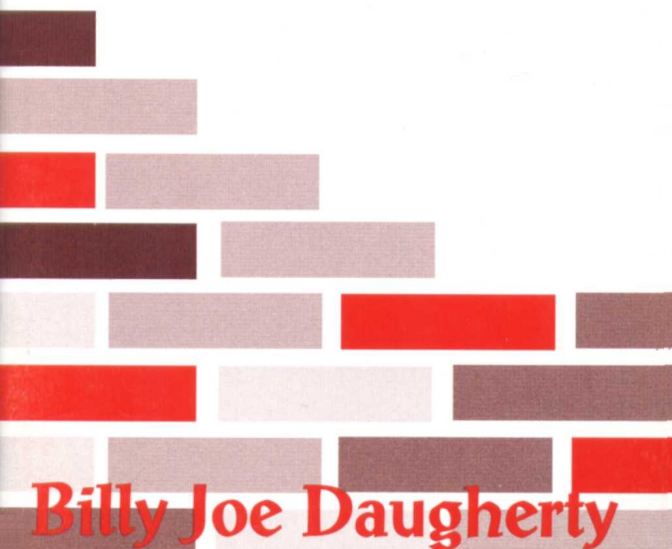


# Escaping Fatal Attractions



Billy Joe Daugherty

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**By  
Billy Joe Daugherty**

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# 1 The Sin Cycle

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There are many attraction and temptation traps in the world set to ensnare you. When you put a light up in your back yard in the summer time, it attracts bugs. When you put cheese in a mouse trap, it attracts mice. Advertising attracts people to certain restaurants, businesses, products, services, or events.

Darkness has been unleashed in a new dimension in the earth and, like a whirlpool in many cases, people are sucked into it. Darkness has become militant, trying to force itself upon people—in public education, government and through certain lifestyles which the Bible clearly states are ungodly. Yet, no matter how wicked the world gets, you can live in pureness and holiness before God. It is a choice you must make.

A *fatal attraction* is something that draws people into lust and enticement, which when conceived, result in spiritual death or separation from the life of God. Satan has set many traps to entice, allure and seduce God's people away from Him and His light, victory, abundance, blessing,

peace and joy. It is God's will that we escape fatal attractions.

James 1:13 says, **"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."**

James wanted to drive the point home that God never uses evil to tempt anyone to accomplish His purposes or teach them something.

Verse 14 says, **"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires [the *King James Translation* says "lust"] and enticed."**

*Enticed* means to be drawn away to commit sin in violation of God's laws.

**Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**

### **Verse 15**

When the Word of God comes to us and we conceive it in our hearts, that is when we believe it, receive it and accept it. Sin operates in the same way, but in reverse. Instead of the Word, an evil desire arises, and when a person believes it and commits to it, then it is conceived inside of them,

resulting in transgression and eventually spiritual death if there is no repentance and turning from sin.

The rich young ruler who came to Jesus had a lot of things going for him, but he had two pulls: one was to follow Jesus and the Kingdom of God; the other was to hold to his own riches.

The rich young ruler asked Jesus, **"Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"** (Matthew 19:16). Jesus responded, **"...If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments"** (v. 17). After an enumeration of the commandments, Jesus said, **"If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me"** (v. 21). The young man **"...went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions"** (v. 22). The pull toward holding to his own riches won in this young man's life, and he walked away from Jesus.

Other obvious fatal attractions, besides the pull of money and material possessions, are alcohol, drugs and crime.

A member of our church who fought in World War II, Jim Keith, told about a fatal attraction of

the enemy which arose as American soldiers took an island previously held by the enemy. On this particular island, there was a cave filled with liquor. All of the men who drank the liquor died, because it had been poisoned by the enemy. This is a picture of what happens in fatal attractions: lust (a desire for something that is wrong), enticement, conception and death (physical death in this situation).

There are other fatal attractions, such as immorality, adultery, homosexuality, pornography, wrong boy/girl, man/woman relationships, lying, stealing, cheating, cursing, slander and gossip. More subtle attractions include resentment, bitterness, envy, hatred, impure thoughts, feelings and attitudes.

The devil's desire is to steal, kill and destroy. But Jesus Christ came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly.



## **2 Deception-An Open Door**

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Fatal attractions stir up evil desires and offer pleasure, power, wisdom and/or riches and outwardly may look very good. So it was with the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden God put Adam and Eve in the garden and said:

**...Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;**

**But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**

**Genesis 2:16,17**

The devil, embodied in a serpent, spoke a lying deception to Eve:

**Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"**

**Genesis 3:1**

Of course God said it, but doubt, which led to

deception, was planted in Eve's heart.

