

How to Destroy the Power of Sin and the struggles of the flesh in your life

A. Born-again

This is the starting place for destroying sin. Until you are born-again (Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior), you will never overcome sin. A pig may get a clean shower but it just a matter of time until it goes back to the mud. Mud is its nature. That's what it knows.

When someone gets born again, that person instantly receives a **new nature** which cannot sin. Therefore, from the inside out this person is able to overcome the power of sin by living like who they truly are. It's a lot easier for this person to live the way he is than the way he is not. The new life is now a life lived from the inside out.

B. Identify in Christ

Once a person becomes born again, he receives a new identity. He has a new ID. He must live his new life with this new ID as his point of reference and the very thing to show to anyone who questions who they are. This new ID is "**who they are in Christ.**" They are supposed to see themselves no more by the old ID, but only with the new ID.

Knowing who we are in Christ is one of the major keys to breaking the stronghold of sin and stopping it from reigning in our lives.

A lack of thereof is one of the reasons many still struggle. If you are a believer, you need to learn and see yourself in Christ. The way we see ourselves is what we will be and how we will act. If a person can change their inner image of themselves, they can change how they act.

- a) 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

- i) One of the reasons that we shall be like Him when we see Him is because we shall see Him and shall be changed into what we see.

- b) 2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with uncovered face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.
 - i) This verse is stating that we become what we behold. We are changed into that same image. Until a Christian sees himself right, he may never ever overcome sin.

- c) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
 - i) Notice how Paul says, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."
 - ii) Why is he doing this? He was appealing their new nature and to who these believers were in the Spirit to motivate them and encourage them not to sin like the unbelievers (fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners,")

- d) Every time Paul dealt with sin in the believer's life (Galatians 3), **he always pointed to who they were in Christ.**
 - i) There are certain things we won't do and certain places we won't go because it is not who we are. There are things I just can't do because of who I'm.
 - ii) The way you are acting is not who you are. That is not you.
 - iii) If you knew, understood, and had a revelation that you were the righteousness of God, then how would you go commit sin? It would be impossible. I do not suck my thumb. Why not? It's because I'm not a child. Only infants suck their thumbs.

These verses detail our new identity.

Section from my teaching on "Identity Theft".

Identity crisis:

- a) Men identifying as women and vice versa.
- b) If we truly know our identity, we won't be having any identity crisis. Many things that the world tries to say about us need to be rejected because it is saying something contrary to who we are.

Your identity is not:

- What you do
 - Your job or position
 - Your profession
- We need to separate who we are from what we do.
- Family heritage
 - Sex
 - Skin color
 - Country of origin
 - Achievements or success.
- a) A person's physical attraction, looks, or beauty is not who they are. It is not your identity, and you should not wrap your identity in your looks.
 - b) Physical beauty is awesome, but it fades. It is temporary. If you do not make the necessary adjustment, you will fall apart once something negative happens to your physical looks or beauty.
 - c) It is important to understand the real you. Some believe and others even teach that we are a soul with a body, but the word of God shows that **we are a spirit being with a soul, living in a physical body.**
 - a) Ephesians 4:24—New Man, New Spirit, righteous and created in true Holiness.
 - b) Sealed such that no impurities can penetrate—Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 1:22.
 - c) New creation—2 Corinthians 5:17
 - d) One spirit with the Lord—1 Corinthians 6:17; Romans 8:9, 8:11.

- e) As He is, so are we in this world -1 John 4:17
- f) Fruit of the spirit—Gal 5:22-23
- g) Wisdom, righteous, sanctified and redeemed—1 Corinthians 1:30
 - i) Righteous = Right standing with God. Just as we ought to be. Righteousness is not what you do or look like, but who you are. You are not your body, looks, what you do or your career.
- h) Eternally redeemed - Hebrews 9:12
- i) Has the fullness of God—John 1:16. It is full of the presence of God.
- j) Anointed—2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 John 2:27—Anointing abides in us.
- k) Complete in Him—Col 2:10—there is no inadequacy in it. We have been given all it takes to live a victorious Christian life in this life. 2 Peter 1:3.
- l) Always willing—Matthew 26:41
- m) Perfected forever—Hebrews 10:14, Hebrews 12:23—Spirits of just men made perfect.
- n) Partaker of the divine nature—2Peter 1:4
- o) Knows all things—1 Corinthians 2:16.
- p) He cannot sin—1 John 3:6; 3:9

