

WELCOME

HAPPY SABBATH!

GRACE & PEACE TO YOU FROM GOD THE FATHER AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



**TRUTH ON THE
WEB MINISTRIES**
WWW.TOTW.ORG

EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD
A CHURCH OF GOD IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS





Little Foxes

That Spoil The Vine

Part Five

Little Foxes

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil
the vines: for our vines *have* tender grapes.

Song of Solomon 2:15



Intro:

- God often uses His creatures to teach us lessons:

Isa. 1:3; Psa. 32:9; Job 12:7

- Solomon uses “*little foxes*”:

Song of Solomon 2:15

- “*little foxes*” can spoil our spiritual fruit:

ref: John. 15:1-8; Gal. 5:22-23; 5:7; 6:1

Little Foxes DISCONTENTMENT

Discontent Spoils Joy

Discontent
in marriage



noun

2. Also, **dis-con-tent-ment**. lack of content; dissatisfaction.
3. a restless desire or craving for something one does not have.
4. a malcontent.



Content makes poor men rich;
discontent makes rich men poor.

– Benjamin Franklin



MY MIND GETS TO WANDERING,
AND I BECOME TROUBLED



Little Foxes DISCONTENTMENT

Discontent Spoils Joy

■ “Joy” is to characterize the Christian

- ❑ **Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.
- ❑ **James 1:2-3** My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
- ❑ **Habakkuk 3:18** Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Little Foxes DISCONTENTMENT

Discontent Spoils Joy

■ **Haman let discontent rob him of joy:**

□ **Esther 5:11-13** And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all *the things* wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king. Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

Little Foxes IMPATIENCE

Impatience Spoils Longsuffering



Impatience is usually defined as:

***irritation with anything that causes delay;
a restless desire for change and excitement;***



Little Foxes IMPATIENCE

Impatience Spoils Longsuffering

- **The Hebrew Christians allowed trials to wear down their patience:**
 - **Hebrews 10:35-36** Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For **ye have need of patience**, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Little Foxes IMPATIENCE

Impatience Spoils Longsuffering

- The Christian “*race*” is a marathon, not a sprint:

□ Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us**, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Little Foxes IMPATIENCE

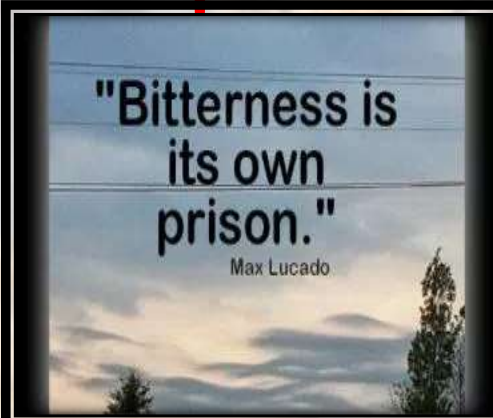
Impatience Spoils Longsuffering

- **Impatience is a sly “*little fox*”:**

- **Luke 9:52-56** And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And **they did not receive him**, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, **Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of**. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.

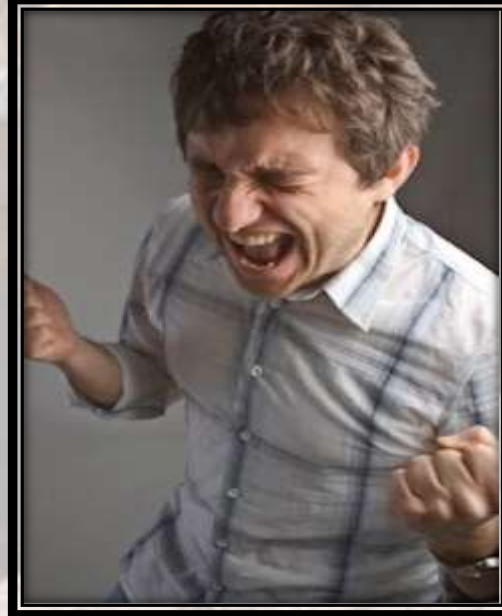
Little Foxes Bitterness

Bitterness Spoils Kindness



bit-ter-ness /'bɪdənes/ noun

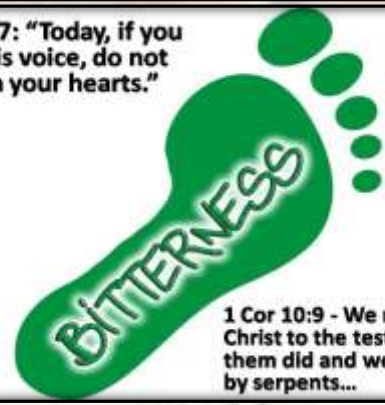
- sharpness of taste; lack of sweetness.
"the lime juice imparts a slight bitterness"
synonyms: sharpness, acidity, acidify, tartness, sourness, harshness, *More*
- anger and disappointment at being treated unfairly; resentment.
"he expressed bitterness over his dismissal without notice"



Never trust
your tongue
when your
heart is bitter.



