

SOLOMON  
STEPPING INTO BIG SANDALS  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES



### The Heart of the Matter

No king in the history of Israel, not even the great King David, was more exalted or exhibited more royal majesty than King Solomon (1 Chronicles 29:25). Solomon began his reign with more advantages than any other king. He possessed divinely inspired wisdom, immense wealth, undisputed authority, and flourishing peace. And though we often rush to Solomon's weaknesses, we can learn valuable truths from his strengths if we look closely.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. "Long Live King Solomon" (1 Kings 1:34)

Who was this king, this son of David? Let's find out by looking at his . . .

- Birth and name (2 Samuel 12:24–25)
- Childhood and training
- Inauguration and reign (1 Chronicles 29:23–25)

#### 2. "The LORD His God Was with Him" (2 Chronicles 1:1)

What did the Lord do for Solomon? Let's discover God's grace in giving him . . .

- Wisdom and knowledge (2 Chronicles 1:2–3, 6–13)
- Discernment and strength (1 Kings 4:29–34)
- Riches and fame (1 Kings 4:20–27)
- Vision and skill (1 Kings 10:23–25)

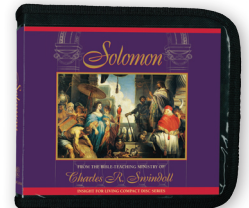


### Starting Your Journey

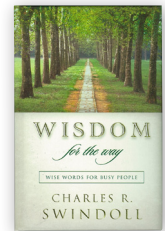
David told us to "forget none of [God's] benefits" (Psalm 103:1–2). Solomon had many benefits to praise God for, and so do we. So take a few moments to praise God for your mind, your stability, your possessions, and your hope.



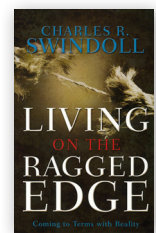
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SOLOMON  
SOLOMON IN LIVING COLOR  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES FROM 1 KINGS



### The Heart of the Matter

It is doubtful that any king on earth could match the glory of Solomon. In fact, his glory was probably the pinnacle of earthly splendor in the mind of Christ, which was why Jesus used Solomon as the example of earthly glory (Matthew 6:29). And because Christ obviously appreciated Solomon's grandeur, we'll spend a few moments uncovering Solomon's better-known accomplishments, not only to appreciate them ourselves but to motivate us to accomplish something important in our lives.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Solomon—Man of God (1 Kings 3:7–9, 28; 8:12–13, 59–63)

Solomon was a man who demonstrated genuine humility, personal integrity, and scriptural loyalty.

#### 2. Solomon—Author and Composer (1 Kings 4:29–34)

Solomon was a man whose interests were deep and wide, a genuine intellectual who was sensitive to God.

#### 3. Solomon—Architect and Administrator (Selected Scriptures from 1 Kings)

Solomon was a man skilled in administration, construction, and architecture.

#### 4. Solomon—Diplomat and Equestrian (Selected Scriptures from 1 Kings)

Solomon was a man adept in diplomacy and the strategies of war.

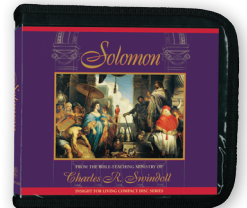


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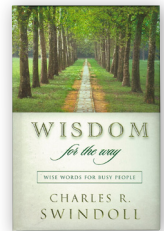
None of us can match Solomon's achievements, but all of us can do something. So, for what will people remember you? What is it that God would have you do? Find out, and get at it!



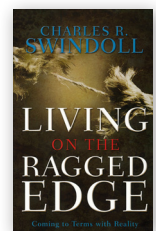
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SOLOMON  
SIGNS OF EROSION  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES



### The Heart of the Matter

Erosion is rarely seen, until it is too late. Little compromises here and there hardly seem significant compared to outright sin. But toleration leads to acceptance, and acceptance leads to practice. Then, silently and unnoticeably, a definite deterioration begins to occur. This was exactly what happened to the once-glorious king, Solomon. We would be wise to examine the almost imperceptible signs of his erosion and use that as a warning to stop erosion in our lives.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. A Flawless Image (Selected Scriptures from 1 Kings)

No man had been blessed by God, possessed such varied interests, amassed such a record of achievement, or garnered the praise of people more than Solomon.

#### 2. A Subtle Trap (Selected Scriptures from Ecclesiastes 2)

Solomon fell into the subtle traps of extravagance, boredom, and disillusionment.

#### 3. A Deteriorating Life (Selected Scriptures from 1 Kings)

Solomon succumbed to four compromises that would lead to his downfall.

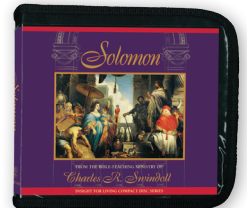


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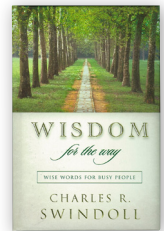
None of this had to happen, but Solomon willfully ignored biblical counsel and stubbornly refused personal accountability. This is a strong warning to us, especially in light of 1 Corinthians 10:11–12.



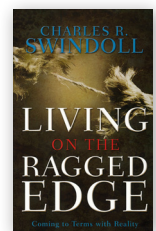
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SOLOMON  
WHEN THE HEART IS TURNED AWAY  
1 KINGS 11:1–9



### The Heart of the Matter

Has there ever been a man who lived to such extremes as Solomon? On the one hand, he had great wisdom, vast riches, incomparable achievements, and political power. Yet on the other hand, he was bored with life, disillusioned, and falling into gross immorality and idolatry. How could such a man, so wise and blessed by God, become such a fool? How can we prevent becoming like Solomon in our lives?



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Analysis of Tangible Success (Selected Scriptures)

If there had been a magazine like *Forbes* or *Fortune* in Solomon's day, Solomon would have made the cover.

#### 2. Characteristics of Personal Deterioration (Selected Scriptures)

Solomon's deterioration is seen in two internal attitudes, and God's mercy is shown in God's appearance.

#### 3. Steps of Final Failure (1 Kings 11:1–9)

The final fall of Solomon can be marked in four downward steps.

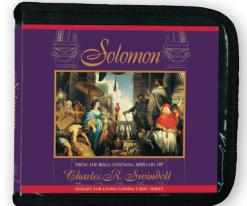


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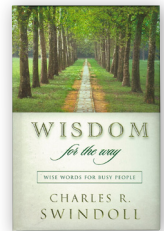
How can we prevent a Solomon-like fall in our lives? We should learn these two lessons. First, no heart is suddenly turned off or turned away from God. Second, no one who has slipped needs to stay in that condition. A fall doesn't have to be fatal if we turn back to God.



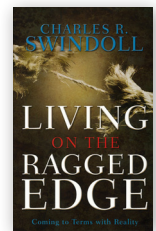
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# SOLOMON

## HOW GOD DEALS WITH DEFIANCE

### 1 KINGS 11:9–28, 40



### The Heart of the Matter

What do you do with a rebel? How do you deal with open defiance, with a stubborn heart? We see it every day in our society, in our homes, and even in our churches—resistance, contempt, rebellion. Although we see it every day, defiance is always unexpected and disappointing. Who could have guessed that Solomon would embody the rebellious spirit? But God saw it coming and dealt with this wayward king. As with all of Solomon's life, we should pay close attention and learn—as Solomon learned—that there is no lion so fierce that God can't tame it.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Defiance: Seeds and Harvest

As we review Solomon's life, we see that seeds of defiance led to a tragic harvest.

Seeds	Harvest
A.	
B.	
C.	
D.	

#### 2. Reaction: God and Solomon (1 Kings 11:9–28, 40)

God was angry with Solomon (11:9–13) and punished his defiance by bringing into his life human adversaries (11:14–25), internal rebellion (11:26–28), and personal frustration (11:40).

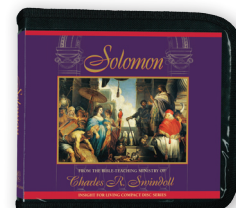


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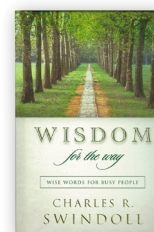
So how do you handle a rebel? What if that rebel is you? Take some time and evaluate whether you are a defiant one by thinking about these truths. Defiance begins with a carnal attitude. (Fill in the chart on the next page to review the downward steps of defiance.) Defiance leads to personal misery (Proverbs 13:15). And defiance results in inescapable bondage (5:21–23).



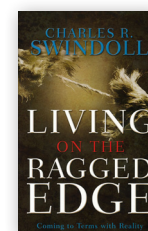
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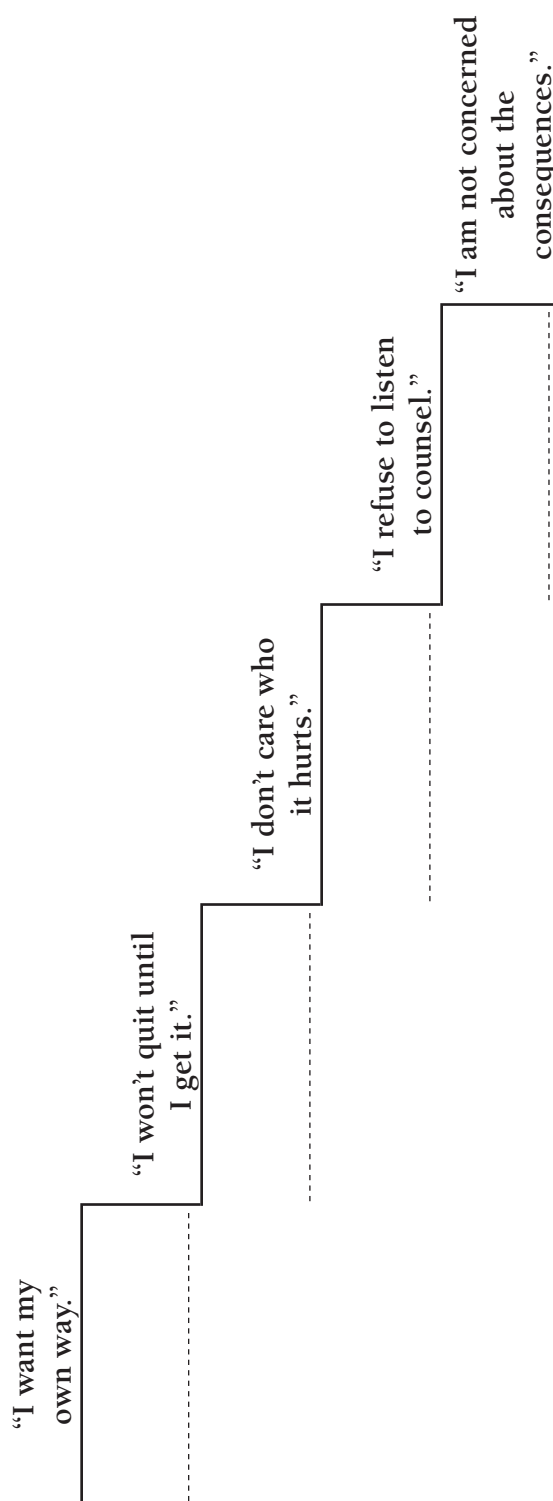
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SOLOMON  
HOW GOD DEALS WITH DEFIANCE  
1 KINGS 11:9–28, 40



The Downward Steps of Defiance





SOLOMON  
SOUND ADVICE FROM AN OLD REBEL  
ECCLESIASTES 11:9–12:7



### The Heart of the Matter

In the twilight of his life, Solomon took up his pen and wrote a memoir of sorts—of how his life had been lived in vanity, in spite of his wisdom, his power, and his achievements. Unlike Proverbs, which instructs young people how to live, the book of Ecclesiastes offers instructions on how *not* to live. And some of the best advice is found in the last section of the book. Unfortunately, Solomon's son failed to heed his father's wisdom. We would be wise not to be so foolish.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Solomon's Closing Years (1 Kings 11:40–43)

Though he made many contributions to his people, Solomon's life drew to an end under the punishment of affliction and frustration.

#### 2. Solomon's Advice to the Young (Ecclesiastes 11:9–12:7)

Solomon offered four pieces of advice: you are accountable to God (11:9–10); God should be the priority of your life (12:1); age works against you (12:2–6); and death is inevitable (12:7).

#### 3. Solomon's Carbon Copy (2 Chronicles 10:1–15)

Solomon's son didn't follow his father's advice. He resisted counsel, he rebelled and escaped responsibilities, and he brought on national anarchy.

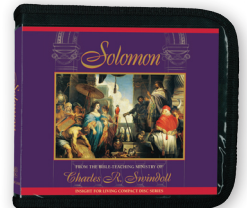


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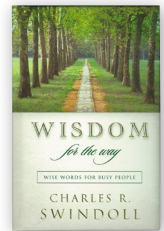
Solomon's message for us today is simple: the time to walk with God is NOW . . . not later!



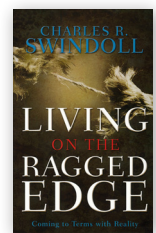
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SOLOMON  
A PLEA FOR GODLINESS  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES



### The Heart of the Matter

To be in ministry is to know heartbreak. And there is no heartbreak harder to bear than the heartbreak of knowing that God's children too often live in the rebellion of sin. If we could trace sin back to its source, we'd soon discover its wellspring in depravity—the murky and poisonous waters of a sinful nature. It is depravity that results in permissiveness when righteousness is ignored. It is permissiveness that leads to rationalization when holiness is ignored. And it is rationalization that encourages rebellion when repentance is ignored. But God would have us live differently.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Deceptive Depravity (Selected Scriptures)

Depravity results in permissiveness when righteousness is ignored.

#### 2. Passive Permissiveness (Selected Scriptures from 1 Samuel 15)

Permissiveness leads to rationalization when holiness is ignored.

#### 3. Rebellious Rationalization (1 Peter 1:13–19)

Rationalization encourages rebellion when repentance is ignored.

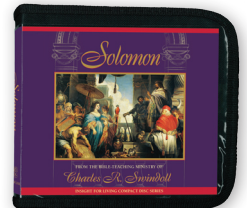


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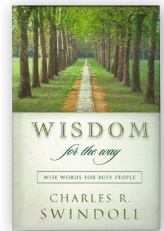
God calls His children to holiness (1 Peter 1:15–16). But how can we be holy with depravity residing in our nature? Consider these three steps. First, take God seriously—fear Him as a counteraction to permissiveness. Second, pursue God vigorously—be honest as a counteraction to rationalization. Finally, submit to God willingly—be humble as a counteraction to rebellion.



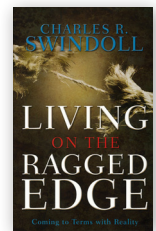
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SOLOMON  
NEEDED: A GODLY MIND  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES



### The Heart of the Matter

The mind is the battlefield where God and Satan square off. It is the war-torn territory where good and evil face each other. It is here that conscience unsheathes its sword to clash against expedience, that conviction bares its arm against temptation, and that character raises its flag against corruption. Every important battle is first fought in the mind. And it is a battle we dare not lose if we wish to be godly.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. The Battle for the Mind (Ephesians 6:10–13)

In the battle for the mind, we must be prepared. Paul described the battlefield and offered a battle cry and a basic strategy.

#### 2. The Strategy of Our Enemy (Selected Scriptures from 2 Corinthians)

In the battle for the mind, we must know the strategy of our enemy, the Devil.

#### 3. Storming the Fortress of the Mind (Selected Scriptures from 2 Corinthians)

In the battle for the mind, we must breach the walls of speculations, tear down the lofty towers of knowledge, and capture every thought for Christ.



### Starting Your Journey

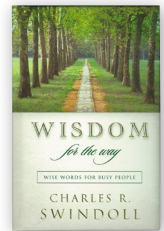
In the battle for the mind, we do not fight a fleshly enemy. So our weapons cannot be fleshly. Therefore, if we are to win the battle for the mind, we must employ the spiritual weapon of God's Word by reading, studying, and memorizing Scripture.



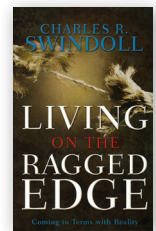
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