

Make No Provision

1. If you repeatedly fall into the same sins...you might be making provision for the flesh.
2. If you've given up and resigned yourself to the fact that you'll struggle with this sin all your life...you might be making provision for the flesh. It's okay to settle into a long battle but not resign and just think, "This is the way it is." We're called to put our sin to death, not make peace with it (Col. 3:5).
3. If you're not fleeing temptation...you might be making provision for the flesh. We're told to flee youthful passions (2 Tim. 2:22); flee sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18); flee the love of money (1 Tim. 6:11); flee idolatry (1 Cor. 10:14).
4. If you have not changed anything or eliminated anything from your life to fight sin and avoid temptation...you might be making provision for the flesh. You're to put it to death (Col. 3:5; Rom. 8:13). Doing nothing about the conditions that have led you into sin time and time again IS making provision because it is not changing the system that has provided for it.
5. If your desires align more with the world than the word of God...you might be making provision for the flesh (1 John 2:15).
6. If many of your relationships are marked by conflict or fighting...you might be making provision for the flesh (Gal. 5:17-ff).
7. If you're not searching the word of God for gospel truth by which you can wage war and steady your heart in spiritual battle...you might be making provision for the flesh (John 17:17).
8. If no one else knows about your sin patterns and areas of persistent temptation... you might be making provision for the flesh. We're to confess our sins to one another that we might be healed (James 5:16). The one who isolates himself seeks his own desire and breaks out against all sound judgment (Prov. 18:1).
9. If you don't faithfully gather with the church...you might be making provision for the flesh. The body of Christ is ordained by God to help watch over your soul and keep you from being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:12-14). They are ordained by God to help spur you on unto the day of Christ...until the day dawns in all its brilliance (Heb. 10:24-25)
10. If you're not actively seeking growth in grace through God's ordinary means (Bible reading, prayer, worship with the church, fellowship, etc)...you might be making provision for the flesh. We cannot merely look at holiness as taking away. Remember, this is about putting on Christ, not just taking off sin.