**"You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

**So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food [the lust of the flesh], that it was pleasant to the eyes [the lust of the eyes], and a tree desirable to make one wise [the pride of life], she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.**

**Genesis 3:4-6**

When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, they were separated from God and driven from the garden. Disobedience caused them to lose their position of authority in God.

The Bible is full of examples of people who had good relationships with God, but an attraction pulled them away.

Samson became involved with a Philistine woman against the commands of God and against the desires of his own family. At that time, the Philistines were devil worshippers and practiced

every type of immorality and uncleanness. God knew if the Israelites intermarried with the Philistines, their relationship and position with Him would be lost.

Samson, a deliverer who had destroyed a thousand of the enemy in one battle by himself and had become the leader of Israel, was enticed by lust. Sin conceived, and as a result, the Philistines **"put out his eyes"** (Judges 16:21). He became a slave, grinding grain as he went round and round like an animal in a little prison cage.

Sin wants to blind and enslave you and me. When we see the devastation that comes in people's lives as a result of sin, it should make us want to escape temptation.

Paul said:

**No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

As you seek the Lord, He will give you a way of escape to overcome every temptation you will ever face. In fact, as you live and walk by His Spirit, you will know about Satan's deceptions before they arrive!

# **3    Television—A Carrier of Satan's Enticements**

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Today, one of the major carriers of Satan's enticements is television. There are some great nature movies and beneficial programs on TV, but many programs are laced with wrong desires, violence, immorality, cursing, slander, bitterness, anger and resentment, and they create lust in a person's heart. It is a proven fact that people act out what they see on television.

In 1973, David Wilkerson had a vision which he published in book form. Though it was hard to imagine that what he said could ever happen, today we are living in a nation baptized in filth, just as he described it.

If you indiscriminately watch television, you are inviting every evil work to conceive in your heart.

Years ago, a man we knew watched some of the vilest movies in front of his children. One time when I went to visit this family, he was watching filth so I turned it off and spoke to the man about

turning his life to God. Pornography had such a hold on his mind and heart that he wouldn't let it go. As a result, he lost his family, and he is still ensnared by his own choice. I am talking about life and death.

First Corinthians 10:12 says, **"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."** It is only by the grace of God that any of us escape temptation.

A few years ago, Dr. Lester Sumrall had a vision where a demonic spirit named Apollyon appeared to him and said, "I am going to destroy America through television." This is one of the things that aroused Dr. Sumrall to buy television stations for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says we are not to be ignorant of Satan's devices. Sharon and I have seen so many church-going people ensnared by the devil's traps that we can no longer act like it isn't happening. We preach victory, and we live in it, but it's time for exposure of Satan's traps so people can avoid them.

Just as there is a strong move of smut and uncleanness, there is a stronger move of the

preaching of the Word of God. Revival is bursting forth in our land and all over the world!

**But where sin increased and abounded, grace (God's unmerited favor) has surpassed it and increased the more and superabounded.**

**Romans 5:20 AMP**





## 4 Know the Time

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**...Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.**

**Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.**

**But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**

**Romans 13:11-14**

Paul was saying, "It's way past the time for you to be walking in the twilight zone. Throw off the darkness, and put on the armor of light." He compares the light to walking in obedience to God.

What does it mean to make no provision for the flesh? If you are single, you do not belong in

the apartment of someone of the opposite sex by yourself. You may say, "I am a Christian, and I am strong." You are crazy and dumb, too!

The devil has been at this a long time. He delights in getting people into situations where there is an attraction and defenses are weak. When you are alone with someone in an isolated place, you are subject to every force of the enemy. We used to have chaperons. I think it's still a good idea.

David, a mighty warrior who killed a giant and had become king, made provision for his flesh when he should have been at war. In his idle time, he was enticed by a scene visible from his own window. Desire conceived, which resulted in adultery and murder.

David did things he thought he would never do, because of the power of sin and deception. Before he sinned, there was beauty, peace and harmony. As a result of his sin, the sword never departed from David's house. God is merciful and forgiving, and He forgave David, but it is important that we give the devil no place, for sin is destructive.

