

### III. HOW CAN WE DEFINITELY RENOUNCE AND RID OURSELVES OF BESETTING SINS?

If besetting sins are harassing, habitual, addictive, compelling sins, then it would seem that the exhortation to renounce and rid ourselves of them presents us with a formidable task.

Accordingly, I believe we need to ask ourselves two questions, and the first of these is:

#### A. Do we have sufficient power to overcome besetting sins?

Let me suggest some leading thoughts:

1. Does God tell us that we are to say "No" to certain kinds of thoughts, desires, attitudes, actions, and behaviors in our lives? If so, they are sin!

The point is not whether I think they are sin, but whether God says they are!

But what does God view as sin, to be renounced and put away?

To answer this question, we could run through a whole catalog of sins in the Bible, but in this context I think such a procedure is neither necessary or feasible, and for two good reasons.

First, If you are plagued with a besetting sin, you already know what it is. You have struggled with it, been tripped up by it, been convicted about it, confessed it, and committed it again and again. The Spirit of God has told you about it through His Word.

Second, if you are unaware of any besetting sin in your life, simply enumerating obvious sins would not be useful. Uncovering subtle sins might be helpful, but that would require looking at a number of passages in detail, a procedure for which we simply don't have time in this message.

2. If God says "No" to certain sins, should I say "No" to these besetting sins? Do I have an obligation to renounce them?