

When
spider webs
unite, they
can tie up a
lion.



Avoid the Snare

Sunday evening I took a walk down an abandoned railroad track. The path snaked its way through the forest beyond Piedmont, Alabama. I walked for about three hours and never met another person on the trail. But this does not mean that I was without company; the birds were there to provide music, a nice cool breeze to make this country road pleasant and spiders were everywhere.

I know many people are freaked out by spiders. They avoid them with all their strength. I am told that on average, people fear spiders more than they do death. But on this day, the spider became my teacher and I was amazed at her lesson plan. In this photo, if you look closely, you can see that the spider is "spinning" her web. I watched as the spider sent some web loose in the breeze. When it stuck to a flower near the ground, she went to work and quicker than I could believe, wove her web, strand by strand, until it was completed. The whole process took less than five minutes. I was astonished at her demonstration of skill and speed.

I watched other spiders on this day. As I walked I suddenly came eye to eye with a spider who at one moment seemed completely paralyzed, because of its total motionlessness, then unexpectedly sprang to life, as a moth was trapped in a lower portion of her silky snare. In a matter of a few seconds, the spider was twirling the moth round and round, wrapping it up in layers of silver thread until it was absolutely unable to escape.

As I watched this startling spectacle of the spider, I was reminded of what an old preacher once told me, "Habits are like cobwebs at first, and then they become cables". Bad Habits, like the web of my hideous teacher are easily broken, until we spin around in them for a while. Continue spinning long enough, and you will find the chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.

The good news is this; we can do or stop doing anything we really want to. So, today, can you feel the pressure of the web starting to tighten around you? Or, are you getting dizzy from all the spinning around? No matter, you do not have to be a captive and you can know freedom. So, what are you going to do?

Something to think about:

- ❖ Any act often repeated soon forms a habit; and habit allowed, steady gains in strength, At first it may be but as a **spider's** web, easily broken through, but if not resisted it soon binds us with chains of steel.
- ❖ Sow a thought and you reap an act;
Sow an act and you reap a habit;
Sow a habit and you reap a character;
Sow a character and you reap a destiny.
- ❖ It seems, in fact, as though the second half of a man's life is made up of nothing but the habits he has accumulated during the first half.
- ❖ We first make our habits, then our habits make us.
- ❖ We build our lives each day with the bricks of habits we have.

Trying to avoid the snares
Rickey Moore