PRESUMPTUOUS SINS



by Evangelist Norman R. Stevens

PRESUMPTUOUS SINS

Please open your Bibles to Psalm one hundred thirty-nine and verse twenty-three. I would like to preach a message entitled "Presumptuous Sins."

We are going to notice two things about presumptuous sins. Number one, what are presumptuous sins? Then Number two, what can you do about presumptuous sins?

Do you want to experience true revival in your life today? Then you must not be under the dominion, under the controlling power, under the rule and reign, of your old sin nature so that you sin presumptuously against the Lord. In Psalm 139:23, the Bible says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

By way of introduction, let me say this: all sin is ugly in God's sight, whether it is the sin of abortion, adultery, cheating, lying, steeling, rape, murder, bitterness, anger, worry, prayerlessness, etc., etc., etc. All sin is ugly in the sight of God Almighty. However, I have come to believe that the sin of presumption is one of the ugliest sins in God's sight. But you say, "Preacher! Why do you believe that the sin of presumption is one of the ugliest sins in God's sight?" I believe that the sin of presumption is one of the ugliest sins in God's sight because it is deliberate disobedience toward God. On the part of the child of God, it is being disobedient toward God in a willful fashion. The child of God knows. He knows what the Bible says about certain sins in his life. He knows what the Bible teaches about certain sins in his life, but he thinks God is going to make an exception in his case.

Please notice, number one, "What are presumptuous sins?" They are sins that a person commits, thinking that surely nothing will happen to him. They are sins that a person commits and says, "I have gone this long in my sin and nothing has happened to me yet. God is not going to suddenly panic and do something about it." That's Presumption!

A presumptuous sin is a sin that banks on the success of the past. It is committed with the idea that since God hasn't judged me yet, He probably won't judge me at all. It is the behavior that presumes on the goodness of God. Since God has been good to me in the past, He will be good to me in the future even though I don't do right. It is the behavior that presumes on the forgiveness of God! Since God forgave me the last time I sinned and it was apparent that He did nothing about my sin, then He will do nothing the next time I sin. That's presumption!

It is the Christian who sits where you are today, hearing the preacher say "do right, do right, do right" and in your heart you say to yourself, "Preacher, I've not done right and nothing has happened to me yet. You must not know what you're talking about." That's presumption!

Listen folks! Anytime you do wrong and you know it, but you have the attitude, "God won't judge me; I'll get by with my sin one more time," you are presuming that God Almighty will do absolutely nothing about your sin. That's presumption!

Brethren, you are standing on thin ice. It is dangerous to play around with sin. It will rob you of God's blessing and God's power on your life and ministry. What am I talking about? I am talking about those besetting sins in your life as a child of God. I am talking about those sins that you know about, that God has dealt with you about over and over again, that you just can't seem to get the victory over.

I am talking about the wrong type of music that you're listening to as a child of God, the dirty magazines and dirty books that you're reading, the ungodly television shows that you're looking at with their nudity and profanity and the lying tongue and the unthankful spirit.

I am talking about the sin of bitterness, anger, worry, prayerlessness, lust, pride, covetousness, cheating, stealing, etc., etc., etc. It is the one that the Holy Spirit of God is speaking to you about right now. It is the one that the Holy Spirit of God has dealt with you about over and over again ever since the new birth. It is the sin that you just can't seem to get the victory over.

If I'm not mistaken, and you are honest with God, you would have to confess before God Almighty that there are those sins that have dominion over you today, and you have presumed that God will do absolutely nothing about your sins. That's not the God of the Bible. God will judge your sins of presumption. "Why, preacher? Why do you believe that? Why do you believe that God will judge my sins of presumption?" God will judge our sins of presumption because He loves us. In Hebrews 12:6, the Bible says, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." In Hebrews 12:11, the Bible says, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness."

You sin presumptuously against God when you deliberately disobey Him; when you think to yourself, "God won't judge me;" when you think you can get by with your sin one more time. Willful disobedience toward God will affect the blessing and the power of God on your life.

Now you cannot do in private what you think will not be seen in the public eye, and it not rob you of God's blessing and God's power on your life. What am I talking about? I am talking about the ungodly videotapes that you're watching in the privacy of your home, in the privacy of your bedroom. I am talking about the ungodly websites that you're visiting in the privacy of your study. I am talking about the ungodly music that you're listening to in the privacy of your automobile. I am talking about your very thoughts. You say, "Preacher! What I do in the privacy of my home, in the privacy of my bedroom, in the privacy of my study, in the privacy of my automobile, and in the privacy of my mind is my business; and no

one, no one in all the world, has the right to tell me what to do or what not to do in my home, in my bedroom, in my automobile, in my study, in the privacy of my mind. Not even God Almighty has the right to tell me what to do or what not to do as a child of God."

