

Godly Youth

Young in Age, Strong in Heart

Good and Bad Habits

**Sow an act and you reap a habit.
Sow a habit and you reap a character.
Sow a character and you reap a destiny.**

-Samuel Smiles

We must be careful about our thoughts and actions for they may become habits. A habit is something that one does continually, often without thinking about it. Some habits are good. Saying "please" and "thank you," cleaning your room, and feeding your pets are examples of good habits. You can also develop bad habits such as using bad language, lying, not helping your parents keep the house clean, or acting up in church services.

Habits start slowly. We might use a bad word once or tell a lie when we are in trouble. When we do

something wrong, we need to repent. When we repent, we decide that we will try our hardest not to do the wrong thing again. We *might* slip and do the wrong thing again, but we will try hard not to do it. We should also tell God we are sorry and ask for His help in doing what is right.

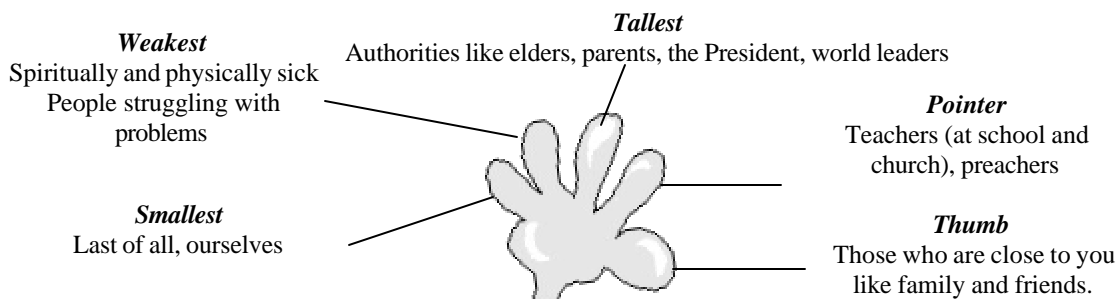
If we do not repent or change, we will probably do the bad things again and again. Soon, we will not even think about whether we should or should not do it; it will become habit. Once we have developed a habit, it is hard to stop it. We can stop it but it will take a lot of effort.

Of course, we can develop good habits by doing good things again and again. If you try hard to use good manners, talk politely, and act properly, those good behaviors will become good habits. If you make your bed and clean your room every day out of habit, you will not have to remind yourself to do these chores.

Work hard to develop many good habits so your life will be filled with good thoughts and actions. Always do the things that will make you more like Jesus and you will live a healthier, happier, and more peaceful life.

"Lord, Teach Us To Pray" - A HANDy Way

Want to know who to pray for? Look at your hand and it will help you remember.



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" [They] searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

Acts 17:11



Lessons from Zephaniah

- God wants His people to serve Him completely
- God would destroy Judah if they did not repent
- God does care what His people say and do and will reward or punish us if we are doing good or doing evil
- Seek the Lord and desire to please Him



“Know what you will do in a situation before that situation arises.”

Meeting the Prophets: Zephaniah

The prophet Zephaniah prophesied during a time when many people were trying to do what is right. While he was alive, the king of Judah, Josiah, destroyed idols all over the land and told the people to serve God. Under the two kings before Josiah, the people were worshipping idols and doing many things that made God angry. But Josiah, a young man, loved God and wanted the people to serve Him.

Zephaniah warned the people that God would destroy everything in the land of Judah if they people continued to worship idols. He said the people would become like food for their enemies. He also said that no amount of money would buy their freedom. In fact, the people would lose everything they owned to their enemies. He said that the enemies would live in their houses and eat the food

from their vineyards and fields. God would do this if the people did not repent.

God’s people had a wrong attitude about God. They said that God would not do good or evil to the people (Zephaniah 1:12). They were wrong to think that God would do nothing. Some people today think that God does not care about things in the world and that He will do nothing good for us or bad against us. We must not think this way.

The people did not repent when God corrected them. They had times without a lot of water or food, enemies attacked them, and other problems which God brought on them to turn them back to Him. However, the people did not repent when they were punished. We must always do what God commands and when we do wrong, repent.

