

I. The foothold of falsehood

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

A. We shut the door by speaking truthfully

“Whoever would love life and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.” (James 1:26)

B. We shut the door by remembering we are one in Christ

“So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:5)

II. The foothold of anger

“Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret – it only leads to evil.” (Psalm 37:8)

A. We shut the door by forgiveness

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” (Mark 11:25)

III. The foothold of stealing

“You shall not steal.” (Exodus 20:15)

A. We shut the door through honest work

B. We shut the door through giving to others

“A generous will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” (Proverbs 11:25)

IV. The foothold of unwholesome talk

A. We shut the door through talk that encourages others

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” (Romans 14:19)

B. We shut the door through talk that is beneficial

V. The foothold of grieving the Holy Spirit

A. We shut the door through listening to the Spirit

B. We shut the door through obedience to the Spirit

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

C. We shut the door through surrender to the Spirit

VI. The foothold of bitterness

“See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”
(Hebrews 12:15)

A. We shut the door through kindness

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.” (I Corinthians 13:4)

B. We shut the door through compassion

C. We shut the door through forgiving like God forgives us

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievance you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” (Colossians 3:13)