

1 Kings 11:4-6

For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.

No matter how many great things you do for the Lord, others can still turn your heart away from the Lord. Today's verses are a perfect example of that, because if you read previous chapters here in 1 Kings. In chapter 10 you read of how the queen of Sheba came and was amazed at all that king Solomon had, as well as his wisdom.

† **1 Kings 10:1 & 7** *Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard.*

But even before that, you read in chapter 9 how king Solomon built the house of the Lord and his own house.

† **1 Kings 9:10** *Now it happened at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house*

Yet even before that, we read of how the Lord spoke to Solomon, asking him what he wanted, and we know that Solomon asked for wisdom to lead Israel, which God had given him.

† **1 Kings 4:29-30** *And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.*

So as you read of all these things, you would never even think of today's verse ever happening to king Solomon, the son of king David, as it says that, "***Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD***"

And how did it happen?

† *when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods.*

And this was not just a couple of wives or concubines, but rather; "***he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.***" **1 Kings 11:3**

So, think about that:

You are the wisest man to ever walk the earth at this time.

You have so much money that silver is considered to be as invaluable as rocks.
You have 700 wives and 300 concubines (1,000 women).
You have peace on every side of you as a king.
And you have built the most magnificent house or temple for the Lord.

Financially, spiritually and even emotionally you have everything that anyone could ever want. Yet, even having everything, including a great relationship with the Lord, you still can end up being ***“evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD.”***

Yes, I say this to scare you, and to warn us all, because if king Solomon, in all his wisdom and with all of his possessions, could fall away from the Lord, doesn't that tell us that we too can do the same thing? As we just read with king Solomon, the answer is yes we can.

That's why it's so important to cling to the Lord, and keep your eyes fixed on the Lord, because if you do, you will not start looking at worthless things or even others that can draw you away from the Lord.

King Solomon's weakness was women, and the enemy took that weakness and used it to draw king Solomon away from the Lord. You may not have the same weakness as king Solomon (or maybe you do). But the enemy knows your weakness and will use it to try and draw you away from the Lord.

King Solomon chose, in all his wisdom, to cling to his weakness by having 700 wives and 300 concubines. Yet even in his wisdom (which was probably telling him to get rid of them.) He made the decision to hold onto his weakness instead of letting go of it and clinging to God. Because in order to cling to your weakness or sin, you have to take your grip away from the Lord.

And before we shake our heads at king Solomon, we must remember what Paul said: ***Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Galatians 6:1***

Our warning here is ***“considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”***

Then in order to not fall as king Solomon did, we need to: ***“Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” Romans 12:9b***

† **2 Peter 3:17-18** *You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

† **Deuteronomy 13:4 (NLT2)** *Serve only the LORD your God and fear him alone. Obey his commands, listen to his voice, and cling to him.*

† **Joshua 23:8 (NLT2)** *Rather, cling tightly to the LORD your God as you have done until now.*