# **5 Give the Devil No Place**

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Paul gave us some guidelines for giving the devil no place in our lives in Ephesians 4:28-32:

**Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.**

**Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.**

**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

**Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.**

**And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.**

Paul was saying, "Don't give the devil any place in your heart and life. Don't give your flesh an opportunity to follow its evil desires and run wild. Instead of stealing, start working. If you have a problem with five finger discounts, stay out of the stores. Let someone else make your purchases. Instead of cursing, start blessing. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

## 6 Run From Temptation

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Years ago, I heard a story about a man who liked to go duck hunting. He could never get close enough to the ducks to shoot them, because they always flew away when they saw him.

This man got an idea to float pumpkins down the river, thinking that once the ducks got used to them, he would hollow out a pumpkin and wear it on his head so he could get within closer range of them. In this way, this man and his buddies could get right in the midst of the ducks, and their aim would be much more accurate.

Temptation works in a similar way. Things start floating past you, and at first, you run from them. Nothing seems to happen so you let them keep coming. Suddenly, you are pulled under. The devil has been floating pumpkins your way for a long time. When something comes at you that is not right, *run from it!*

When Potiphar's wife was after Joseph, he never touched her but ran from her. Although he was slandered and imprisoned as a result of her lies, his vindication and promotion day came!

Years ago, Sharon and I had an opportunity to counsel a young couple about to get a divorce. The young lady said of her husband, "I don't love him anymore." We asked, "Why?" She said, "He doesn't satisfy me, and I don't enjoy being with him." Then we asked, "Is there anyone else?" She said, "There is a guy at work who has been real nice to me. He is intelligent, and he is making a lot of money."

Sharon and I talked to her about the consequences of sin. We said, "You can't follow this pattern and expect to be close to Jesus."

Many people are fooling themselves. They go to church and believe God is condoning all they are doing. Being in a church house doesn't make you a Christian any more than being in a barn makes you a mule!

I looked at this young woman and said, "Get out of that job." She said, "But I am making a lot of money." What good is your money going to do you in hell?

This young wife made the right decision. Against all that her flesh was pulling her to do, she cut off the wrong relationship and left that job. She and her husband (her first and only husband) are in

the ministry today because she made the right decision.





# 7 Guidelines for Escaping Fatal Attractions

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Here are nine of the most basic ways to escape fatal attractions:

*1. Purpose in your heart to live pure and holy before God.*

**"Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself"** (Daniel 1:8). The children of Israel had been led out of Jerusalem to Babylon as captives, and there in a wicked land, full of idolatry, immorality and all types of uncleanness, one young man made a decision, "I am going to take a stand for God."

Perhaps you are in a state college, a public school, or in a wicked environment in your employment, neighborhood, or apartment community. You are saying, "There is so much junk all around me." You can make a choice, like Daniel, that in spite of circumstances, you will not defile yourself.

Many people fall into temptation because they never make a decision to live pure and holy before God. If you have not made that decision, today is the day to do it!

## ***2. Fill yourself with God's Word.***

Another primary way to get free of temptation and stay free is to fill yourself with the Word of God on a daily basis.

Psalm 119:9-11 says:

**How can a young man [or woman] cleanse his [or her] way? By taking heed according to Your word.**

**With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!**

**Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.**

Psalm 119:130 says, **"The entrance of Your words gives light...."**

Jesus said:

**If you abide in My word, you are My**

**disciples indeed.**

**And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

**John 8:31,32**

God's Word is like a light. When it comes in your life, it exposes the darkness.

Second Peter 1:3,4 says:

**As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,**

**By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

When you fill your heart and mind with God's Word, then when temptation comes, His Word will rise up inside of your spirit: "It is written, sin has no dominion over me. It is written, I will flee youthful lusts."

When you don't know anything else to do, hit the trail! If you are in a sinful situation right now, give no explanation, no apologies and no good-byes. Just get on down the road! Your absence will be explanation enough. No more phone calls, letters, or contacts.

Make a commitment to be in church regularly where the Word is preached with authority, where sin is challenged and where there is a call to repentance. The Word will jar you out of sin!

***3. Pray the Lord's Prayer and pray in the Spirit and in your understanding every day.***

**And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one....**

**Matthew 6:13**

Jude 20 says, **"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit."**

Jesus said:

**What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?**

**Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing,**

**but the flesh is weak.**

**Matthew 26:40,41**

Jude 24 contains one of the most powerful promises for escaping temptation: **"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."**

As you pray, God will supernaturally redirect your pathway to avoid fatal attractions.

***4. Avoid every appearance of evil.***

Paul said, **"Abstain from evil [shrink from it and keep aloof from it] in whatever form or whatever kind it may be"** (1 Thessalonians 5:22 AMP).