C. Change the way you think

Our actions are a by-product of our thoughts. **The key to doing right and acting right is believing right. Right believing leads to right doing.** If we are doing or acting wrong is because we know wrong and therefore believe wrong. So, to control our actions, we must control our thoughts. We must learn to control our thoughts, what we think upon, what we consider, ponder, dwell on, and meditate.

- a) My heart is **inditing** a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. —Psalm 45:1
- i) We need to meditate (think) and then speak. **Our thinking and meditation change both our actions and our speech.**
 - ii) Different results start from different thinking, hence producing different actions. Our actions are not separate from our thoughts. Our thoughts lead to how we act. So, if we can control our thoughts, our actions will automatically line up.
- b) Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.
- i) You are who you are today as a result of your thoughts. Our mind is very crucial in living a godly life. You can't protect your heart without starting with your mind—thoughts. Your thoughts are your focus—it's your attention. Your life goes in the direction of your dominant thought—your focus!
- c) Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
- i) If you meditate on God's word—then all you can do is believe in God.
 - ii) Your results result from your considerations (meditations). If we will meditate on God's word, we will become prosperous and have great success.
- d) Matthew 6:22-23 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!
- i) Our eye is our focus. It's our attention. We must keep our attention single upon Jesus. This is key to victory. It's singleness of purpose (Phil 3:13). The strength of a laser lies in the fact that all light is concentrated on one point.
- e) Romans 4:18-19 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not

weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

- i) You can't be tempted without what you don't consider, think, dwell on, meditate, examine, and take into account. So, to avoid such, you don't think about it. If you don't think about it, you won't do it. Abraham was a great man of God because of what he considered or what he did not.
- ii) Hebrews 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.
 - o Temptation is linked to knowledge and thought. Regarding temptation, what you don't know cannot hurt you—Romans 16:9.

Replace your thoughts with Godly thoughts. This is not a onetime thing, but something to be done daily and continuously. Refute thoughts that are inconsistent with God's word. God's word is God's thoughts and way of thinking.

D. Walking in the Spirit

One of the most powerful ways to overcome the power of the flesh and sin is to learn to walk in the Spirit. The key to breaking the struggle and the power of sin in our lives is by **Walking in the Spirit**. The answer to overcoming sin is simpler than people make it appear. We should make walking in the Spirit a lifestyle. We should not wait until temptation comes to start doing that. It could be too late.

- a) Romans 8:4-6 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
 - i) Walking in the spirit is minding the things of the Spirit. It is having our mindset on the things of the Spirit or;
 - o Mind **SET** on the Spirit or mind **SET** on the flesh!
 - o You need to change your setting! It is a setting problem. What have you set your mind on? If the setting is fixed, you will experience victory. How do you change your setting? It starts with getting into the Word.

- Mind fixed or fixated!
 - **Our MINDSET** is what determines in which law we will let dominate us.
- ii) When we set our minds or have a mind set on the Spirit, we experience life and peace.
- iii) Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.
- A lack of peace is clearly because of focusing on something else other than God.
- iv) If we do not have victory over the flesh, it is because we do not have our minds set on the things of the Spirit.
- b) 1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.
- i) According to the above scripture, a believer is either spiritual or carnal, but if we look at Romans 8:4-6, we see that walking in the spirit is a mindset. Spirituality and carnality are both a Mindset.
- c) One of the number one reasons to walk in the spirit is to get our eyes off our self and get your eyes entirely on Jesus. Paul was focused on himself, and he was defeated.
- i) Navel-gazer (me, self) vs Son-gazer (Jesus).
 - ii) Focus on the Lord Jesus alone (Hebrews 12:1-2). **Walking in the Spirit only works if you are a Son-gazer.**
 - iii) The law is Spiritual and cannot be fulfilled fleshly but spiritually.
- d) In Romans 7:1-25, Paul said, "what a wretched man I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"
- i) Paul did not ask **HOW**; can I get free from this body of death? He asked **WHO** will deliver me from this body of death. The answer was **"thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord"**

