

## Playing with Danger

In many people's houses, spiders are not welcome guests. Even though they are good at catching insects, most spiders found in houses are killed.

There are however some lands in the world where spiders grow very large and some of them are deadly poisonous—places such as Africa or South America, especially in the jungles and rain forests. There are pictures of spiders that are over six inches across or larger. The poison of some of these spiders is so deadly that if a person is bitten and can't reach a doctor quickly, they will die from the spider's bite.

We have heard a story of a missionary in Africa who had a very frightening experience with one of these large, poisonous spiders. He was entering the house where he lived when he happened to see one of those spiders on the floor. He quickly went back outside and found a strong stick about 6 feet long, intending to kill the spider. But then, the missionary did something very foolish.

Instead of immediately killing the spider with his stick, the missionary stood about 5 feet away from the spider and began teasing it by touching it lightly with the end of his stick. After a few moments, the missionary moved the stick slowly away from the spider, towards his own legs. It was then that the spider suddenly jumped on the stick trying to bite it!

The missionary could see the poison from its fangs running down the end of the stick. Realizing how foolish he had been to 'play' with this dangerous and deadly spider, he immediately killed it.

The spider's strike on the stick had been very accurate and if it had decided to attack the missionary's leg rather than the stick, he surely would have been bitten and been in danger of dying from the poison.

Perhaps, as you read this, you think that you would certainly know better than to tease and play with a poisonous spider. But, dear reader, are you playing with something far more deadly than that spider?

Are you playing with **sin**? Sin is a deadly enemy—whether telling a lie, being disobedient, or doing something secretly—something you know is wrong—or doing many, many other things like these. These **sins** are but a few of **Satan's traps** to lead you to everlasting punishment. God tells us in Ezekiel 18:4 that "*The soul that sinneth, it shall die*". God is holy and must punish sin. Perishing eternally in an awful place called 'hell' is the punishment God must use for those who sin and He tells us that "*all have sinned*".

How can you—how can anyone—be freed from Satan's awful power? Escape is only to be found through faith in what the Lord Jesus Christ, God's eternal, beloved only begotten Son, has done at Calvary's cross. God sent His dear Son into this world to be the Saviour of anyone who believes in Him. God's way of escape is to "*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved* (Acts 16:31). This is because "*the blood of Jesus Christ [God's Son] cleanseth us from all sin*" (1 John 1:7). Each person must repent by owning that they indeed are a sinner and unable to save themselves. A repentant sinner puts their trust, by faith, in the Lord Jesus, accepting Him as personal Saviour. He frees a believer from sin and gives the gift of eternal life to each who put their faith and trust in Him.

*"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"* (John 8:36).

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:23).

Don't **play** with sin! Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ right now!