

## No. 10 “Throw Off . . . the Sin That Easily Entangles Us” (Symposium) —Jehovah Will Remove Wickedness

### *Note to speaker:*

This is the first talk of a three-part symposium. Emphasize that it takes real effort to maintain firm faith. This talk includes a demonstration

### “LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE” (5 min.)

With the end of this wicked world so near, it is vital to maintain firm faith

Faith cannot be taken for granted; lack of faith is “the sin that easily entangles us” [Read Hebrews 12:1]

Like runners in a race, we must be prepared to exert ourselves spiritually (*w119/15* 20-21 ¶1-3)

We resist temptations that could plunge us into immorality

We avoid the snare of materialism

We shun faith-destroying philosophies and traditions of men

Like faithful servants of God in the past, we too can run successfully and avoid being entangled by lack of faith (1Co 9:24; *w119/15* 18-20 ¶13-18)

This three-part symposium will make us more aware of the dangers that can undermine or corrupt our precious faith

In each situation that will be discussed, take note of the contrast between a temptation that erodes faith and a course that maintains and strengthens faith

### WHEN CONFRONTED BY INJUSTICE OR WICKEDNESS (10 min.)

*The temptation: To envy the wicked* [Read Psalm 73:2-5, 12]

It can be easy to envy the fleeting prosperity of the wicked

Like the psalmist from the house of Asaph, we might conclude that the wicked “always have it easy”

We may adopt the attitude: ‘It’s just not fair; I serve God and suffer, while those who do not serve God live a problem-free life’

We could be tempted to use the world to the full, although knowing that it will pass away very soon [Read 1 Corinthians 7:31]

We could begin to view the sacrifices we have made for Jehovah as missed opportunities to pursue secular goals (Ps 73:13, 14)

Such views could affect our zeal and conviction (Re 3:15)

*What to do: Reject the course of the wicked*

With strong effort, we can avoid developing an ‘envious eye’ and focus instead on Jehovah’s promise of a new world (Mt 6:22, 23)

See Satan’s world for what it really is—a sinking ship that we must abandon

If we are losing Jehovah’s view of success, we must regain it quickly [Read Revelation 3:17, 18]

Highly esteem any sacrifices you have made for Jehovah; they are evidence of your faith in him (Mt 6:20; *w131/15* 26 ¶15-16)

Prepare now for life in the new world by rejecting things that will not exist in the future (2Pe 3:13, 14)

### DEMONSTRATION (3 min.)

*\*\*[Bad example: A young brother (John) is confronted by non-Witness classmates who invite him to attend a concert by a music group that promotes a message of violence in its songs. Because he has listened to such music in private, the offer entices him]\*\**

**Classmate 1:** John, what are you listening to?

**John:** *\*\*[After removing his earbuds]\*\** Oh, just some music.

**Classmate 2:** Hey, we are going to buy some tickets to see the Day of Death group in concert. Why don’t you come along?

**Classmate 1:** Yeah, great idea! You need to have some fun sometime, don’t you?

**John:** *\*\*[Muses to himself with his hand on his forehead]\*\** These guys seem to have all the fun! All I want is some enjoyment in life. It’s not like I’m going to stop being a Witness. Besides, I hear that the special effects and light show at Day of Death’s concerts are great. I was looking at the advertisement, and the event is not on a meeting night. Hmmm . . .

**Classmate 2:** So, what do you say?

**John:** *\*\*[Reengages]\*\** OK, count me in.

*\*\*[All participants freeze; speaker resumes]\*\**

**Speaker:** If we envy the lifestyle of unbelievers, it is evidence that our faith is weakening. Let’s look at the same situation, but this time take note of the brother’s resolve to stay focused and not give in to envy

*\*\*[Good example: Same scenario and participants, but this time the brother takes a firm stand]\*\**

**Classmate 1:** John, what are you listening to?

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**John:** *\*\*[After removing the earbuds]\*\** I'm glad that you asked. You know I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and I was listening to one of our newest songs. It actually has an upbeat tempo, let me put it on speaker. *\*\*[Sharing the device with both classmates]\*\** Just listen . . .

**Classmate 2:** *\*\*[Waving hand to show he declines the offer]\*\** Uh, no, that's OK, I'm sure your music is interesting. But, hey, we are going to buy some tickets to see the Day of Death group in concert. Why don't you come along?

**Classmate 1:** Yeah, great idea! You need to have some fun sometime, don't you?

**John:** *\*\*[Muses to himself with his hand on his forehead]\*\** As much as I enjoy a variety of music, this particular group has a message of violence in its songs. And this is the wrong type of association for me.

**Classmate 2:** So, what do you say?

**John:** *\*\*[Reengages]\*\** I have to say, I find the negative message in that type of music to be very disturbing. I don't like the way it makes me feel. I don't want to go.

**Classmate 2:** Sure, no problem.

*\*\*[All participants exit; John leaves the stage in the opposite direction of his classmates]\*\**

### **IT IS NOT EASY TO MAINTAIN FAITH** (2 min.)

Because we live in a world that is dominated by Satan the Devil and because we are imperfect, it is easy to adopt the thinking and conduct of the world

The world's spirit is like a river current that is pulling us in a direction we do not want to go

To avoid being swept downstream, we must vigorously swim in the other direction

How thankful we are that Jehovah lovingly gives us what we need to be successful spiritually!

Let us now examine a second area in which we must not allow lack of faith to entangle us

Brother \_\_\_\_\_ will now develop the theme "'Throw Off . . . the Sin That Easily Entangles Us'  
—Jehovah Will Provide Your Necessities"

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text or discuss every subpoint)