

The Christian's Life-Long Fight against Sin



Some people think that when a Christian sins, he loses his salvation. That is **NOT** true. It is **NOT** what the Bible teaches. Some other people think genuine faith in Christ results in a sinless life. That is also **NOT** true. It is **NOT** what the Bible teaches.

In **Romans 7:18-19** the apostle Paul said, '**For I know nothing**

good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.'

When the apostle Paul wrote those words, he had been a Christian for almost 30 years!

What Paul was experiencing is what all Christians experience. The longer a person is a Christian, the more he becomes conscious of the sin that remains within him, in his old sinful human nature (what the Bible calls 'the flesh').

Before a person becomes a Christian, he is controlled by his old sinful nature and he does whatever he wants to do; he gratifies the desires of his sinful nature, just like other unbelievers.

Unbelievers do not have the Spirit of God (The Holy Spirit) and they do the works of the flesh.

In **Galatians 5:19-21** we are told that people who are not Christians, '**... engage in sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries,**

dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies and such like things.' (Read the whole section from Galatians 5:16-24).

However, when a person becomes a Christian, the Spirit of God comes to live in him to begin the process of making him holy - of teaching him not to satisfy and please the desires of his old sinful nature. It almost seems as if he now has two natures - his old sinful nature and the Holy Spirit. These two fight against each other.

That is why, in **Galatians 5:17**, the apostle Paul says, '**The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.**'

This 'fight' within a Christian will continue until the day he dies and goes to Heaven to be with the Lord.

That is why Paul encourages Timothy to **'be a good soldier of Christ Jesus'** 2 Timothy 2:3-4. It is also why, in Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul encourages believers to put on the whole armour of God and why he says **'we do not fight against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.'**

Christians should **expect** temptations to come, they should try to **recognize** temptations when they come and they should ask God to give them the strength to **resist** those temptations.

The Bible teaches Christians that **'no temptation has overtaken a Christian that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let a Christian be tempted beyond his ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that he may be able to endure it'** cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Sadly, Christians sometimes do give in to some of the temptations they experience. When they do that they sin.

When a Christian sins, it does **NOT** mean that he is longer saved. He is still a child of God and God is still his Heavenly Father. His relationship with his Heavenly Father has **NOT** been broken - but his fellowship **HAS** been broken.

If a Christian sins, he should immediately confess his sin to

his Heavenly Father and ask Him for forgiveness.

The letter of **1 John** was written by the Apostle John to Christians. In his letter, John told the Christians, **'If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness'** 1 John 1:8-9.

the Apostle John also said, **'I am writing this to you, my children, so that you will not sin; but if anyone does sin, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf - Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven ...'** 1 John 2:1-3 (GNT)

It's important for a Christian to always remember that he is

accepted and loved by his Heavenly Father because He (God) has put him **'in Christ'** - not because of anything the Christian has done.

Read **Ephesians 1:3-14** and see how many time it says Christians are **'in Him (Christ)!**'

The Bible says, **'For our sake God made Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who knew no sin, to be sin so that IN HIM we might become the righteousness of God.'** 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Be a good soldier of Christ Jesus! **Expect** temptations to sin to come; try to **recognize** them when they come, and **pray** and ask God to give you the strength and the wisdom to **resist** those temptations.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might!
Ephesians 6:10.