



Eliot Spitzer, a graduate of Princeton and Harvard law school, joined the Manhattan district attorney's office two years after graduating with his Juris Doctor degree to pursue and prosecute those involved in organized crime. In 1992 Eliot launched an investigation that brought down the Gambino family's involvement in organized crime. In 1998 Eliot was elected as the New York State Attorney General. In 2006 Eliot was elected Governor of New York. On March 12, 2008 Eliot Spitzer resigns as Governor citing "private failings".

This seems so anticlimactic. A young aspiring successful attorney who was at the top of his career suddenly resigns as governor. Why? Because of his alleged involvement in a prostitution ring that was under investigation by the Federal government and if convicted, Eliot could face prison time.

Why would a governor who has sworn to uphold the law get involved in such alleged illegal activity?

The Bible tells us in James 1:14-15, “But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lusts, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Every person has a besetting sin that must be kept in check or it will destroy the person’s reputation, credibility and everything that is most valuable in life. Our sins may be classified as “private failings” as Eliot indicated in his resignation letter, but our sins never result in private consequences because everything we do affects others. In Eliot’s case it affects his wife, his daughters, and the entire State of New York.

How can we conquer the sin nature and live a life free from the consequences of “private failings”? The Apostle Paul gives us the key to living a victorious Christian life.

Paul writes in II Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”. Once we confess our sins and receive Christ as our Savior by faith, we become a new person because we receive a new nature, the spiritual nature. We still have the old sin nature but it can be kept in check as we submit to the Holy Spirit.

Paul gives us the formula for successful Christian living in Romans chapter six. On the negative side of the ledger the Bible says, “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness”. Do not permit our eyes to look and lust, do not permit our ears to listen to gossip and vile language, and do not permit our tongues to say wicked and unkind things. This requires an act of the will. It requires us to submit to the will of God.

On the positive side of the ledger there are four biblical principles that the believer must implement in their lives to guarantee victory over the sin nature. 1) “But yield (present) yourselves unto God”. It

is only as we give in to God and present our lives to God that we receive the victory. We must be totally surrendered to His will by yielding to the leading of the Holy Spirit. 2) We must take hold of Gods word and appropriate His promises to our lives, then we can realize the promise of Romans 6:14, “For sin shall not have dominion over you”. This is Gods promise. The believer is a new person with a new nature and we no longer have to be dominated by our sin nature, but we can have dominion over the sin nature by taking hold of Gods word and yielding to the Holy Spirit. 3) Continuing victory depends upon the abundant supply of Gods grace. It is available to all believers who will run boldly to the “throne of Grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”. We must run to God and surrender our will to his will and Yield to Him. We must present ourselves to Him. 4) The fourth principle involves obedience to God. “To whom ye yield yourselves to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness”. It is as we obey God that we open the door for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to give us victory over our old nemesis, the sin nature.

There is no need to allow “private failings” to hurt our reputation, our family, our marriage and destroy everything that is worth living for because Christ came to liberate us from the power of sin. We must simply appropriate to our lives the promises of God by willingly yielding and obeying the Word of God.

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