- e) In Romans 12:1-2 we see that you cannot walk in the Spirit without renewing the mind. The unrenewed mind is a barrier to walking in the Spirit, focusing on Jesus, or set your mind on the things of the Spirit. Through the renewed mind, we see Jesus through the word.
- f) If we compare Galatians 5:16 This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" **AND** Romans 8:5 "For they that are after the flesh do **mind** the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."
- i) Galatians 5:16 would read "This I say then, mind the things of the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."
 - ii) It's very vital where we set our mind. It takes a while to develop a new paradigm of spiritual thinking.
- g) Colossians 3:1-5 If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth**. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. **Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth**; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:
- i) We are to seek the things above (Spiritual things).
 - ii) Set your mind on the things above
 - iii) Our mind is our switch. We set our mind on the things of the Spirit by focusing our attention and thoughts on the things of the Spirit.
 - iv) We should set (Stay, fix) our mind on the risen Lord, and the finished work of the cross, and the realities in who we are in the Spirit. This allows the law of the Spirit and life to flow from our Spirit to our soul and body.
 - v) Notice: The way we are to put to death our members on the earth is by Colossians 3:2 (Setting our minds on the things above—Spiritual), not by willpower.
- h) Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye **through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live**.

- i) Notice that it is by the Spirit that we mortify or put to death the deeds of the body.

It's not by ten steps, not by self-effort and willpower, not by our power, not by might. It's the Spirit of God that does that.

- o How? You just focus (have your mind set) on the things of the Spirit, then the Spirit will flow into your soul and body and will put them to death.
 - o By focusing and setting our mind on the Law of Spirit of life in Christ Jesus sets us free from the law of sin and death.
- ii) We received the greatest **miracle of salvation** by not focusing on ourselves but entirely on Jesus.
- iii) We took your eyes off of yourself unto Jesus entirely. Instantly, we changed from sinner to saint and from death to life. Therefore, why would all the transformation we need that is lesser when compared to salvation be any different or more complicated? We must be entirely focused on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).

- i) Romans 6:11 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- i) We can't reckon ourselves dead to sin without the mind. We have to see ourselves dead to sin and treat ourselves dead to sin.
 - ii) Dead to sin means to forget like a dead man, out of mind (Psalm 31:12 I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.)
 - iii) Alive to God means to remember, to focus our attention, set our mind on God. **You are dead to what you do not focus on, to what has none of your attention, but you are alive to what you focus on and put your attention on.**
 - o If you are focused on sin, it will control, dominate, and influence you. It is empowered through focus. Whatever we focus on, we empower—God or sin.

- iv) Any attempt we make to overcome sin in our own willpower is a focus on sin.

- j) John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.
- i) See and do. Seeing requires looking and focus. For us to overcome sin and the struggles of the flesh, we need to focus and see Jesus. Set our mind on Jesus. Be a Son-gazer, not a navel-gazer. As long as our minds/focus is on ourselves, we will not overcome the flesh.
- k) Philippians 4:6-8 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. **And the peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things**.
- i) The result of turning our cares into prayers and focus our attention on the Spirit what will be is the **peace of God** which guards our heart and mind in Christ Jesus.
 - ii) Perfect peace is the result of meditating on the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:6). Replace your thoughts with and by thinking about the things of the Spirit.
 - iii) Things of the Spirit include things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely of a good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy. These are things we are to things about.
 - iv) Instead of worrying, we can change our thoughts, focus on God. How? It is through prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving. Prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving produce a focus on the Spirit which destroys worry and fear. If you want to change your focus, pray, give thanks, etc.
- l) According to 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."**

- i) we behold ourselves in the glass or mirror (Word of God), we are changed into the same image from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus kicks in and begins to flow as we behold the glory of the Lord.
- ii) As we behold who we are through the glass or mirror which is the word of God, the glory of the Lord, we are transformed. In other words, **we become what we behold.**
- m) There are disciplines that we must do to help us keep our attention, focus, and eyes fixed on the Lord such as:
 - i) Intimacy and Fellowship with the Lord
 - ii) Prayer
 - iii) Studying the Word which is the sword of the Spirit.
 - iv) Thanksgiving
 - v) Worship and praise

E. Sin against the Lord and Despise the Lord

We have to get to a place where we treat sin as it is—a transgression and sin against the Lord.

