

#5—Feet Swift to Run to Evil

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BIG SANDY, Texas—One of my favorite sections of Scripture is Proverbs 6:16-19. The reason is that I can clearly identify seven traits that God hates and seven traits that God loves.

It is important to notice that the devil reflects the seven traits that God hates.

This week, let's look at some verses that display "feet swift to run to evil" (verse 18).

Running to evil

Bible students recognize that Proverbs 6:18 mentions feet that are swift to run to *ra*. (*Ra* is a Hebrew word.)

In some Bible translations (including the King James and the Moffatt), the Hebrew word *ra* is translated as "mischief."

However, other translations (including the New King James and the Revised Standard) translate the Hebrew word *ra* as "evil."

From my perspective, the English word *evil* has a stronger negative connotation than the English word *mischief*.

An eagerness to deceive

When Jesus Christ spoke the parable of the sower to the multitudes, He mentioned four categories of people (Matthew 13:3-8). A little later Christ gave the disciples a private explanation (verses 18-23).

When Jesus described the first category, He mentioned people who do not understand truth that God reveals. When Jesus revealed how truth is snatched away, it comes as no surprise that the devil is involved.

Matthew 13:19—"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside."

The devil looks for every opportunity to snatch truth away from people.

An eagerness to influence

It is important for believers to become aware of the scope of evil that permeates from the devil. He is very successful at influencing people toward evil thoughts and actions.

Ephesians 2:2-3—“. . . You once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

It is also important for believers to recognize the zeal the devil has for influencing people toward evil thoughts and actions.

1 Peter 5:8—“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

People do the same

Since the devil is eager to run toward evil, it is easy to understand why much of mankind is eager to do the same.

Psalms 16:4—“Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god. . .”

Proverbs 1:15-16—“My son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path; for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.”

Proverbs 10:23—“To do evil is like sport to a fool, but a man of understanding has wisdom.”

Proverbs 28:22—“A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him.”

Ecclesiastes 8:11—“Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

Isaiah 59:7—“Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.”

Romans 3:15—“Their feet are swift to shed blood.”