If you have a problem with alcohol, don't show up at the bar, saying, "Lord, deliver me from this temptation." If you have a drug habit, don't go back to your old buddies and say, "I'd like to witness to you." Meet them in another setting, or pray for other laborers to cross their paths and witness to them.

If you want to live pure and holy, make a decision to avoid everything that arouses wrong desires.

### ***5. Keep your entire focus on Jesus Christ.***

When you love Jesus and all of your focus and desires are on Him, then there is no room for any other desires. If you love the Lord, you will hate evil, just as Proverbs 8:13 says: **"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil...."** You will never run from what you don't hate.

### ***6. Humble yourself unto the Lord.***

First Peter 5:6 says, **"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."** God can exalt you over and above the temptations, obstacles and problems that are thrown in your face.

Remember, pride opens the door to sin. It was pride in Lucifer's heart, as an archangel of God, that caused him to fall. Once pride entered his heart, he said (Isaiah 14:13,14):

\*I will ascend into heaven.

\*I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.

\*I will sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north.

\*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.

\*I will be like the Most High.

First Peter 5:5 says, **"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."** To *humble yourself* means to admit you need the Lord, you are dependent upon Him, and without Him you can do nothing.

**7. *Cast your cares upon the Lord.***

First Peter 5:7 says, **"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."** Peter was saying, "Cast all your cares, worries, stress and fears upon the Lord." It is interesting to note that fear is tied together with other vile sins in Revelation 21:8 KJV:

**But the *fearful*, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

God wants you to be free of fear. He wants to put inside of you an absolute confidence of His willingness to provide for everything you need.

In Mark 4:19, Jesus said the **"cares of this**

**world,"** which include worries, fears and stress, would literally destroy the power of the Word of God. When you are burdened with cares, your armor and weapons are blunted in their effectiveness, but when you are filled with peace and joy, every weapon God has given you will work at full strength in resisting temptation and fatal attractions.

**8. *Submit yourself to God, then resist the devil and he will flee from you.***

James 4:7 says, **"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."** As a born-again believer, you have within you the power and ability to resist every work of the devil.

If there is an area where you have violated God's laws, you are out from under God's authority and protection. Without repentance and submission to God's authority, there is no backing of His power to resist temptation.

**9. *Be sober and alert.***

First Peter 5:8,9 says:

**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may**



**devour.**

**Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.**

A person who is vigilant is disciplined to be alert. Vigilance causes a heightened awareness of the things that are happening around you. An adversary is someone who is opposed to you. The devil is diametrically opposed to anyone who is born again. There is nothing you can do to change the devil's attitude toward you because he will never be redeemed.

Peter is talking about being alert, not just in the natural but also in the Spirit. It has been proven that one beer can slow a person's reactions down while driving. Though you may not drink, some people's minds are in a stupor because they are spiritually asleep.

Jesus Christ, through His death, burial and resurrection, defeated the devil and disarmed him and all his demon principalities and powers.

Though Jesus took all authority from the devil,

he still destroys people's lives, marriages and families through deceit, lies and craftiness. People have lost their mind because of the devil's attacks. Some have lost their health. Nations have been destroyed because of the devil creating strife, resulting in wars and famines.

I am not honoring the devil in any area, but we must understand that we have an adversary who is still out to deceive, steal, kill and destroy.

We must be aware of the devil's tricks and schemes lest we become lax, indifferent, complacent and lose our vigilance and soberness. It doesn't take a spiritual giant to see that the devourer is having a powerful effect upon millions of people.

It is time to repent of all sin and sell out to Jesus Christ. In Him, you can be set free. His shed blood will **"...cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God"** (Hebrews 9:14).

# **Personal Prayer of Commitment**

Father, I have been snared by some of Satan's attractions which I now understand have been set to destroy me. I want to be free of his enticements and traps, Father, so I can enjoy the abundant life Jesus has offered.

I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son, Father, and I believe He was crucified, buried, resurrected and ascended to Your Throne where He makes daily intercession for those who have accepted Him. I believe Your Word, Father, which says Your Word and the Living Word, Jesus Christ, are the stabilizing ingredients of our times (Isaiah 33:6).

I renounce every work of darkness, and I accept You now, Lord Jesus, as my personal Lord and Savior.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for empowering me with the Holy Spirit so I can be a channel of Your

life, light and love to others, pulling them from Satan's fatal attractions into Your Kingdom.

Thank You for new life in You this day, Lord Jesus!

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(Signature)

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(Date)



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