We need reasons greater than any other reasons, motivation (Drive). **We need something bigger than ourselves.** One of the main reasons and the greatest reasons and motivations why we don't want to sin.

- i) Genesis 39:9-10 – Sin against the Lord. Not sin against man or Potiphar but against God (2Sam 12:13, Psalm 51:4; Luke 15:18).
- ii) 2 Samuel 12:9-10- Despises the Lord and His word.
- a) Genesis 39:9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?
 - i) There is no greater reason and motivation, to avoid sin than not to sin against God. We need a reason and cause greater than ourselves not to sin. That greater cause can only be that when we sin, we are sinning against God. Anything less than that will not keep us from sinning committing or wickedness.

- ii) Reasons like; I will hurt people, I will be caught, I will lose my job, I will get divorced, I will catch STD's and so forth will not forever keep you from compromise and staying away from sin. These are all temporal measures. These reasons are like a Band-Aid on a wound. It does not heal the wound but only covers it.
- iii) Most people evaluate sin on the basis of what damage and harm it will do to others or themselves, **but the main basis should be that it is sin and great wickedness against the Lord God.**
- iv) Although the damage of sin is a valid cause not to sin, it should not be the MAIN reason not to sin. If there were no consequences, most people will go all into sin. We will reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7-8), and Jeremiah 2:19.
- v) **We should do the right thing whether we are caught or not.** Whether we reap or not, whether it hurts others and ourselves or not. **We should be driven or motivated by fear, love, honor, and respect for God.** That's the proper attitude that we should have.
- vi) If something is wrong in God's eyes, it doesn't matter if other people feel it's okay, it is still wrong. God's opinion is higher and better than men's.
- vii) Those who **esteem the word**, thoughts, and opinion of God more than the opinion of anyone else have a moral code that is established and grounded and will hold like an anchor, regardless of the pressures that come against them. Joseph valued God's opinion over anything else that's why he responded the way he did and refused to give in to the ungodly pressures of this woman. Joseph was the very definition of a man of character. We should develop our relationship with the Lord that we will not compromise for anything.
- viii) The heart of the issue for Joseph not to sleep with Potiphar's wife was that it was a **sin against God.**
 - o Yes, it was also a sin against Potiphar, but Joseph had **a greater and bigger cause than just his boss.**
 - o He had an acute moral compass that he was willing to do what was right regardless of whether someone is watching or not. His lifestyle was unto the Lord not unto men.

- ix) Colossians 3:22-24 says Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ." That's the proper attitude that we should have. Joseph kept this verse well.

- b) 2 Samuel 12:9-10 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.
 - i) The word "despise" means to "Devalue or disesteem."

 - ii) All sin is nothing but despising the Lord and His word. When David committed sin by taking his neighbor's wife and also slaughtering her husband, and the Lord came to rebuke him through Prophet Nathan, He said that David had despised the Lord and His commandment.

 - iii) David's key problem was despising the Lord not necessarily committing adultery and murder. If David had not despised the Lord, he would not have done such wickedness. Later in verse 13, he says that **"And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD."**
 - o Again, just like Joseph showed earlier, sin is a sin against that Lord.

 - iv) He said He had sinned against the Lord which is the very same thing that Joseph said earlier that he could not do (Genesis 39:9). David later in Psalms 51:5 **"Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:** David knew well and recognized that had sinned against the Lord. I strongly believe that if this was the forethought of David as was with Joseph, he would not have committed adultery and murder.

 - v) Lastly, the prodigal son said in Luke 15:18 **"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,"**

We need to start treating sin as despising the Lord and/or sin against the Lord—not just people only. When we despise the Word of God, we end up sinning against Him. Those who despise the word of God will always sin against the Lord.

