

Smart Move: Resist
Proverbs 5:1-14
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Proverbs 5:1-14: My son, pay attention to my wisdom; listen carefully to my wise counsel. ² Then you will show discernment, and your lips will express what you've learned. ³ For the lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil. ⁴ But in the end she is as bitter as poison, as dangerous as a double-edged sword. ⁵ Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. ⁶ For she cares nothing about the path to life. She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn't realize it. ⁷ So now, my sons, listen to me. Never stray from what I am about to say: ⁸ Stay away from her! Don't go near the door of her house! ⁹ If you do, you will lose your honor and will lose to merciless people all you have achieved. ¹⁰ Strangers will consume your wealth, and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor. ¹¹ In the end you will groan in anguish when disease consumes your body. ¹² You will say, "How I hated discipline! If only I had not ignored all the warnings! ¹³ Oh, why didn't I listen to my teachers? Why didn't I pay attention to my instructors? ¹⁴ I have come to the brink of utter ruin, and now I must face public disgrace." (NLT)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ for a stronger future

_____ with weakness: Stay alert; be in prayer so you don't wander into temptation without even knowing you're in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there's another part that's as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

Matthew 26:41 (MSG)

_____ committed: In the spring of the year when kings routinely left the comforts of home to defend the kingdom, David sent Joab and the rest of the army. He sat at home like an old lazy dog . . .

2 Samuel 11:1 (JOT)

2. _____ the grip of temptation

_____ a greater wisdom: My child, pay close attention to my wisdom, it starts with RESPECTING the Lord. Do you not hear the words coming out of my mouth? Guard this valuable insight and the discernment that my lips are directing you toward! Proverbs 5:1-2 (JOT)

_____ for your weakness: Do not pay attention to the woman of fallacy, for honey drips from her lips . . . her foolish feet bring death and hades . . . idiot, make tracks away from her!

Proverbs 5:3, 5, 8 (JOT)

_____ the cost: If you continue this path, your life will be controlled by another and your living will be hard . . . when you have squandered your strength, you will only find deep regret!

Proverbs 5:9, 11 (JOT)

_____ to community: If I had only listened to those who loved me and tried to give me discipline! Why didn't I listen to those who wanted to teach me? They truly cared for me! I have disappointed the people of church because they wanted the best for me, but I pursued the worst!

Proverbs 5:13-14 (JOT)

3. _____ to greater strength

_____ : If we say we have no sin, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins, because we can trust God to do what is right. He will cleanse us from all the wrongs we have done. 1 John 1:8-9 (NCV)

Spiritual Action Step:

Where are you struggling with temptation? Where are you losing the battle with your desire? Are you exhausted and overwhelmed trying to resist? You are not alone in your struggle, God wants to help you! Jesus taught us to pray: *"Do not let us be dragged down by temptation, but rescue us from evil!"* (Matthew 6:13 (JOT)). God always provides a doorway to hope and peace, even as we confront our sin and failure. Hope starts with crying out to God for forgiveness and admitting that you need a Savior. Ask for God's forgiveness and help that can only be found in Jesus. This week, read Proverbs 5 and 1 John 2 and let the Holy Spirit fill you with the hope and strength that can only be found in Jesus Christ who is our defender and friend!

Translations: NLT: New Living Translation; MSG: The Message; JOT: Jon's Own Translation, NCV: New Century Version.