Verse 7: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."



1 Cor 10:9 - We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents...

Little Foxes BITTERNESS

Bitterness Spoils Kindness

■ Bitterness hardens our hearts:

- **Mark 3:1-5** And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Little Foxes BITTERNESS

Bitterness Spoils Kindness

■ Hebrew writer warned of bitterness:

- Hebrews 12:14-15 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

Little Foxes BITTERNESS

Bitterness Spoils Kindness

■ **Some allow bitterness to spoil their kindness to others:**

□ **Ephesians 4:31-32** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

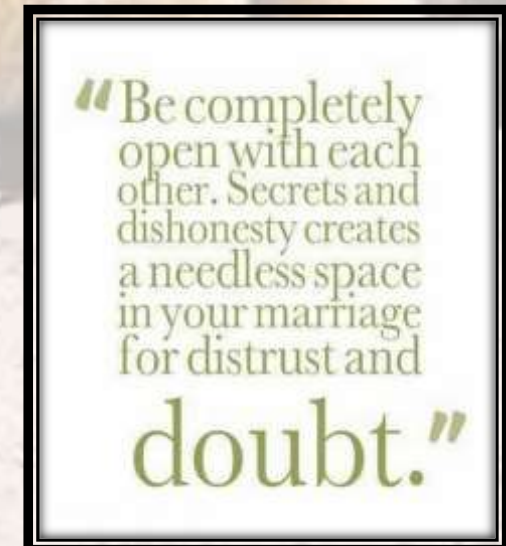
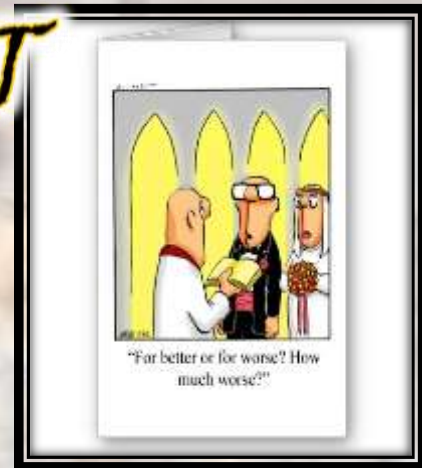
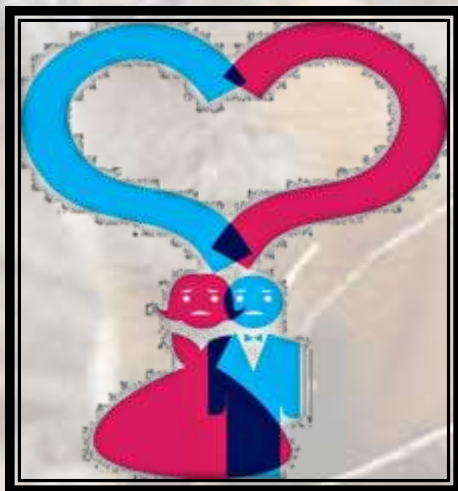
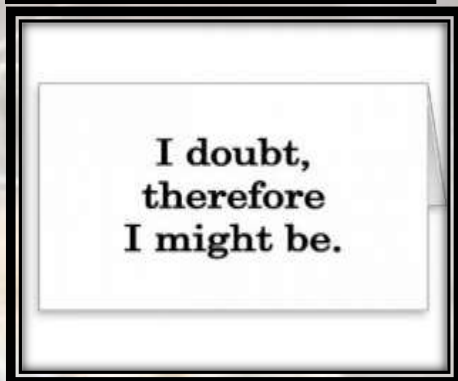
Little Foxes BITTERNESS

Bitterness Spoils Kindness

- The “*little fox*” of bitterness can have tragic consequences:
 - Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Little Foxes DOUBT

Doubt Spoils Faith



Little Foxes DOUBT

Doubt Spoils Faith

■ “Doubting Thomas”:

- **John 20:24-25** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

Little Foxes DOUBT

Doubt Spoils Faith

■ The 10 unfaithful spies:

- **Numbers 13:30-33** And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Little Foxes DOUBT

Doubt Spoils Faith

- **Undoubtedly doubt demonstrates a challenged faith:**

- ☐ **Matthew 14:31** And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

- **Doubt also signals an unstable faith:**

- **James 1:6-7** But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Little Foxes DOUBT