How can we then stop this despising of the Lord and avoid sinning against the Lord?

- a) Psalm 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
- b) Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
- c) Psalm 1:1-3 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

F. Revelation of forgiveness.

- a) Luke 7:47 "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom **little** is forgiven, the same **loveth little**."
 - i) One of the reasons people continue to struggle with sin in their lives and its stronghold is because of the lack of the revelation of forgiveness.
 - ii) This verse clearly points out that he who is forgiven much loves much and he that loves little or gives little has a little revelation of how much he has been forgiven.
 - iii) The degree to which we renew our minds to the enormous forgiveness we have received through faith in Jesus releases us to walk in abundance of life and it will break the power of sin in your lives.

G. No more condemnation

- a) John 8:10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?
 - i) Jesus gave the gift of "no condemnation" before He told her to go and sin no more.

- ii) No condemnation releases the power to overcome sin. If we walk in condemnation, we won't have victory over sin.
 - iii) As long as we condemn people, we rob them the benefit of overcoming sin because Sin thrives under condemnation.
- b) Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- i) When we focus on ourselves and our failures, we will feel condemned.
 - ii) The first thing Paul overcame was condemnation (Romans 8:1).
 - iii) If you struggle with **guilt and condemnation**, one of the reasons is because you have your eyes on yourself.

H. Forget not!

- a) 2 Peter 1:5-9 "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." (Emphasis mine)
- i) Notice that this verse says that he that lacks the things listed such as faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity; is blind and cannot see a far off and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.
 - ii) One of the reasons sin abounds and lingers around in our lives is because we have forgotten the finished work of the cross. We have forgotten that all our sins have been paid for and purged. If we only understood this, we would act differently, and the struggle of sin would lose its hold on any of us.
 - iii) Always remember that your sins have been paid for and this will cause you to live a holier life. Why would you indulge and pay for what Jesus has already paid for? It changes the entire trajectory of things. Our sins have been paid for in full so do

not forget this for it's key to walking and releasing the traits above. Thank You, Jesus!

I. No more sin conscious

- a) For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshipers once purged should have had **no more conscience of sins**. —Hebrews 10:2
 - i) We learn that we should be no more sin consciousness but more consciousness of Jesus—not sin. We should be conscious of God's presence in everything we do and wherever we are.
 - ii) We should rather be God-conscious than sin conscious for all our sins have been paid for once and for all.
 - iii) A continual consciousness of sin strengthens it against us.

J. Stop preaching and living according to performance, the law, and legalism.

If we can stop trying to use our good deeds, actions, and performance to earn right standing with God, the power of sin and its dominion over us will be broken.

- a) Romans 5:20 "Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
 - i) Because where sin abounds grace abounds much more, we need to use the grace of God and the goodness of God to overcome sin in our lives. A true revelation of the love of God and His grace toward us will not strengthen sin in but will rather break its hold on us.
- b) 1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.
 - i) The law is not sinful, but it strengthened sin against us. Until we start relating to God based on His grace, we will struggle with sin.
- c) Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: **for it is the power of God unto salvation** to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
 - i) The grace of God and the nearly too good to be true news is the power of God unto deliverance from the stronghold of sin.

- d) 2 Corinthians 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.
- e) Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
 - i) One of the reasons sin has dominion over us and we struggle is because we are relating to God based on law—our goodness and performance.
 - ii) If sin is having dominion over us, one of the reasons is because we are under the law (self-righteousness, trusting in our goodness and performance), not grace.

K. Saturated with God's word.

This cannot be over emphasized. It is crucial as it gets. We experience victory to the degree we are saturated and filled with the Word of God. From the word of God, we get the wisdom and the instruction we need to live a victorious life.

- a) Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."
- b) Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
- c) Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.
- d) 1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
- e) Psalm 119:9-11 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

L. Keep company with Godly people

We need to separate ourselves from the things of this world. We are tempted and struggle with sin because of the company we keep. We are polluting ourselves with doubt, unbelief, fear, bad reports from other people.

- a) 1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.
 - i) This verse uses the words do not be **deceived** because many people are deceived thinking it is okay to have certain types of relationships which end up corrupting their godly manners, behavior, and conduct.
 - ii) I don't care what anyone says, what this scripture says is the truth. I will not go by anyone else's experience.

