

STUDIES ON OVERCOMING SIN

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AN INTRODUCTION ON HOW TO OVERCOME SIN

We need to have a more scientific understanding from the scriptures on how to overcome sin and to be so familiar with this method that it becomes a common science in our existence. We must become so familiar with this understanding even as we know our own names.

Firstly, we must understand that sin is against God, so that when we sin, we sin against God: Ps. 51:4; Isa. 42:24; Isa. 43:27; Isa. 66:24; Jer. 3:25; Job. 34:37; Rom. 8:7; 2 Cor. 10:5.

Because we sin against God, we must find out who God is. When you look up the following scriptures you will find out that God is righteousness: Jer. 12:1; Isa. 51:8; Jer. 23:5,6; Dan. 9:7; Rom. 10:3; Rom. 1:17; Ps. 5:8.

Sin which is against God is the opposite of righteous-ness: Dan. 4:27; 1 Cor. 15:34; (1 Jn. 3:4; 1 Jn. 5:17); Rom. 6: 16,18,20. Therefore, to get rid of sin we must be made righteous. This is called justification, and specifies a change of character thus a standing before God Because of that inner renewal: Rom. 4:3,5,9, 11; Rom. 5:19; 1 Jn. 2:29; Isa. 61:3; Isa. 54:17.

Righteousness comes by faith or is communicated to our hearts by faith: Rom. 4:11; Phil. 4:9; Rom. 9:30; Heb. 11:7.

Faith, as we understand, is the revealed truths of God: Heb. 11:1,17-19,22,23; 1 Tim. 4:6.

Therefore to overcome sin we must keep the word of faith with its righteousness in our hearts. So God who is righteousness shall remain in our hearts, and this is freedom from sin: Ps. 119:11; Deut. 8:3; Deut. 30:11-14; 1 Jn. 2:5; Jam. 1:21; Jer. 20:9.

Since sin is against God who is righteousness, which is the opposite of sin, and righteous-ness comes in faith (the revealed truths of God), in order to be free from sin, we must be given by imputation, the faith of Christ with its righteousness to substitute the carnal mind. When we keep or abide in this faith, God who is righteousness remains in us and this is overcoming sin.

NO. 1 - ABIDE IN CHRIST

1. We once abode in death or darkness: Jn. 3:36; Jn. 5:38; 1 Jn. 3:14; Eph. 2:1-3,5; Col. 2:13.

2. When we are justified, Christ comes to dwell in us by His Spirit which is the truth: (Rom. 5:1,5; Rom. 8:2,9-11,15); 2 Cor. 1:22; (Gal. 3:1-3; Gal. 4:6); Jn. 14:17.

3. Christ by nature is:

a. God: Jn. 20:28,29; 1 Jn. 5:20.

- b. Truth: Jn. 14:6; Jn. 1:14,17.
 - c. Love: 2 Cor. 5:14; Eph. 3:19.
4. Christ in us is:
- a. God: 1 Cor. 14:25; 1 Jn. 4:15,16; 1 Cor. 15:28.
 - b. Truth: Ps. 51:6; 1 Jn. 2:4; 2 Jn. 9; 3 Jn. 3.
 - c. Love: Rom. 5:5; 1 Jn. 2:5; 1 Jn. 4:12.
 - d. And this is freedom from sin.
5. The "mutual in-ness" doctrine: Jn. 6:56; Jn. 14:10; Jn. 15:4, 5,7; 1 Jn. 2:24; 1 Jn. 3:24; 1 Jn. 4:13,15,16.
6. Out of the heart comes forth the issues of life: Matt. 12:34; Pro. 4:23.
7. Thus if we abide in Christ, He abides in us and we will do His will only: Rom. 6:17; 1 Jn. 2:24; Jn. 15:5.
8. We overcome sin when we abide in Christ. Thus Christ (the seed or truth) abides in us: 1 Jn. 3:5,6,9; Isa. 26:3; Phil. 4:8, 9.

NO. 2 - LIVING BY THE SHIELD OF FAITH

1. What is faith ? Heb. 11:1.
- a. pistis - proof.
 - b. hupostasis (to stand under) - title-deed.
 - c. elegchos (elegmos) - conviction (persuader).
 - d. pragma (things) - "a thing done".
2. What faith is not? Jam. 2:19; 2 Thess. 3:2.
3. Additional proof of what faith is, thus cannot be - believing: Rom. 3:22; Rom. 3:3,2; Rom. 3:4,7;

Rom. 10:6-9,17; 1 Tim. 4:6; Heb. 11:3,17-19.

