend money is simply NOT a temptation any more.

“Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or, wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek.) For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:31-33)

Your marriage can definitely be restored! You can repent for the things you have done in your time of weakness and ask God to bring you strength and faith to deal with this battle you have with money.

Talk with your husband and let him know that you want to work on the problems and fix them, and that you want to work on restoring the marriage by doing whatever it takes. Pay your children back the money that was spent. When you are wrangling over spending money you do not have, or the desire to buy something you do not need, ask Christ to feed you and give you the contentment to not give in. Believe with all of your heart and mind that God will help you in your temptations with money because He will!

I suggest that you make out a weekly or monthly budget also, and have this budget in the open where everyone can see it. Let everyone in the house see what it takes to live day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month, and then YOU show accountability by sticking to that budget.

This will also help anyone who has trust issues with you to see once again that you can be trusted. You can do this! Many times we struggle with money and paying bills because we don't have a money management system written down on paper. Once we write down all monies coming in and expenses going out, we can better prepare ourselves for each expense when it comes up because we have made a provision for it.

“Own no man anything, but to love one another, for he that loveth one another fulfilled the law.” (Romans 13:8)

Article Resources:

Where Do Your Treasures Lie?

<http://www.heavenministries.com/articles/wheredoyourtresureslie.htm>

Keeping Up With The Joneses

<http://www.heavenministries.com/articles/keepingupwiththejoneses.htm>

Bickering Over Money

<http://www.heavenministries.com/articles/NewArticlesS08/bickeringovermoneycopyright.htm>

Own No Man Anything

<http://www.heavenministries.com/articles/NewArticlesS08/owenomananything.htm>

Until next Wednesday, May God bless you for His glory in His kingdom!
Angie and Frank

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