

## David's Struggles

		<i>Falling deeper into sin, the progression:</i>
2 Samuel	11:1	(1) David abandoned his purpose by staying home from war,
	11:3	(2) He focused on his own desires,
	11:4	(3) When temptation came, he looked into it instead of turning away from it,
	11:4	(4) He sinned deliberately,
	11:6-15	(5) He tried to cover up his sin by deceiving
	11:15-17	(6) He committed murder to continue the cover-up, and
	11:17	(7) The consequences were far-reaching.
		Once sin gets started, it is difficult to stop.

### *3 steps to flee temptation*

- (1) Pray to God for help,
- (2) Look to the Bible for guidance regarding the weakness, and
- (3) Find another believer with whom you can openly share your struggles.

## And the prophet says to the King, "...

2 Samuel	12:1-4	How do you make a person respond constructively when you must confront their sin? You pray for courage, skill and tact.
	12:5,6	The qualities we condemn in others are often our own character flaws. Perhaps instead of trying to change them, ask God to help you understand their feelings and see our own flaws more clearly.
	12:10-14	How much is enough? God gave David everything, and yet he still wanted more. Because of this, there were consequences.

*The predictions in these verses came true:*

(1) murder was a constant threat to David's family;
(2) his household rebelled against him;
(3) his wives were given to another in public view;
(4) his first child by Bathsheba died.

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12:14      When God forgives us and restores our relationship with him, he doesn't eliminate all the consequences of our wrongdoing.

We may be tempted to say, "If this is wrong, I can always apologize to God," but we must remember that we may set into motion events with irreversible consequences.

Why did the child have to die? This was not judgement on the child for being conceived out of wedlock, but a judgement on David for his sin.

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12:19-24      David did not continue to dwell on his sin. He returned to God, and God forgave him, opening the way to begin life anew.

When we return to God, accept his forgiveness, and change our ways, he gives us a fresh start.

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12:25      Feelings are not reliable guides for determining right and wrong. They can become calloused and dulled to God's laws and others' rights.

Confess your wrong actions to God before you forget they are sins.

## Thou shalt keep your house in order in the eyes of the Lord

### David's family troubles

wife	children	what happened
Michal (Saul's daughter)	She was childless	David gave her five nephews to be killed because of Saul's sins
Ahinoam (from Jezreel)	Amnon, David's firstborn	He raped Tamar, his half sister, and was later murdered by Absalom in revenge
Maacah (daughter of King Talmai of Geshur)	Absalom, third son; Tamar, the only daughter mentioned by name	Absalom killed Amnon for raping Tamar, and then fled to Geshur. Later he returned, only to rebel against David. He set up a tent on his roof and slept with ten of his father's concubines there. His pride led to his death
Haggith	Adonijah, fourth son. It is recorded that he was never disciplined.	He set himself up as king before David's death. His plot was exposed and David spared his life, but his half brother Solomon later had him executed
Bathsheba	Unnamed son	Died in fulfillment of God's punishment for David and Bathsheba's adultery
Bathsheba	Solomon	Became the next king of Israel. Ironically,

2 Samuel	13:21-24	<p>David was angry with Amnon for raping Tamar, but David did not punish him. David probably hesitated because:</p> <p>(1) he didn't want to cross Amnon, who was his firstborn son and therefore the next in line to be king, and</p> <p>(2) David was guilty of a similar sin himself in his adultery with Bathsheba.</p> <p>While David was unsurpassed as a king and military leader, he lacked skill and sensitivity as a husband and father.</p>
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