

Immediate Attention

by Bill Crews

Just as *“an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,”* so prompt attention to a defect, malfunction, or flaw can avert a major tragedy.

A small spot of rust on an automobile body, a tool, or a piece of machinery calls for immediate removal before it produces greater damage.

A tiny leak in the roof of a house should be repaired now and not left to grow until surrounding wood is made to rot and ceilings and walls are water-spotted and ruined.

A minor mechanical defect in an engine or transmission of an automobile, if not corrected, will inevitably lead to a major break-down and call for expensive repairs.

A small infection on a finger or a toe can possibly lead, if left untreated, to the loss of a hand or an arm, a foot or a leg.

Most of the cancers that attack the human body can be safely and effectively removed if detected in their early stages. Left alone, most are fatal.

And So It Is With Sin!

Bad habits are far easier to get rid of when first acquired than when long practiced. Who will admit that a bad habit is detrimental to health and destructive of influence and has such control of them that it is all but impossible to conquer after practiced for many years?

When a brother has been overtaken in a trespass, the time to attempt restoration is -- **immediately!** Delay will lessen concern on your part and strengthen the hold of the trespass upon him. He may come to rationalize the sin and to question your interest in his welfare. Read Galatians 6:1-2.

When you have wronged another, the time to demonstrate repentance and seek forgiveness is -- **immediately!** With the passing of time the wound may become deeper; the breach may grow wider. Read Matthew 5:23-24; Ephesians 4:32. When another has wronged you, the steps to be taken by you are clearly laid out in Matthew 18:15-17. And the time to start the procedures is -- **immediately!** Both the guilty and the victim are given commandments from God. Only if both fail to obey will the matter fester and grow.

When one of God's children begins to miss some of the assemblies of the saints, the matter cries out for attention -- **immediately!** A little neglect may harden into willful sin. Read Hebrews 10:23-27.

When a Christian or a church takes a first step outside of the doctrine of Christ, that is when some one who is spiritual needs to speak against the unauthorized activity. Apostasy becomes a way of life only after the passing of time and repeated violations. Read 2 John 9-11; 2 Timothy 4:1-4.

And be alarmed when the slightest sin finds welcome in your heart or fits comfortably into your life.

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