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Menacing Monkey Grass

By Teresa Hampton

A few years ago, someone planted monkey grass as an edging for my mother's flowerbed. It had lovely little purple flowers in the center. But they didn't know that planting monkey grass in a flowerbed was just asking for trouble. If only someone had warned her.

The monkey grass insidiously sent out hundreds of long, tentacle-like roots that grew deep, as much as a foot below the surface. And they also fanned out just under the soil. Every now and then she would see an unruly sprout and pull it up, but she just couldn't keep up with increasing number. Before she knew it, its roots had entangled themselves in the roots of her beautiful flowers. It was no longer an attractive edging but a menace. The only remedy was pulling it up by its very deep roots. And it is an ongoing process, as sprouts continue to pop up.

Did you know that sin is a lot like monkey grass? Solomon said, *His own iniquities entrap the wicked man. And he is caught in the cords of his sin* (5:22). At first, sin is attractive, even alluring. A little sin seems harmless, easy to control. It may begin as greed, envy or lust. But these sins insidiously produce more sin, like covetousness, hatred, fornication, or adultery. Before we know it, we are deeply entangled, and the remedy requires a painful and laborious process that is usually ongoing.

We have been duly warned. Planting a little sin in one's life is just asking for trouble. Solomon's proactive remedy is much better. He advised, *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil* (4:23-27).

Today's Verses: *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry* (Colossians 3:5) and, *Abstain from every form of evil* (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

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