

Victory Is Coming!

Encouragement for Battle-Wearied Christians

Chapter Six



Genesis 3

Early in Genesis, Adam and Eve are blithe streakers; they haven't a care in the world. That is until they are disobedient and do the one thing God asked them not to and chow on that forbidden fruit. "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves" (Genesis 3:7 NIV).

You may have been tempted too. You sample a cigarette and start an addiction. Maybe pornography starts with one picture burned on your memory. But the media hype about hidden "pleasures" tastes as foul as buzzard bile. The reality of being deceived deflates you, and you simmer in regret. Full of shame, you think you can hide the misstep from God and come up with a genius plan for a cover up. Like you can do that with God. Duh.

"Where are you?" the Lord called to the man (Genesis 3:9 NIV).

For reflection

"Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you" (Psalm 25:20-21 NIV).

Think of an embarrassing moment you've had where someone recognized your discomfort and covered for you. How does the grace of God overlook your indiscretions to give you a chance to regroup? Where do you focus a critical eye on others that needs to be softened with the same compassion you've received?