

Not Him Again!

“Joel, it’s Nathan on the phone,” Nancy called to her husband, who was working in the garage.

“Oh, man, what does he want now?” Joel muttered as he left his home repair project to answer the phone. “This guy is sucking the life out of me. He never fails. I start working on a project and then he calls with another problem,” Joel said with disgust before grabbing the phone from Nancy. Nancy shrugged her shoulders and returned to the kitchen.

“Hello, Nathan, what can I do for you this time?” Joel said trying to muster any kindness he had left toward Nathan. Nathan went on to share that he had once again gotten drunk the previous evening. As usual, he felt guilty and depressed. Joel prayed with Nathan and agreed to meet him that evening at the local coffee shop.

Joel hung up the phone and said to Nancy, “I wish Nathan would get his act together. I hate spending time on his problems. I’ve had about all I can take.”

1. Evaluate Joel’s attitude toward ministering to Nathan. How successful do you think his ministry to Nathan will be?
2. How does Joel’s attitude toward Nathan compare to Paul’s attitude toward the Galatians (Galatians 4:19)?
3. How do you react when you minister to or observe a Christian who repeatedly struggles with the same sin?
4. How does God want you to react? What will help to change any bad attitudes you might have toward those with grave spiritual needs?