4. As faith is the revealed truth of the Word of God, and the gospel is truth, so faith is the gospel: Jn. 17:17; Acts. 15:7; Gal. 2:5,14; Col. 1:15; Eph. 1:13; Phil. 1:27.
5. As the gospel contains righteousness, so faith (the gospel) contains righteousness: Rom. 1:16, 17; (Righteousness of faith: Rom. 4:11,13).
6. What is righteousness? The spiritual law: Rom. 7:14; Rom. 8:4; Rom. 9:31,31; Ps. 119:172.
7. When God justifies us He puts the spiritual law (through faith in us: Rom. 3:22; Rom. 4:5; Heb. 8:10; Isa. 51:7).
8. Then it is that we obey the works of the law: Rom. 3:28,31; Rom. 2:26,27.
9. We overcome by faith: 1 Jn. 5:4; Rom. 14:23; Eph. 6:16.
10. Use faith to expose the vanity and displeasure of the temptation: Pro. 22:17-21; 2 Cor. 10:3-6.

NO. 3 - INFIRMITIES AND LIABILITIES, HOW TO HANDLE THEM

1. We have sinful human flesh like Christ, this is not sin: Rom. 8:3 (This is having infirmities and liabilities).
2. Infirmities are biological weaknesses of the flesh: Rom. 8: 26; Matt. 26:40, 41; Gal. 4:13; Heb. 4:15.
3. Liabilities is the capabilities of perverted emotions flowing in the flesh.
 - a. It flows: Rom. 7:5,8; Gal. 5:19-21.
 - b. You can stop it: 1 Thes. 4:3-5; Acts. 14:15; Jam. 5:17; 1 Pet. 2:24.
4. How to prevent liabilities from becoming actualities:
 - a. Do not have wrong thoughts, keep mind on the truth. Col. 3:2-10; 2 Tim. 2:22; (Rom. 6:6,7; Gal. 5:24, 25); Eph. 2:2-13; Gal. 5:16-18.
5. How not to allow infirmities to cause us to sin:
 - a. Obey regardless of feelings (infirmities). Abide in the truth even though you are

experiencing infirmities: Matt. 26:41; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Pro. 18:14; Rom. 6:19.

6. Vigilance is the key to success: 1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Thess. 5:6; 2 Tim. 4:5; 1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8,9.
 - a. Watching is spiritual alertness, guarding the soul, preserving it from subversion by error.

NO. 4 - WHAT IS SIN AND WHAT IS THE DIVINE MIND?

1. Sin starts in the mind: Gen. 6:5; Ps. 58:2; Pr. 23:6,7; Isa. 1: 5; Matt. 12:34; Matt. 15:19; Eph. 2:3.
2. The old man of sin is the carnal mind: (Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22, 23).
3. The carnal mind exalts creation as love: 2 Cor. 10:4, 10; (Eph. 4:17,18; Jn. 17:3); Isa. 14:12-14; Col. 2:18.
4. The attributes of God is attributed to creation: (Ps. 96:5; Jer. 13:10); (Isa. 41:23; Isa. 46:9, 10); (Matt. 15:19; Ex. 32:1).
5. The divine mind must be in us: (Rom. 8:6; Rom. 5:1); (Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 2:16).
6. This is the divine way of thinking: Phil. 2:2-9; Jn. 17:4,6,8, 26.
7. It is God being attributed with His own attributes:
 - a. The Father is God: Jn. 3:16,17,33,34.
 - b. Jesus is God: Jn. 5:17,18; Jn. 8:54-59.
 - c. The Spirit is God: Jn. 14:16-18; Jn. 16:13,14.
8. Faith does this work: (Heb. 11:6);
 - a. Vs. 3: Creator.
 - b. Vs. 4: Will.
 - c. Vs. 5: Saviour.
 - d. Vs. 6,7: Will (Saviour).

- e. Vs. 8: Will.
- f. Vs. 9,10: Eternal.
- g. Vs. 11: Truth.
- h. Vs. 13-16: Eternal.
- i. Vs. 17-19: Life (Saviour).
- j. Vs. 20: Truth (Eternal).
- k. Vs. 21: God.
- l. Vs. 22: Truth.
- m. Vs. 23: Will.
- n. Vs. 24-26: Glory.
- o. Vs. 27: God.
- p. Vs. 28-30: Righteousness.
- q. Vs. 31: Saviour.
- r. Vs. 32-38 General (Love).

9. The divine mind in us constitutes the absence of sin: Ps. 15: 1-3; Ps. 36:10; Ps. 119:11; Pro. 4:4; Ps. 37:30,31; Isa. 51:7.