My dear Christian friends, I beg to differ with you. I have searched the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and nowhere in the Word of God does God give His children permission to sin. Not in your home. Not in your bedroom. Not in your study. Not in your automobile. Not even in the privacy of your mind. Did you know you do not have to steal to sin? All you need is a covetous heart. Did you know you do not have to commit the act of adultery to sin? All you need is a dirty mind, a filthy mind. In Matthew 5:28, Jesus said, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." The same thing goes true for the ladies. Whosoever looketh on a man to lust after him hath committed adultery with him already in her heart.

Don't you want to experience true revival in your life today? I want to experience true revival in my life. You need to memorize Ezekiel 11:5, where God says, "I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them." You need to personalize it. God says, "I know the thing things that come into your mind, Norman, every one of them." If you want to experience true revival in your life today, you need to keep a clean mind. You need to keep a pure mind because "I know the things that come into your mind, Norman, every one of them."

Brethren, God knows every thing about you. He never comes to learn anything. He is everywhere present, in all places, at all times. Listen to the Bible. In Hebrews 4:13, it says, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of God." In Proverbs 15:3, the Bible says, "The eyes of the LORD are in ever place beholding the evil and the good." In Ezekiel 8:12, the Bible says, "Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth."

Many of you have never experienced true revival in your life, and you have lost God's blessing and God's power on your life and ministry and you don't even know it. Take heed! In Proverbs 1:25-31, God said, "Ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices."

What is God saying? God is simply saying this: "Ye have set at nought all my counsel." What's that? The preacher says "do right, do right, do right;" and in your

heart you say to yourself, "Preacher, I've not done right and nothing has happened to me yet. You must not know what you're talking about."

Ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof. What's that? In II Timothy 3:16, 17 the Bible says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect throughly furnished unto all good works."

The child of God knows. He knows what the Bible says about certain sins in his life. He knows what the Bible teaches about certain sins in his life, but he thinks God is going to make an exception in his case. That is not the God of the Bible.

Young people, let's take the act of obeying and honoring your parents. In Ephesians 6:1-2, the Bible says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother." You know what the Bible says in Ephesians chapter six. You know what the Bible teaches in Ephesians chapter six. Yet, when your parents tell you not to do something, you go behind their backs and do it anyway. That's not right.

For example! Your parents won't let you watch something bad on the television set so you go over to your friend's house and watch it anyway, presuming that God will do nothing about your sin. The same thing is true with the ungodly music that you are listening to. Your parents say, don't do that. Don't listen to that ungodly music. It does not honor God. It does not please God. It does not glorify God. And in I Corinthians 10:31, the Bible says, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." You are simply giving place for the Devil to work in your life. So you go to your friend's house and listen to the ungodly music anyway, presuming that God will do absolutely nothing about your sin. Did you know, when you disobey your parents, you are in reality disobeying your heavenly Father? It is no wonder that you have no blessing or power of God on your life as a young person today. God knows everything about you.

Brethren, let's take tithing for example. You know what the Bible says about tithing. You know what the Bible teaches about tithing. Yet when financial troubles come, you begin to rationalize in your mind how it is all right to use God's tithe to pay your bills; and you are presuming that God Almighty will do absolutely nothing about your sin of thievery. That's not the God of the Bible. God will judge your sin of thievery. In Malachi 3:8, the Bible says, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."

Mark it down, God will laugh at your financial calamity when it comes. He will mock when your fear cometh; "When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices." (Proverbs 1:25-31)

God is not going to answer your cry for help. You say, "Preacher! Is that biblical?" Listen to the Bible. In Isaiah 59:1-2, it says, "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." In Psalm 66:18, the Bible says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." What is the Bible saying? It is simply saying this: If there is a sin in your life and you know it (and that's the key), but you are not willing to confess and forsake it, you can pray until you are blue in the face and God Almighty is not obligated to hear or answer your prayers.

Do you truly want to experience true revival, God's blessing, and God's power on your life and ministry? Then you must not be under the dominion, under the controlling power, under the rule and reign, of your old sin nature so that you sin presumptuously against the Lord.

You say, "Preacher! Is there hope for me?" Yes there is hope for you. Notice, number two, What can you do about presumptuous sins? The very first thing that you must do is repent of your wicked way by confessing and forsaking all known sin in your life. In other words, you need to have your sins washed away. In I John 1:9, the Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." And don't go on in your sins of presumption against the Lord. In Proverbs 28:13, the Bible says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." In Ezekiel 18:30, God says, "Therefore I will judge you, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin."

