



CWRm

GREG ALBRECHT

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

“I was tempted and I caved in to sin.”

Question: Greg, your ministry is the one I listen to most often. Without going into detail, I was inadvertently tempted on Facebook last night and caved in to sin.

I have a question. Would you say that our sins decrease as we grow in Christ, but we never become sinless while we still live in the flesh?

Even though sinning less often, I feel more guilt and shame now than I did before believing! On the subject of works versus grace, you indicate that we work with God, empowered by the Spirit, and are saved by grace because of “human limitation,” which is not salvation by “works,” but by grace.

I’m really feeling bad about last night and although I need to keep drawing closer to God, I wanted to discuss this with you as my minister of choice!

Answer: It is an honor and privilege to serve you. We all “cave in” to sin of some description. It seems, based on biblical logic, that we would grow in grace and in knowledge so that over time, we would sin less than we once did. I believe in general that diminishing and decreasing sinful behavior is a fruit of God’s Spirit, but sin of all kinds is an unpredictable “wild card” that sneaks up on us with often devastating results.

So, we should never expect that we are rid of any kind of sin, but we should, I believe,

thank God for helping us overcome to the degree that we can. We should always hope for less sin and for progress with the specific addictions that may plague us.

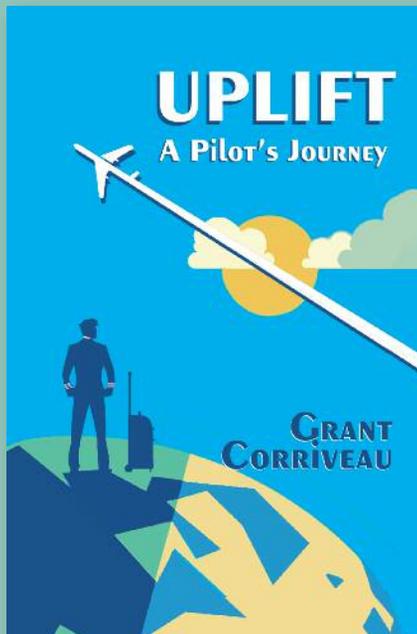
But, as with driving a car, we continue to respect the potential and awesome destruction that our flesh is capable of producing.

Still, God will never give up on you or me, so let your shame and guilt be short-lived by giving it all to Jesus, who will always exchange our sin and shame for his righteousness and goodness.

Response: Thanks so much. “Unpredictable wild card” was just what I needed to hear!

While knowing that the flesh will never be entirely free of sin, I’ve been wondering which sin will rear its ugly head. I wonder if and when it will ever diminish from my life. And I pray it will become less of a struggle!

How ironic that today’s radio program was on the subject that I’m thanking you for covering right now. Thank you for your friendship and consoling me in my time of need! ☐



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