

How to Get Out of Your Own Way Part 4

We all have made mistakes. No one is perfect. There are many areas of life we need wisdom; relationships, finances, our careers. These areas are hard enough to deal with without being the one causing the problems. But we've all done it. To better use our energy, focus, and resources let's look at ways to eliminate "us" as the source of problems. To deal with them we must first identify them. Here are some more ways we get in our own way.

1. **We transfer the pain of our past into our future.** When Gideon was told he was a mighty man of valor and that God was with him he immediately began whining and complaining. He recounted his low place in society and the horrible past Israel had been enduring; **Judges 6:11-13**. He painted his future with the pain of his past. We've heard it a million times; God has a plan for your life. It's true. But Satan does too. You could say he has a destiny laid out for you. You may be looking at your past record of pain and judging your future by it. **Example** – I did this myself. At an early age I came to believe strongly that my parents marriage was doomed. Year after year it got worse and worse and this began to bleed over until doom and gloom became a core belief in my heart. I literally believed, **nothing good last and everything comes to ruin**. When they divorced it only seemed to confirm my belief. I continually sabotaged my own marriage almost to the point of ruin. **Example** – I heard recently the story of a man whose family was plagued by men who died before they turned 50; sons, cousins, dads, brothers. So one brother **said continually; "I will never make it to 50."** He became a believer and learned about faith but this left-over core belief from the past stayed tucked inside his heart. At age 49 he became sick and even though he prayed, his family prayed, and he confessed all the right things it came out at his funeral that he had consistently and firmly declared his whole life; **"I will never make it to 50."** People who have suffered divorce or have been hurt by anyone can transfer the pain caused by that incident onto everyone and everything in their future. I had to seek counseling and thank God my pastor saw what I was doing. Through deliberate effort and prayer that core belief that was like a "stinger" left by a wasp or bee was removed from my soul. The Holy Spirit can show you where you may have picked on and bought into a

destiny that God never designed for you. Remember faith is the evidence of things, “hoped for.” Faith can go out into your future and frame a new world. David said, “Goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.”

- 2. We fail to take authority.** Some people get weary from the fight. But the Christian life is an upstream journey in a downstream world. Every day we wake up with have to contend with a system that is by design against us. Our own flesh and mind have to be subdued everyday to submit to God’s Word and God’s Holy Spirit. In most cases we get in our own way by things we do. In other cases we hinder ourselves by what we fail to do. Bad attitudes, thought patterns and temptations are allowed to hang around. Think about this; the Bible said Eve was deceived by the serpent and lays the responsibility for all transgression on Adam. But what did Adam do that was so horrible? The answer; Nothing. His sin was that was allowing something to continue that God had given him authority to stop. I’m convinced because Eve was deceived if he had stepped up and said, “Hang on Eve, we are not going to doubt God and His goodness. Listen here snake, get out of this garden and don’t you ever speak to my wife again”; things would have been different. He simply failed to take a stand. God put Adam and Eve in the garden and gave them dominion over ALL the work of His hands, **Genesis 1:28**. Many times we are wanting God to rule over what He told us to rule over namely, our minds, our bodies, this world’s system, and demons. The Holy Spirit has been sent to be our helper not our doer. If we don’t take hold of the problem He has nothing to take hold to help us.
- 3. We overlook little things.** When we stop and think about miracles in the Bible, we tend to focus on the outcome. The Bible is full of dramatic things God did that defy all odds. But try to remember what He used to do those great dramatic miracles. Moses lifted up a stick and parted the Red Sea. The widow woman made a cake for the prophet Elijah. David slew Goliath with a sling and a stone. Jesus used two fish and five loaves to feed a multitude. He used mud and spit to heal a blind man. God uses our faithfulness in little things to make us ruler over much. Never discount obedience in the little things. It’s the little things that prepare us for the big things. **Luke 16:10 – He who is faithful in what is least is**

faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.