

Stop Sinning or, Don't Sin.

Gilbert Smith at JBC 6/2/2021

TEXT 1 Corinthians 15:34 "Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame."

1. This is not about trying, trying, _____, harder and _____, but trusting, trusting, _____, and _____, even in the little things.

In thinking this through, we'll need to answer a few questions:

1. Does God actually expect us to stop sinning?
2. How do we define "sin"?
3. What does it mean to "stop sinning"?
4. What should motivate us to stop?
5. How can we stop?
6. What then, after we have stopped???

Q.1 Does God actually expect us to stop sinning?

2. God's word has multiple _____ to not sin, _____ if we continue in sin, _____ to avoid sin, and the _____ is that sinning is not the _____ of a Christian.
3. If the Bible _____ us to do something, we should believe _____ do it, even if we have to ask God for help.

We are commanded to stop sinning:

- 1 Cor.15:34, Paul says awake to righteousness and "sin not".
John 5:14 Jesus told the man at the pool, "Do not sin anymore."
Do you think Jesus would have told him that, if it were not possible?

There are severe warnings if we continue in sin:

- Hebrews 10:26-27 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment,

Provisions are made for us to stop:

“Ps.119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. (memorize, meditate, trust).

1 Cor.10:13 God . . . will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able, but . . . will provide a way of escape.

4. It is the _____ of scripture that sinning is not the general ongoing _____ of a Christian.

1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin.

Rom.6:1-2 . . . continue in sin? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

1 Timothy 5:20 Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also may be fearful of sinning.

Q.2 How do we define sin?

5. If we use too _____ a definition for sin, stopping would be _____. If we use too _____ a definition, stopping would be _____.

6. It is not _____ a sin if you don't do the _____ that could have been done in a particular situation.

7. There are _____ where an action would be _____ for one person but _____ for another.

James 4:17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

8. For our purposes, we will understand “stop sinning” to relate to “_____”

Hebrews 10:26-27 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment,

Q.3 What does it mean, to “stop sinning”?

9. “Not sinning” does NOT mean that you have reached a point where you are literally _____ of sinning. People that believe they are incapable of sinning are in danger of _____ it when they DO sin.

It does NOT mean that nothing can tempt you.

It does NOT mean that you would never get angry.

Ephesians 4:26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

It does not mean that you never make mistakes in knowledge or understanding.

It doesn't mean you never say something you wish you hadn't said.

10. Stop sinning DOES mean you do not _____ to sin, at all, _____, and that sin is not the _____ of your life.

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God **practices** sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Q.4 What are motivations to not sin?

There are warnings of God's judgment. Everything will be revealed, in a public trial, at the judgment.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

11. Our lives _____ others, for good or for bad. When someone sins, they _____ themselves, and others – often those they _____ about, or should care about.

12. Our life is made of _____. We are 'free' to make our _____, but we are not free to choose the _____ of our choices.

In Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness, healing, and restoration. But, scars often remain.

You LOVE Jesus, who died for your sake and you do not want to "crucify Him afresh".

Hebrews 6:6 . . . they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.

13. A _____ of being _____ from sin is sanctification, and the _____ is eternal life. Eternal life is _____ God, and knowing that He is _____ with you.

Romans 6:22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

Q.5 How can we 'not sin'?

This question assumes that you actually WANT to not sin, and you believe it is possible.

14. If you have not _____ in your heart to _____ God's commands, it is very _____ that you will stop sinning.

15. _____ for the Holy Spirit's leading regarding what you should or should not be doing. _____ if this is something that you should be doing. Be _____ to that leading.

Isaiah 30:21 And your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

16. Gather together for _____, _____, and for _____. Confess your sins to one another. Be in fellowship with _____ brethren.

Acts 20:31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

Hebrews 10:24-25 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another;

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today", lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Pray for one another. Confess your sins to one another. Ask others to pray for you.

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

17. Memorizing and meditating on scripture is the most powerful way to _____ and become _____. (Dee Duke).

“Ps.119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. (memorize, meditate on).

Hebrews 4:2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. *Trust God’s Word. Faith is trusting.*

1 Peter 1:14-16 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

18. Memorizing Bible verses and using them to _____ wrong _____ is the most effective way to control our _____. (Dee Duke)

Matthew 15:19-20 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. 20 "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

19. It’s NOT about trying, trying, _____ harder and _____, but trusting, trusting, _____, and _____, even in the little things.

Gal. 2:20 "and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,

Gal.5:16 Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Q.6 What next?

20. _____ in grace and pursue _____, bearing ever more _____ of the Spirit, for the _____ of your life.

Gal. 5:22. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control.

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

21. Don't be _____ about _____ sin. It's by God's grace that you stand. Remain on the _____.

1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

22. Continue to _____ by _____, being _____ by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight--