

## I CANNOT PLAY WITH EVIL

**JEHOSHAPHAT**

**2 CHRONICLES 17:3**

**Day 11**

King Jehoshaphat made a point to not seek after the evil ways of men. The Lord was with him; that means the Lord was pleased with the king's choices. His guiding motto was WWKDD (What would King David do?). King Jehoshaphat, at this point in his life, chose not to seek after or play with evil. Yes, of course, the influences of evil are all around us; yes, many are involved in it; yes, the cultural values are changing; yes, things that seemed evil once do not seem so bad now. That, unfortunately, does not reveal an improvement in us but rather a willingness to wink at that which God does not wink at.

The point here is not to accuse & judge others, but rather to focus on that which will guarantee my purity & integrity.

I cannot look at pictures of people revealing too much bare skin; I cannot abandon developing relationships with other people, whether in the family or in the church; I cannot allow my mind to linger on improper images that I have looked at in the past; I cannot allow my eyes to scan female bodies when I am in social gatherings; I cannot allow pride to prohibit me from being vulnerable & honest with the people I trust; I cannot allow the devil to keep me from studying God's word daily & regularly; I cannot for one moment allow the devil to convince me that prayer does not work in my personal health & integrity; I cannot play with evil activities & then deny the existence of a pending problem; I must not exclude God from my daily struggles with impure thoughts, desires, and activities.

Playing with evil starts when we start staying away from church, from God, from the Bible, from wholesome activities, from people. When the world begins to revolve around me & solely me, then, let the playing with evil begin. When the devil convinces us that playing with evil is Ok, then the next step is to dive into evil. "Greater is He who is in me .."

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

1. What evils or potential evils do you play with, if any? How do you convince yourself that playing with evil is OK? If you are maintaining integrity presently, then, what evils still lurk out there, wanting you back?
2. What strategies should you take to stay away from evil? Be practical & not just theological.

**A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

What do you need to say to God as you face the topic being discussed in this devotional? Write out your prayer word for word just as if you were praying. Use separate lined paper to record your prayer. Make sure you actually pray this prayer to the Lord. Be honest & be personal. After all, you mean business with God here. You want this area of your life either fixed, strengthened, added, or removed.