The word "repent" means to change, to change your mind, to change your mind about your sin, to change your way of living, to change your lifestyle. In other words, repentance is a change of mind leading to a change of direction. Do you see the progression here? There is something in your life that is not right. You deal with it. Now that you are right with God, now that you are in fellowship with the Lord, the second thing you must do is judge sin in your life. You must not allow sin to tell you what to do or what not to do as a child of God. You need to take a strong stand against sin. In Romans 13:14, the Bible says, "Make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." In Philippians 3:3, the Bible says, "Have no confidence in the flesh." What am I saying? Please take your Bibles and look at Romans chapter six and verse one. Do you want to live a victorious life over the old sin nature that you have, so that you sin not presumptuously against the Lord? In this text is the secret to living such a victorious life over sin. Notice the guestion Paul asked in verse one. In Romans 6:1, Paul writes, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" What was Paul saying? Paul was simply saying this, "Why don't we just go on sinning that grace may abound?" Now, when Paul is talking about sin here, he is talking about the rule and reign of the old sin nature that you have. You could ask the same question this way, "Should we remain under

the dominion of the old sin nature that grace may abound? Should we remain under the controlling power of the old sin nature that grace may abound? Should we remain under the rule and reign of the old sin nature that grace may abound?" That's the question. Notice the answer he gave in Romans chapter 6 and verse two. "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

What was Paul saying? Paul is saying this, "For the child of God to remain under the dominion of his old sin nature is not right. For the child of God to remain under the controlling power of his old sin nature is not right. For the child of God to remain under the rule and reign of his old sin nature is not right." God has by His own power delivered us from the ruling power of sin once and for all, and the Bible makes that very clear to us in Romans 6:11-14. It says, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you."

You can clearly see from this passage of Scripture that God's promise to you as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is that sin shall not have dominion over you. You no longer have to stay in sin. You no longer have to stay under the bondage of sin as a child of God. If you do, you choose to do it. Because you have been set free, you have been set free from the dominion, from the controlling power, from the rule and reign of the old sin nature once and for all, because of this, if you stay under the bondage of sin, then you choose to do so. You have not been set free from its presence, but from its power to rule and reign in your life. You have a new nature. As a child of God, you have the very presence of the Holy Spirit of God living in you. Therefore you have the power to turn off the old sin nature that you have.

Listen folks! When a Christian recognizes the fact that he is no longer under the bondage of sin, when he recognizes the fact that he is no longer under the dominion of his old sin nature, when he recognizes the fact that he is no longer to stay in sin, he can then begin to live a victorious life over sin. He can then begin to live a victorious life over his old sin nature that he has, so that he sins not presumptuously against the Lord.

We have noticed, number one, What are presumptuous sins? Anytime you do wrong and you know it, but you have the attitude "God won't judge me; I'll get by with my sin one more time," then you are presuming that God Almighty will do absolutely nothing about your sin. That's presumption!

We have noticed, number two, what you could do about presumptuous sins in your life. The very first thing that you must do is repent of your wicked way by confessing and forsaking all known sin in your life. Now that you are right with God, now that you are in fellowship with Lord, the second thing you must do is judge sin in your life. You must not allow sin to tell you what to do or what not to do. You

need to take a very strong stand against sin in your life and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof, and you must certainly have no confidence in your flesh.

What is the Bible teaching in Romans chapter six? The Bible is teaching you that you no longer have to be controlled by sin. You no longer have to be controlled by the old sin nature that you have. You can yield yourselves to the controlling power of the Holy Spirit of God living in you as a child of God.

Brethren, you know what the Bible says about certain sins in your life. You know what the Bible teaches about certain sins in your life, and you can't alter the Bible to suit your sins.

Do you truly want to experience true revival, God's blessing, and God's power on your life and ministry? Then you must not be under the dominion, under the controlling power, under the rule and reign, of your old sin nature so that you sin presumptuously against the Lord.

Are you ready to confess and forsake all known sin in your life? Sad to say, some of you will continue in your sins of presumption against the Lord, and it will rob you of true revival, God's blessing, and God's power on your life and ministry; and you don't have to live that way. It is never God's will that God's people be without true revival, God's blessing, and God's power on their lives.

In Psalms 139:23, the Psalmist said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

How is a Person Saved?

Salvation is all of God. God does the saving. Just take God at His Word and claim His salvation by faith. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby He weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil – Romans 3:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18; Romans 5:8.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead – John 1:12, 3:16, 6:47; Acts 16:31; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13.

Simply admit that you are a sinner and believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. You will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith – Romans 3:10, 23; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him more than to save you today.

Won't you go to Him right now in prayer and tell Him in your own words that you will trust Him as your Saviour? Or pray this simple prayer: Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me and that He arose from the grave. Here and now I ask You to forgive me of my sin and save me. In Jesus's name. Amen.

If you prayed that simple prayer, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail or phone (813) 760-4028.

Evangelist Norman R. Stevens 602 Canterbury Road Kings Mountain, NC 28086-9601 Phone: (813) 760-4028

E-mail: nrsevangelist@earthlink.net http://www.evangelistnormanstevens.com