

1. Are there motives relevant to ourselves that are strong enough to overcome ungodliness and worldly passions? If so, what are they?

The negative effects of besetting sins that we considered a few minutes ago are all pertinent here. We must ask ourselves whether we can continue to live at a subnormal level, with the loving, smiling face of God obscured and darkened by the thick clouds of our sins, with little or no joy in Christ, with our confidence in God's power greatly weakened, with our trust in God's promises decreased, with our prayers reduced to empty, futile exercises, with our understanding of and delight in Scripture darkened, with our desire for God's church eroded, with our desire for and effectiveness in witnessing impaired, with our progress in sanctification halted or even reversed, and with our assurance of salvation diminished?

Is continuance in our besetting sins really worth it, considering all the negative consequences to ourselves that flow from them?

2. Are there motives relevant to others that are strong enough to overcome ungodliness and worldly passions? If so, what are they?

Let me suggest the following:

- a. Our besetting sins, by obscuring the face of God from our faith and thus destroying the sense of God's immediacy, cause others to see us as having a form of godliness but denying its power; and thus they fail to see God living in us.
- b. Our besetting sins, by taking away our joy in Christ, distort the perception others have about Christianity and confirm them in their belief that the Christian religion is dry, morose, and joyless -- something that is unpleasant, unattractive, unappealing, and definitely undesirable.