

I. Be careful to not influence a person to sin (v.1-2)

A. We cannot control all the traps of the devil

B. We can control how we influence others

“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way.” (Romans 14:13)

II. Be ready to forgive others (v. 3-4)

A. We have a duty to correct one who has sinned against us

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.” (Matthew 18:15)

B. We have a responsibility to forgive those who have sinned against us

1. Forgiveness is not optional

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

2. Forgiveness is not limited

“The Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy time seven.’” (Matthew 18:21-22)

III. Be sure to exercise the faith you have (v. 5-6)

A. It is not the quantity but the quality of faith that matters

*Picture of single mustard seed

*Picture of many mustard seeds

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

B. Genuine faith is a confidence in the nature and purposes of God

C. Genuine faith releases the power of God

“He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.’” (Mark 5:34)

*Picture of woman touching Jesus’ robe

IV. Be faithful in your service to Christ (v. 7-10)

A. It is a privilege to be a servant of Christ

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” (Romans 12:11)

B. Our service to Christ does not put us in his debt

C. Any reward for service is by the grace of God

V. Be thankful to God in all things (v. 11-19)

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (I Thessalonians 5:18)

A. We realize God is the source of our blessings

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17)

B. We remember to give thanks to God