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Praise the Lord, Ladies! Praise Him for His wonderful works and praise Him just for being GOD!

I have been getting some pretty persistent mail about the lack of newsletters. I am so sorry for being negligent, and ask you please to forgive me! I don't have a real excuse other than supreme busy-ness—both locally and with traveling ministry. Now I am in the middle of another new book, which is consuming all my time as I race against a deadline. I thought I would share a few excerpts from that book with you. MAXIMUM VICTORY is based on a series of classes I am currently teaching at [The Rock Church](#) here in Sacramento, CA. There has been such an impact on people's lives, that it was so natural for a book to follow. I would like to share some excerpts from the classes and upcoming book with you. To help me catch up with my delinquent Newsletters, I am sharing these excerpts with you now. You should be receiving three separate newsletters from this mailing. Thank you SO much for your patience with me.

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### **The Besetting Sin**

*Hebrews 12:1 mentions besetting sin. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."*

What is this sin? The Bible does not spell it out for us. My opinion is that could be just about anything. I believe that this sin could be whatever it is at this particular time in your life that keeps tripping you up. It can be different things for different people, and different sins at different times. Webster defines besetting as "constantly harassing or attacking." From that we see that it is a continuing thing, and contains much intensity.

When we first come to the Lord, we may have been delivered from something very destructive, such as alcohol. Maybe in the early days of our walk with God, we might be tempted to have a drink. But the longer we live for God and the more we grow in grace and in our relationship with Jesus, the further that kind of thought is from us. That particular sin becomes one that could not easily beset us. We have outgrown it. We have grown closer to the Lord, but at one time that could have been our besetting sin. Today, perhaps it is a more subtle sin, such as pride or envy. It can change with people, and also change with time. Lay aside every weight, and lay aside that sin. That is what we have to learn to do because we are allowing too much sin in our lives.

Covetous thoughts can be that sin. What about somebody coming in with a new car and you have that old rattletrap that won't even make it out of the parking lot, and you start having thoughts about that person. You begin to think dreadful, covetous things. It is so easy to get into this because it is taking place in the secret, dark corners of your mind. Nobody can see

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it, nobody knows it—but God. That is sin, because the Bible says that thou shall not covet. Here you are doing it. We learn to think that we don't have sin in our lives because we don't commit adultery. We don't steal. We don't do those big things. We begin to think like that, when all along there is hidden sin in our hearts. We can be so overcome with unforgiveness, prayerlessness, and jealousy, that they could become besetting sins. Whatever sin is in our lives, we want to get it all out.

Sin goes so much deeper than mere individual actions. Let me tell you why. Sin can become entwined with our very nature so that it actually becomes our disposition. Have you ever met a grump? No matter what you do, they are going to grumble, murmur and gripe. That is their nature, their disposition. That is how they are. They say, well, this is just how I am. You just have to accept me the way I am. It is my disposition. Well, that is more true than we might like to think.

Let's look at some definitions: Webster defines nature as: "The essential character of a thing; quality or qualities that make something what it is; essence, inborn character; innate disposition; inherent tendencies of a person." Webster defines Disposition as: "One's customary frame of mind; one's nature or temperament."

### **The Example of Anger**

Take anger, for example. We know it can very definitely be a sin. We think of anger as sin, but when it is done habitually, it becomes part of a person's disposition. The sin of anger has become so entangled with a man's soul. That is why it is so hard to shake these kinds of sins. If we just went out and committed one lustful act, and never did it before and never did it since, that would not become intertwining. It would not become part of our nature and disposition. But whenever we begin to do something over and over again, it first becomes a habit. Then eventually it becomes such a part of us that it is part of our character. It becomes our deposition because we sin so much.

The sinner does not *become* the sin. This does not contradict our injunction to "Love the sinner but hate the sin." If we took our glass again, and filled it with clean, clear liquid from the tap, it would be water. If we added a drop of beet juice to it, it would still be water—howbeit, colored water. The water has not ceased being water; it has not become a beet.

( © From upcoming new book by Sister Doty, MAXIMUM VICTORY, to be released late summer 2001.)

God bless you,  
Your friend,  
Lynda Allison Doty

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