

Overcoming Habitual Sin

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Introduction: We should never underestimate our adversary and his tactics.

A. Satan is the master deceiver. **(Jn 8:43-45)**

1. If you give him an opportunity he will deprive you of reason and freedom.
2. Men in their pride think they can play with sin and manage it.
3. It was common for Satan to take these confident “spiritual” people and utterly destroy them. Hear how the prophets describe Israel. **(Amos 3:12)**

B. Jesus constantly warned us about Satan. He also warned us about having ears to hear. **(Mt 13:37-42)**

1. Satan has the world already! Who then will he focus his attention on?
2. Satan will never be honest. He will call good, evil and evil, good. **(Isa 5:20-21)**
3. How many of you would take on a professional fighter without any help? Many sincerely want to fight Satan but do so without the help and guidance of God.

I. What does it mean to be freed from sin?

A. There is a bondage that Jesus can free us from. **(Jn 8:31-36)**

1. Bondage occurs when we are no longer in control!
2. Some people live in bondage and say they are in control.

B. We first must know what sin is! **(1 Jn 3:4)**

1. Sin is a violation of God’s will.
2. Many “fight sin” by claiming what they are doing is right! **(Prov 16:2)**

C. We must be born again to be freed from sin. **(Jn 3:3-5)**

1. This new birth wipes away in forgiveness all past sins! **(Acts 2:38; 3:19)**
2. How do we know this has occurred? It starts with the knowledge of the promises of God. It is not based on how we feel alone.
3. The new birth is painful. We must see our sins and turn from them. A brutal honesty is involved. **(Mt 5:3-4)**

D. We must walk in the light and confess our sins. **(1 Jn 1:5-10; 3:7-10)**

1. Here is where a major battle is fought. We must first be honest.
2. God is faithful so all we need to do is stand by faith on His promises.
3. Hypocrisy occurs when we choose to continue in sin without any fight.
4. A person is not a hypocrite who repents and gets back up to fight sin.

II. Common but fatal mistakes men make in fighting sin.

A. Many try to beat sin by willpower and guilt alone.

1. Both willpower and guilt are tools that God uses. They are instrument of slavery if they are not combined with faith in God and in finding the wisdom of God.
2. Have you ever been in a battle that you could never win, but kept fighting anyway? Many Christians have made this mistake.

B. Learning from Paul’s struggle before he became a Christian. **(Rom 7:14-20)**

1. Here is a treadmill that will always bring failure.
2. Sometimes our teaching may sound like this: “Try Harder!”

3. In this cycle you will be beat-up, get up and try harder and then fall again and keep repeating the cycle. Eventually you will quit. You are a slave!
4. Why keep doing the same thing over and over again?

C. Freedom comes through Jesus Christ. **(Rom 7:21-25)**

1. We need more than willpower. We need God's grace. **(Rom 8:1-3)**
2. With God's grace we can heal and grow in our love for God! **(Rom 8:31-35)**
3. We must see God and battle sin through this relationship! Love can give us great strength to be honest and battle sin.
4. When we fall in love with God then we can overcome. **(1 Pt 2:1-3)**

III. We need honesty and openness to win this battle.

A. Why do we try to take on this battle alone? **(James 5:16)**

1. We need to go to spiritual people! **(Gal 6:1)**
2. We have accepted the lie that all Christians are super-Christians and do not have problems like me.
3. What does God see? What has He told us? **(Heb 4:12-13; Heb 12:1)**
4. Are we worried about our reputation? With who are we concerned about? How would every spiritual person respond?

B. Spiritual people can give you wisdom to overcome. **(1 Cor 10:12-13)**

1. We have approach this fight from two fronts.
2. We must cut off the supply lines of sin. **(Rom 8:12-13)**
3. We must increase our love for God and our brethren.
4. When you are isolated Satan will have his way with you.

IV. How to have peace and contentment with God

A. You must come to know God and His thinking.

1. Satan will lie to you about God's character. Why listen to this liar?
2. Satan will tell you that God has given up on you. He will tell you that you are lost when you are right with God!

B. Listen and think about this. **(Rom 5:6-8)**

1. What does God want to do for me?
2. Does God's love for me depend upon my actions?
3. The more I come to know God, the more that I will love Him. **(1 Jn 4:7-11)**

C. Let you assurance some from God's promises. **(Rom 8:15-17)**

1. We are no longer in bondage! How is this possible?
2. There are two witnesses that we hear: The Holy Spirit and our Spirit.
3. We should have our guilt removed when we know God's promises!
4. We may have to fight to overcome our fickle emotions with memorizing and repeating the promises of God

Conclusion: Do you have the peace that passes understanding? **(Phil 4:6-7)**

A. Brethren we need to draw closer to each other and to God.

B. There are others who are likely in bondage that we can help if the door is opened.