Zephaniah called the people to repent. He told them, in Zephaniah 2:1-3, to:

1. **Repent before it is too late.** We must not think that we can do wrong and change sometime later. We must do what is right today.
2. **Seek the Lord in meekness.** We must realize that God is in control and should serve Him completely.
3. **Seek righteousness.** We must do what is right and learn His word so we can do things that Jesus did.
4. **Seek humility.** We must not be proud but realize that God deserves our worship, love, and obedience.

Let us always serve God and remember that He loves us and will take care of us. He is our God!

What Do You Think They Should Do? - Secrets

Joe’s parents told him the importance of keeping a secret. They said that if a person could not be trusted, he would soon have no friends. This morning at school, Joe’s friend, Levon, said that he was going to skip his last class at school and meet some boys behind the school and try smoking marijuana.

1. Levon is doing something wrong and illegal. It may develop into a dangerous habit. What should Joe do?
2. The teacher of Levon’s skipped class asks if anyone knows where Levon and a few of the boys are. What do you think Joe should do?

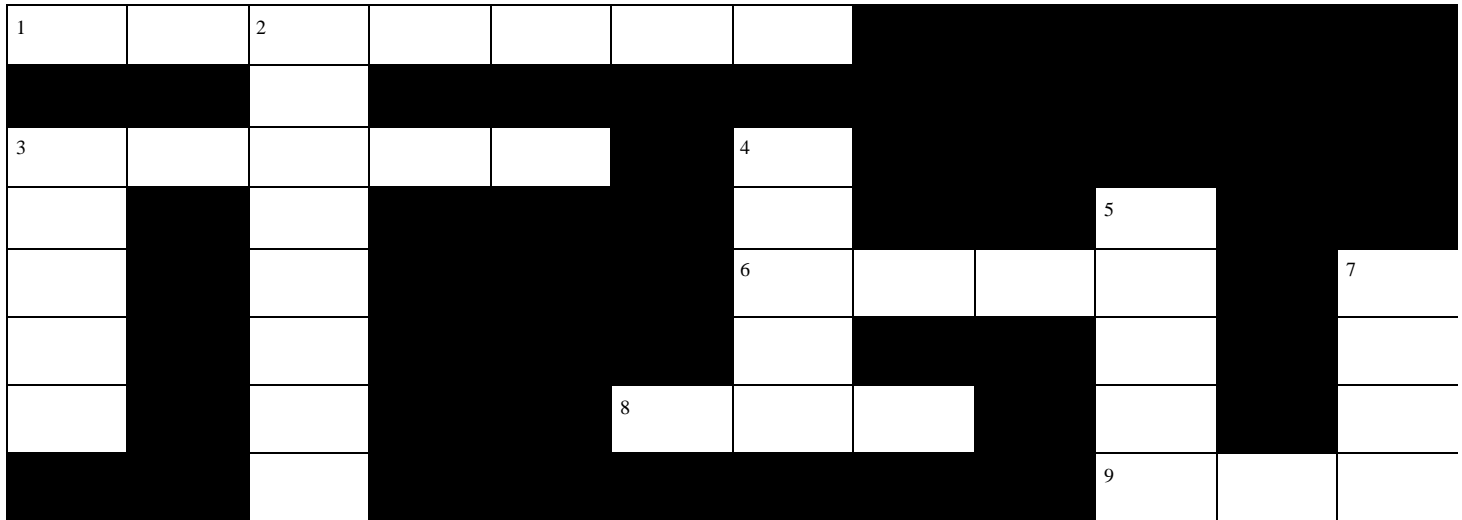
Who Am I?

1. I was a fisherman when Jesus called me to be an apostle.
2. My brother, Andrew, told me about Jesus.
3. I walked on the water with Jesus.
4. I denied Jesus three times before He was crucified.
5. I preached on the day of Pentecost and my sermon is in Acts 2.

Do you know who I am? (Answer below)

I am Peter!

Crossword: The Tabernacle (Exodus 40)



Across

- 1. Burned on an altar to give a sweet smell (Exodus 40:5, 27).
- 3. Food put on a table in the tabernacle (Exodus 40:23)
- 6. Fabric that separated the Ark of the Covenant from other parts of the tabernacle (Exodus 40:3, 26)
- 8. ____ of the Testimony or Covenant (Exodus 40:3, 20)
- 9. This belonged to Aaron but was in the Ark (Hebrews 9:4)

Down

- 2. Angelic beings over the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 37:7)
- 3. Altar of the _____ Offering (Exodus 40:10)
- 4. Held the water that the priests washed in (Exodus 40:30)
- 5. Place where sacrifices were burned (Exodus 40:6, 10)
- 7. Valuable material all over the tabernacle (Exodus 37:2, 7, 11)

Memory Verse: Verse: Proverbs 22:29

“Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings;

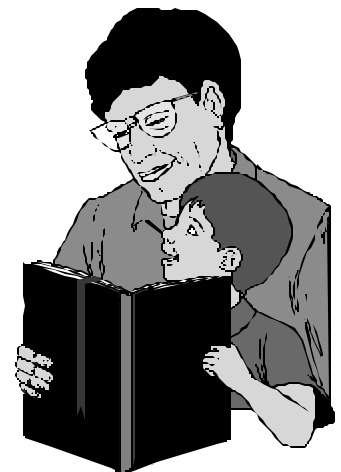
It is important for us to take pride in the work that we do. Whether we are doing a chore around the house or our homework, we should do a job that we will be proud of. If we excel (do a really good job) in these things, when we get older we will excel in our jobs. When we do our best and give the extra time and effort to do quality work, our teachers, parents, and others will notice it. Even if they do not, we should take

personal pride in our fine work. If you are involved in sports, art, music, or any other activity that requires much practice, you know that when it comes time to play the game or perform for others, you will only do well if you have prepared well. We often say, “practice makes perfect.”

People who practice hard and take pride in their work may be rewarded with trophies or medals, high grades, or certificates. Even

if they are not rewarded in this way, the efforts will develop good habits in their lives so that they will excel in their work and be recognized as good workers.

I remember working with many people who tried to do just enough work to keep their jobs but no more. They were not respected by their bosses or their fellow workers. Those who try their hardest are respected for their good work. Let that be said of you!



Can I Trust You?

Trust is a very important quality in a friend. We often will tell friends things that are important to us but that we do not want others to know. It is good to have friends with which you can share fears, hopes, and dreams. However, we must be careful of some secrets that others want us to keep. There are some secrets that we must not keep.

If a person says they are going to harm other people or themselves, we must try to stop the violence. You may need to tell a teacher, principal, or parent depending on the situation. I had a friend tell me that he took too much medicine one time when he was trying to hurt himself. I told someone in charge at our school and they were able to make sure that the medicine would not hurt him and try to help him not hurt himself in the future.

An important secret that you must not keep is any secret that an adult wants you to keep from your parents. It does not matter if that adult is a relative (like an uncle, aunt, cousin, or grandparent), an elder, preacher, church teacher, school teacher, principal, or any other adult. Please listen to me: a responsible adult will never say or do anything to you that they would not want your parents to know about. A caring and concerned adult would never say that they will hurt you, your parents, or a brother or sister if you tell your parents something you saw, heard, or something that happened to you. You do need to tell your parents. An adult who would say such things is likely trying to cover up something they are doing wrong; in fact, they are scared of your parents finding out. If you tell your parents—and you should—they will protect you, your brothers and sisters, and themselves and will be able to handle the problem. Please trust your parents, not the person who would try to scare you. Talk to your parents about this and you will see that what I am saying is true. You will not be a tattle-tale if you tell your parents; you will be doing the right thing.

I hope you enjoyed this issue of *Godly Youth*. If you have ideas for articles or questions you want to ask, you can email me at rhodes.davis@comcast.net or write to the address below.

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c/o Northwood church of Christ
P.O. Box 416
Northport, AL 35476

A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER
JUST FOR YOU!