NO. 5 - CREATING HABITS OF FAITHFULNESS AND CHOICE OF TRUTH

1. "The mind must be trained through daily tests to habits of fidelity, to a sense of the claims of right and duty above inclination and pleasure. Minds thus trained do not waver between right and wrong, as the reed trembles in the wind; but as soon as matters come before them, they discern at once that principle is involved, and they instinctively choose the right without long debating the matter. They are loyal because they have trained themselves in habits of faithfulness and truth." **Ellen G. White, Mind, Character and Personality, Vol. 1, pg. 74.**
2. The need for daily tests of:

- a. Fidelity which is:
 - i. Loyalty to conviction: Acts. 4:1-20.
 - ii. Exact obedience to duty: Ex. 19:7,8.
- b. Claims of right:
 - i. What is right: Isa. 45:19.
 - ii. What right requires: Deut. 6;18; Hos. 14:9.
- c. Claims of duty:
 - i. What is duty: Eccl. 12:13.
 - ii. What duty requires: Rom. 13:8-14; Lk. 17:7-10.

3. What is denied?

- a. Inclinations: Ps. 141:4.
- b. How they are denied?: Ps. 119:36,172.
- c. Pleasure: Heb. 11:25.
 - i. What is not pleasure? Pro. 21:17; 1 Tim. 5:6; Tit. 3: 3; Lk. 8:14.
 - ii. What is true pleasure? 1 Chr. 29:17; Eph. 1:5,9; Ps. 16:11.

4. Results of daily tests:

- a. Immediate discernment of principles involved in the tests: Ps. 37:30,31; 1 Cor. 2:12-15; Ps. 19:7,8; Ps. 119: 105,130.
- b. Instant instinctive choice of right: Ps. 119:97-102,104.

5. New habits formed:

- a. Faithfulness (full of faith): Ps. 119:11; Ps. 31:23 (Neh. 7:2); Gal. 3:9.
- b. Choice of truth: Rev. 14:12.

NO. 6 - THE FORMATION OF CHARACTER

1. What is character?
 - a. Thoughts: Pro. 23:7.
 - b. Emotions: 1 Chr. 29:3.
 - c. When they become our habitual values (in or out of sin) this is character: Gen. 6:5; 2 Tim. 3:2,3.
2. The character of a deprave man is the carnal mind: Isa. 1:5; Rom. 8:5-7.
3. God must give to man the character of Christ.
 - a. Temporary remove the carnal mind (character): 2 Cor. 3:14,15.
 - b. Temporary place Christ's character and divine mind: Jn. 1:5; Ps. 36:9; 2 Cor. 4:6.
 - c. Conviction: Jn. 16:7,8.
 - d. Repent, Believe: Mk 1:15.
 - e. Justification: Acts. 13:38,39.
4. While the divine mind is in us through the character of Christ, we must maintain the mind by developing the character.
 - a. Christ's thoughts must continually become our thoughts: 1 Cor. 2:10-16; Phil. 2:5.
 - b. Thus our affections will follow suit: 2 Cor. 7:15; Col. 3: 1,2.
 - c. For this to happen we must feed daily, hourly and every minute on scripture which is Christ's thoughts: 1 Jn. 2: 24; Jn. 15:4, 5 (Jn. 5:39; Jn. 6:53-57).
 - d. Until the thoughts and feelings become our new habit: Jn. 17:21,23.

NO. 7 - PRACTICAL EFFORTS TO OVERCOME SIN

1. Study the living Word of God for life: 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim. 4:13,15; Jn. 6:53, 54,56.

2. Actively obey what you know is truth: 1 Tim. 4:16; Jam. 2: 14-26; Col. 1:9,10.
3. Teach others the Word for your life: Matt. 28:19; Matt. 22: 16; Ps. 51:12,13; Heb. 3:13; Tit. 2:15.
4. Move yourself from unnecessary situations that weaken your faith, tempt you unnecessarily and cause you to fall: 1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Tim. 6:9-11.
5. You must pray audibly (excusing yourself from whatever present duty) doing it at least three times a day: Dan. 6:10; Jam. 5:16. Ps. 55:16,17.
 - a. Re-consecrate yourself to God each morning: Phil. 4:6.
 - b. Ask for truth or life to overcome sin daily: Phil. 4:6.
 - c. Ask for clear developing visions of present duty: Phil. 4:6.
6. Humble yourself to counsel whether from brethren or unconverted people: Pro. 11:14; Pro. 9:8,9; Pro. 23:9.
7. Be concerned and anxious for the preservation of your soul from the pollution of sin: Isa. 6:5; Ps. 51:3.
8. Stick close to biblical (moral) culture as much as possible, mimic Christ: 1 Cor. 11:1; Matt. 3:1-4; Mk. 1:6.
9. Before you do anything that is questionable, ask yourself: would Christ do this if He was in your situation? Consult the scriptures: Phil. 4:6; 2 Tim. 3:15-17.

The End