

Give God ...

B R L R I B M T S T N E L A T Z X W
 O E D L M H X S P H Y M Q Z H K P T
 T Z P G K J W H Q G I W O B E G M T
 K T S U R T E U Y N R N A T C L K I
 E T A B I L I T I E S H B H I O C T
 B F B O E D Q S L E O Q F E V R E H
 U M Y H V M T U E T U F X U R Y S E
 Y O L I H R I S D E R G F W E V O Y
 F N U O Y S E T O O S X H M S P E Z
 T E G N O S U L D M E G C V B K O F
 B Y U A V W D W L N L A A I B F Z K
 V R S K S K N A H T V L F Y F Z E V
 L I E M I I Q A G M E L H E Y K K G
 A P V Y T O R D J F S S R C T N D O
 P K D S A B T A R C U I R U U I R M
 Y G T Y Y R L I B G N P Y P C P N L
 R A P K E A P P E G F L G F E A H N
 E K M A M R S E L E C N E I D E B O

Words to Find:
 Abilities
 Alms
 Glory
 Ministry
 Service
 Money
 Obedience
 Offering
 Ourselves
 Prayer
 Talents
 Thanks
 Time
 Tithes
 Trust

Just Like a Little Sin

John McNeil, *Knight's Master Book of New Illustrations*

A ship once wrecked off the Irish coast. The captain was a careful one. The weather had not been so severe to explain the wide distance the ship had swerved from her course. After the ship went down, so much interest was attached to the disaster that a diver was sent down.


Among other portions of the vessel that were examined was the compass that was swung on deck. Inside the compass box was detected a bit of steel which appeared to be the small point of a pocket knife blade. It appeared that the day before the wreck, a

sailor had been sent to clean the compass and he had used his pocket knife in the process. Unconsciously, he had broken off the point and left it remaining in the box.

The bit of knife blade exerted its influence on the compass, and to a degree that deflected the needle from its proper bent, and spoiled it as an index of the ship's direction. That piece of knife blade wrecked the vessel.

Thus one trifling sin, as small as a broken knife point, as it were, is able to rob the conscience of peace and happiness and can destroy our vessel.

The **Bible View**

A free publication from: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com Vol.: 196

Keep the Temple Clean

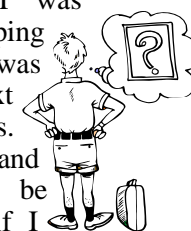
Bill Brinkworth

I had waited a long time to spend the weekend with my friend. Finally, the time had arrived. After being dropped off, with suitcase and sleeping bag in hand, I was ready for the games to begin!

Up the steps I was guided to where I was to sleep. As the door creaked open, I was aghast at the sleeping quarters where I was to spend the next couple of nights. Clutter, mess, and filth would also be my bedfellows, if I were to spend the night in that bedroom.

Dirty, tattered curtains blocked most of the light filtering through the windows. I wondered if they had ever been washed, since they were installed. Strips of wallpaper curled off the wall, exposing its paste that clusters of roaches were feasting on. Spider webs laced across most of the corners and crevices. Clothes lay where they

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Killing the Guide

Gospel Herald

Sir Samuel Baker relates the following incident: "Many years ago, when the Egyptian troops first conquered Nubia, a regiment was destroyed by thirst in crossing the Nubian desert. The men, being upon a limited allowance of water, suffered from extreme thirst. Deceived by the appearance of a mirage that exactly resembled a beautiful lake, they insisted on being taken to its banks by the Arab guide. It was in vain that the guide assured them that the lake was unreal, and he refused to lose the precious time by wandering from his course.

"Words led to blows, and he was killed by the soldiers, whose lives depended upon his guidance. The whole regiment turned from the track and rushed toward the welcome waters.

"Thirsty and faint, over the burning sands they hurried.

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Keep the Temple Clean

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fell, when they were removed. I can't swear to it, but I am positive I saw a dirty sock move slightly across the dusty, stained rug under its own power. A smell of armpits, sweat, and filth permeated from unwashed clothes and bedding. It was not a place that I would relish spending the night.

As politely as I could manage, I complained, "I really want to spend the night here with you. We could have such a good time together, but to be honest with you, um, this room is too filthy for me to even sleep in. I would not be comfortable here."

My host surveyed his room, and agreed with a nod that it was a mess.

"If I am to stay here, we've got to clean it up," I suggested.

He was agreeable, and soon we were both working together to clean his room. Curtains, clothing, and bedding were washed more than once. Pests were sprayed and removed. Windows were scrubbed. Walls were wiped. Floors were vacuumed and scrubbed.

After much hard work, the room was cleaned. It even smelled clean and fresh. It was now a room I could comfortably sleep in.

As I and others would not be comfortable in such a filthy envi-

ronment; so the Holy Spirit is not comfortable with His dwelling place in many lives. When a person gets saved, that person becomes the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. He becomes the living temple, where the Spirit of God indwells.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

I Corinthians 3:16

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" I Corinthians 6:19

As a person would not be comfortable in an unclean situation, neither is the Holy Spirit. The uncleanliness that displeases Him and stifles His working in our lives is our sin.

When a person is first saved, it is the voice of the Holy Spirit that whispers in his heart to work on eliminating sin. For each person, the Holy Spirit's directions to clean up his temple are different. It may be lying, or a drinking problem that the Holy Spirit urges the child of God to eliminate in order for the Spirit to be comfortable enough to work in his life. For others it may be the sin of adultery, deceitfulness, cheating, or gossiping that He demands be stricken from the temple of the Living Spirit.

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye

are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

II Corinthians 6:16

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Romans 12:1

Too many disregard, disobey or ignore the whispering voice of the Holy Spirit to remove sin from their lives. In doing so, they grieve the Holy spirit of God. Not doing as He commands is the same as telling him, "No!". He does not leave, but He becomes silent. That is why so many people, gloriously saved, never do much or are used by God. The Holy Spirit insisted they clean up their temple, and they refused to do so. A dirty temple is one that will never bring honor to God, nor will it be used by God.

"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."

Romans 6:13

All of us that are saved have many sins in our lives that need to be cleaned out. The Holy Spirit is so gracious in that He does not demand they all be cleaned up at once. One by one, He will point them out and help us clean up where only He knows

***"It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it. Lighthouses do not ring bells and fire cannons to call attention to their shining. They just shine."* — Moody**

the "filth" is hiding. Is there an area in your life that God's Spirit is urging you to clean up? You will never be perfect and sin-free, but you can be a cleaner temple, that can bring honor and glory to God.

Killing the Guide

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Heavier and heavier their footsteps became. Hotter and hotter their breath; as they pushed deeper into the desert. Farther and farther they wandered; far from their dead guide. Still the mocking spirits of the desert led them on, and the lake glistening in the sunshine, tempted them to bathe in its cool waters, close to their eyes, but never at their lips. At length the delusion vanished. The fatal lake had turned to burning sand! Raging thirst and horrible despair. Lost! Lost! All lost! Later they were subsequently discovered, parched and withered corpses, by the Arabs sent upon the search and rescue."

So sin lures unwary souls from the path of righteousness. The Holy Spirit warns and entreats them. Him they grieve and drive away, and when too late they mourn their folly.

***"I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness that remains in him."* — Spurgeon**