

II. IN WHAT WAYS DO BESETTING SINS HINDER OUR PROGRESS AND EFFECTIVENESS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE?

Although there are many negative effects of besetting sins, I would like to mention only a few.

- A. Besetting sins obscure the face of God, so that we cannot seem to get through to Him, and cannot seem to trust and love Him with all of our heart.
- B. Besetting sins take away our joy in the Lord, and make us dissatisfied. They may even make us grumpy, quarrelsome, and ill-tempered.
- C. Besetting sins weaken our confidence in God's power to change things as they are into things as they should be.
- D. Besetting sins decrease our trust in God's promises.
- E. Besetting sins reduce our prayers to formal, passionless, empty ritual; or to occasional cries for help in times of need or emergency.
- F. Besetting sins darken our understanding of the truths of Scripture.
- G. Besetting sins erode our desire for attendance at public services of worship in the church, and for fellowship with the people of God.
- H. Besetting sins impair our desire for and effectiveness in sharing the gospel with nonbelievers.
- I. Besetting sins cause our level of subjective sanctification to deteriorate and retrogress, so that we actually lose ground in the process of becoming more Christlike.
- J. Besetting sins tend to diminish our assurance of salvation.

Besetting sins are deadly. They deaden the vitality of our communion with God, deaden spiritual sensitivity, and deaden spiritual life.

Besetting sins really matter!

This brings us to our third key question: