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Pinebrook is located on Rt. 191 north of Stroudsburg.

### Upcoming Events at Pinebrook

*Sno Glo - First 3 weekends in January 2010*

*Ladies: Spring Ladies Refresh♥Her - Apr. 23-25*

*77<sup>th</sup> Summer Conference: June 27 - August 13, 2009  
Pastor Steve Cornell (Conf. 2 - July 4-9)*

*Senior Saints Retreat - Oct. 18-21, 2009 w/ Lynn Warner & Tom Taylor*

*Hymn Sings (Friday mornings 10-noon): April 9, May 7, June 4, September 10, October 1, November 5, December 3*

All to the Glory of God

## SERMONOTES

Title: "The Ghost of Christmas Future"     *The True Christmas Carol*  
Text: *Genesis 4:1-16*  
Dan Allen, Director - Pinebrook Bible Conference

Introduction - *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

We can change. We can choose to be more like Christ.

Background of *Genesis 4*

A. Ten Questions:

1. Where/when did Eve give birth to Cain?
2. Why did God reject Cain's offering?
3. How did God speak to Cain?
4. Why did Cain resort to murder?
5. Did Cain bury the body or just let it in the field?
6. Did Cain really think God would buy his excuse?
7. Why didn't God execute Cain on the spot?
8. Why would God be so merciful to Cain?
9. Why didn't God allow others to kill Cain?
10. What was the mark put on Cain?

B. Question #2: Why did God reject Cain's offering?



## “Tripping”

It was a foul, plain and simple. I should have been flagged or, at the very least, punched.

It happened after an Eagles game against “stinking” Dallas at the Linc. I, like 40-thousand other fans, was dispirited after the good guys lost and with raw emotions we herded out of the stadium. It’s always a log-jam especially for the lazy ones who wish to take the escalator down. Shoulder-to-shoulder, front-to-back we slowly bob our way to the exits. Conversation is subdued, but there is the typical drunken-hazing of anyone wearing contrary colors. And there’s always a bit of mild shoving. I hold my own thru all of this. My kids have learned to walk behind me and stay close. This I learned from my football dad who had people bounce off of him as he made a beeline to an exit. I try not to be as forward, but on occasion . . . and this was one of those occasions:

A rather tall, taller than your commentator, and well dressed gentleman came up on my left with either a wife, girlfriend or daughter on my right and they clearly wanted to get ahead. Where they thought they were going to get by this, I had no clue. We were all stuck making baby steps. When the crowd slowed and he could not get ahead of me, he stopped, even fell a bit behind as he talked to that person on the other side. When the mass started moving again he took a lunge forward thinking that he could get in front of me. I confess and am somewhat ashamed to admit that my old nature popped-up. With his lunge I, too, took a lunge with a longer than normal stride making sure my foot came in contact with his, in essence, tripping him. It worked. He didn’t fall - that’s impossible with such a crowd, but he temporarily stumbled, stopped, looked me square in the eye and angrily asked: “why do you keep tripping me?”

Quick as a whip and not natured to lie I replied: “I’m not. I only did it once.”

I don’t know if it was my candor or the resolve in which I said it, but he didn’t respond. In fact, he rapidly fell back into oblivion. Too bad none of my kids were around to appreciate my victory and the way I weaseled out of a potential fist sandwich.

Slipping into the old nature, unfortunately, is something I do more often than I wish. It seems to come natural. The Apostle Paul

apparently struggled with the same problem. Oh, maybe not tripping people after a sporting event, but certainly doing the very things he did not want to do. This veteran evangelist and apostle admitted his struggle and it may have been a life-long struggle. That doesn’t mean that he, nor I, shouldn’t be working on these rough edges. Fact of the matter is, as we pursue holiness these are the very things we should be working on in hopes that they will become less and less natural.

Oh may it be for me . . . unless you try to step in front of me after my team loses.

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### C. What is God Saying in vs. 6 is “You can change!”

Two parts to this verse:

- (1) The first part is not a \_\_\_\_\_ principle
- (2) The second part is a general principle and makes three statements:
  - #1. You have a \_\_\_\_\_ to make concerning how you will live.
  - #2. Your \_\_\_\_\_ opens the door for the Evil One.
  - #3. You can have \_\_\_\_\_ over sin.

How:

First: \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word

Second: \_\_\_\_\_ in Prayer

Third: \_\_\_\_\_ yourself with Christian friends

Fourth: \_\_\_\_\_ on the Holy Spirit