

# Slam the Door!



*“Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked Cain.  
“Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if  
you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is*

***right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”***

***The Lord | Genesis 4:6-7 (NLT)***

Could you be slipping into a trap? I found myself losing my footing at the edge of one... much like the one Cain fell into. Recall the enemy's top goal is to separate us from God. His traps are designed to do just that, while at the same time make doing wrong feel incredibly right. He is the great deceiver!

Pride is an open door for him...

Cain's pride was hurt. Ensuing jealousy led to anger, putting him on the slippery slope... Wanting the best for Cain, the Lord shouted "Watch out!" yet Cain's gaze had already shifted away. Killing Abel began to feel right... Cain fell in.

*"My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues me from the traps of my enemies." King David (Psalm 25:15)*

Likewise, my pride, bruised by rejection, led me to become angry to the point that bitterness began to grow.

*"Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many." Hebrews 12:15*

The Lord shouted, "Watch out!" and had me taste. Yuck! A dreadful memory revisited; bitterness nearly killed me several years ago, literally. Like Cain, I was preparing to lash out. In the eleventh hour, the Lord got my attention and I shifted my gaze back to him. Phew!

***Reflect: Have I tasted bitterness? How did it affect me?***

I've come to realize that when I taste bitterness the Lord is seeking to crush my pride. I'm reminded – it's more about what God is doing in me than what I am doing to help the world (I'm a slow learner!)

*"Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." The Apostle Paul (Philippians 2:12-13)*

Bitterness is the taste of disobedience long festered; displeasing to the Lord, harmful to yourself and everyone in your sphere... a fruit of pride.

*"For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world." The Apostle John (1 John 2:16)*

Pride is a door that opens us to the offerings of the world... just outside it crouches sin, ready to pounce, eager to control. Shouldn't a loving Lord teach us, as painful as the lesson may be, not to open it?

**Consider: The Lord teaches me to become the master over the door of pride.**

As the Lord's command to Cain instructs, we are to subdue sin and be its master. Can we do this without learning to keep this door shut?

*"Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin." The Apostle Paul (Romans 6:12)*

Legally we've been freed... praise the Lord! Sin is no longer our master, but as creatures of habit, we're used to living under its control. Paul says "Don't give in!" We must learn to slam the door of pride, be humble, lest sin enter... but how? How do we reset our gaze on God and escape the trap?

*"The one thing I ask of the Lord — the thing I seek most — is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple." King David (Psalm 27:4)*

David expresses his #1 desire. (It's mine too... how about you?) As I read this, the Lord raised this question: "How is allowing anger and bitterness to form helpful in this?"

My gaze was immediately reset; the door of pride slammed shut.

**Imagine: Advancing my Mission fosters greater opportunities to**

## **learn humility.**

Seeking to advance your Mission exposes your pride in ways like no other. Required vulnerability pushes you out of your comfort zone, leading you to drop worldly things, cravings, achievements, possessions... even good things, in favor of steps of faith. How else could you please him?

*“And it is impossible to please God without faith.” Hebrews 11:6*

Perhaps greatest of all, advancing your Mission leads to deep, transformative conversation with the Lord, exposing you to his piercing questions about what is most important. Humble yourself, release your sin and allow him to redirect your gaze back to him. It's during these deeply intimate times that he will teach you to...

### **Slam the Door!**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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#### **Coach's Questions**

- How have I allowed my pride to expose me to sin? What trap is the enemy laying in my path? What anger is festering within me?
- What is my #1 desire?
- How is allowing myself to be angry and vengeful helpful in this?

# Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

## Reset My Gaze.

*“For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”*

*The Apostle Paul | Romans 8:6-8 (ESV)*



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