- b) 2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.
 - i) This verse tells us to be separate and touch not the unclean. There is a place to be separate.
 - ii) We have to avoid being around or being equally yoked with unbelievers. The company (friends) we keep will play a part as to whether we live a godly life or not. People we hang around and keep company of will determine if we avoid falling into temptation, stress, and depression.
 - iii) I'm not promoting living in a monastery. If we are to change the world, we must be out in the world, not just in the four walls of the church. Light shines brighter in darkness. Salt must leave the saltshaker for it to be any good to anyone.
 - o However, we must cautious to strike the right balance. We can be out in the world, as long as we are not the ones being influenced. We must be in the driver's seat of influence. If we are not the ones influencing the ungodly, we should quit those relationships.

- c) Proverbs 13:20 "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.
 - i) Walking with the wise men will make us wise. Walking with fools will yield destruction.

M. **Make no provision for the flesh**

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

- a) One of the main reasons we still struggle with sin is because we make provision for the flesh. This scripture teaches us not to make no provision for the flesh.

- b) The word "Provision" comes from the Greek word "Pronia" which means or is translated "Foresight, forethoughts, plans."
 - i) In other words, the way we make provision for the flesh is through forethoughts and plans.
- c) Flee sexual immorality. Being around temptation and not falling into sin is not a sign of maturity, but a sign of stupidity. Soon or later you will fall to it.
- d) Abstain from all appearance of evil. —1 Thessalonians 5:22

N. Your body is a member of Christ and the Temple of God

- a) 1 Corinthians 6:15, 19, 20 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
 - i) God dwells in us. We are His temple. If only we treated our bodies as a member of Christ's body. We would think twice doing what we ought not to do.
 - ii) Our Body is a member of Christ's body. If this is true, which is, then you are dragging the Lord into all the sin and immorality that you get involved in.
 - iii) Our bodies are not only members of Christ's body, they were purchased by the Lord and they belong to Him.
 - iv) This revelation can break the hold or struggle of sin in one's life.

O. Expose sin to light

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

- a) How do we expose sin? We confess and forsake it. This is through the strength of the Holy Spirit.

- b) When we hide our sins and refuse to repent, we get a backlash from people. When we confess our sins and admit our wrongdoing, we receive mercy most of the time. Hiding our sins does us no good.
- c) When it comes to God, we can't hide our sins but when we repent and agree with Him that we have sinned (1 John 1:9), we receive soulish and physical cleansing from that sin which closes any door to the evil one (Romans 6:16).
- d) Sin thrives in darkness. When it's exposed, it becomes powerless. When we conceal and hide sin, we are giving it the freedom to grow and thrive. Exposing it to light by confessing it to either God or man will break its hold and will begin to die.
 - i) If you want freedom from some hidden sin in your life, expose it.
 - ii) Sin is like a roach. It hates light. Just as cockroaches need and love darkness, so does sin. The more light is exposed to it, it begins to flee off of your life like how a cockroach flees from light.

P. Goodness and Love of God

- a) Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?
 - i) When someone loves us so much and we understand it, it does not cause us to be nasty towards them. In truth, we will want to do all we possibly can to be bless them and please them. Many things that could heart them we will not do. Their love for us changes everything.
 - ii) When a wife is faithful and loving to her husband, it does not cause him to go and cheat on her. Rather, it causes him to be more faithful and love her even more.
 - iii) Once someone has a revelation of how much God loves them and how good He is to them, sin and whatever they are struggling with will lose its grip on them.

Q. Relationship with God

- a) As goes our relationship with the Lord, so will our life. If we are struggling with sin in one area of our lives, we need to look at our relationship with God.
- b) As we grow in our relationship with God, we will experience victory over sin. Sin cannot thrive as our relationship with God bolsters.

R. Fellowship with God

Relationship is a fixed position we are in after we get born again but we need to continue in fellowship with God. This includes hearing the Lord and being led by Him. Fellowship includes prayer, studying the Word, and praise and worship.

Rich Kanyali