Doubt Spoils Faith

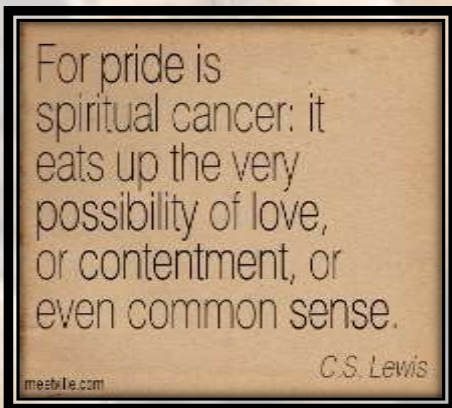
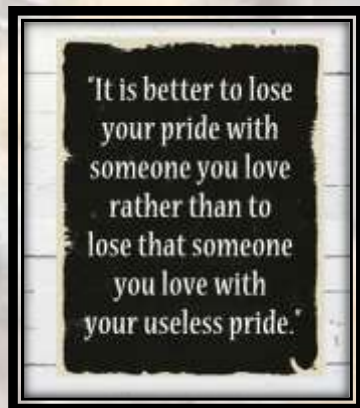
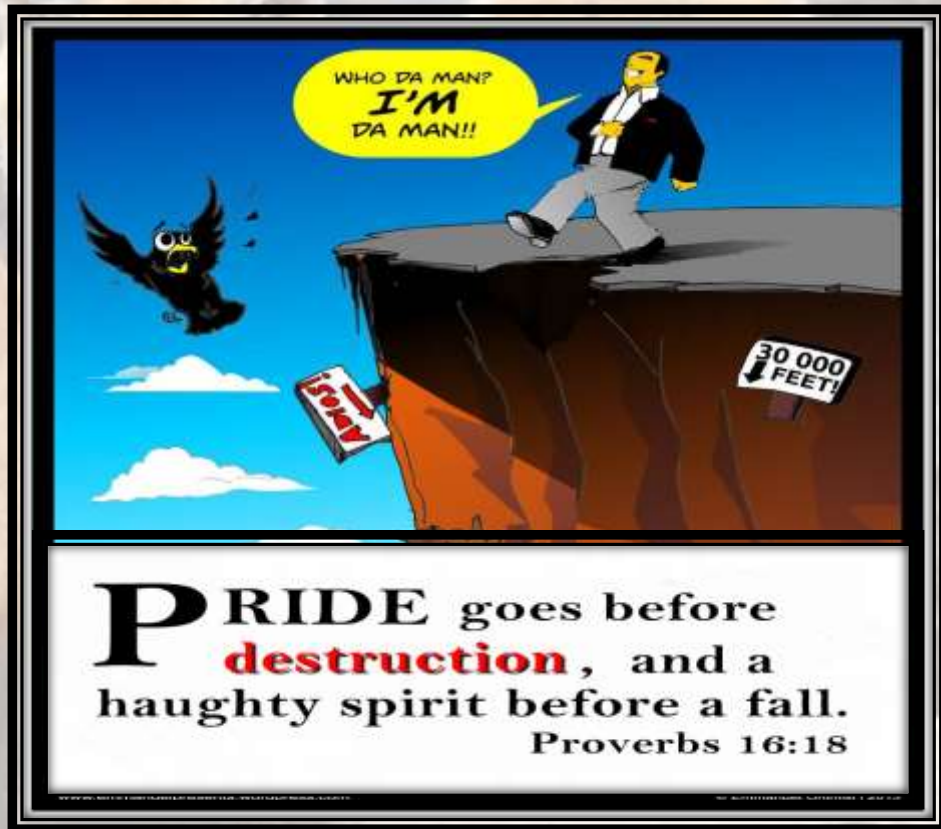
■ **Having questions about our faith is ok if we seek answers in the right place:**

□ **Matthew 7:7-8** Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

□ **John 7:16-17** Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.

Little Foxes PRIDE

Pride Spoils Meekness



Little Foxes PRIDE

Pride Spoils Meekness

■ Recall King Uzziah?

- **2 Chronicles 26:15-16** And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong. **But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to *his* destruction:** for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

Little Foxes PRIDE

Pride Spoils Meekness

■ Recall the women of Jerusalem?

- **Isaiah 3:16-17** Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing *as* they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.

Little Foxes PRIDE

Pride Spoils Meekness

- There is an “I” in the center of Pride
- **Proverbs 16:18** Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.
- **1 Corinthians 10:12** Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Little Foxes PRIDE

Pride Spoils Meekness

■ There is an “I” in the center of Pride?

□ Isaiah 3:24 And it shall come to pass, *that* instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; *and* burning instead of beauty.

Little Foxes PRIDE

Pride Spoils Meekness

■ Let us always pursue a humble heart:

- **Isaiah 57:15** For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.
- **1 Peter 5:5** Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Little Foxes That Spoil The Vine

Conclusion

- How do we deal with “*little foxes*” ?
- Can only be done with honest self-examination.

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.”

2 Corinthians 13:5

Dead Little Foxes

Can't
Spoil
The Vine



Little Foxes That Spoil The Vine – Part Five

THANK YOU!

ENJOY THE REST OF THE SABBATH!

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