

## *How to Win the Battle Over Sin*

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**Introduction:** We need wisdom in order to be faithful and fruitful to our God.

- A. We are to pray for wisdom in the midst of persecution. **(Jas 1:5)**
  - 1. Wisdom will give us insight into the attitudes and actions of others. **(John 16:1-3)**
  - 2. More importantly wisdom will give us insight into ourselves. **(2 Cor 13:5)**
  - 3. We must fight diligent the tendency towards self-deception. **(Jer 17:9-10; Gal 6:7)**
- B. Many people become trapped in a repeating pattern of life.
  - 1. How common it is to see people make the same mistake over and over again! (Ex. Those who jump into relationships)
  - 2. While our weaknesses are real, through wisdom and diligence we can avoid that repetition that in common to many. **(1 Cor 10:13)**

### ***I. How to Fight Temptation***

- A. Be willing to fight it!
  - 1. Jesus made it clear the extent of the fight. **(Mt 5:28-30)**
  - 2. Paul described the battle as a brutal one. **(1 Cor 9:24-27)**
  - 3. Too many are surrendering because of the pressure of relationships.
  - 4. Those that proclaim themselves as “open-minded” and eschew “traditionalism” often are slaves to the approval of others.
- B. Realize that this is an issue of the heart. **(Matt 15:18-19)**
  - 1. Changes here will take time.
  - 2. Decisive action must be taken however.
  - 3. Learn as much as you can from God’s word.
  - 4. Make God’s word a part of you. **(Psa 119:11, 36-40)**
- C. Insist on Honesty from yourself and others.
  - 1. Find trustworthy friends who will rebuke you. **(Prov 27:6)**
  - 2. Go to God in prayer and be honest about your temptation. **(Matt 26:41)**

“God delights in our temptations and yet hates them. He delights in them when they drive us to prayer; he hates them when they drive us to despair.”

  - 3. Have someone you can talk to. **(Prov 15:22, 24:6)**
- D. Make quick action to be restored after your sin. **(2 Cor 6:1-2)**
  - 1. Know the promises of God and take them. **(1 John 1:7-9)**
  - 2. Make any corrections that are needed. **(Matt 5:23-24)**
  - 3. Learn from your sin. (Example: Peter)
- E. Be willing to learn and be taught. **(Prov 1:7)**
  - 1. Often the answers are not understood. Wisdom will take time.
  - 2. Avoid stubbornness. You will never change with this attitude. **(Prov 18:13)**

## ***II. Some Common Sins We Must Fight***

### **A. Buried Anger. (1 John 3:15; Gal 5:19-20)**

1. Anger is very deceptive even to the one harboring it. (Prov 26:24-26)
2. Buried anger will destroy you.

### **B. Allowing our Jobs to Ruin Us.**

1. Why do we have a job? (Eph 4:28)
2. Are we willing to be honest about God given limitations? (Heb 11:24-26)

### **C. Lack of self-control. (Acts 24:25)**

1. Without self control, good things can become evil. (2 Peter 1:6; 1 Tim 2:15)
2. In time men without self control will find a religion that allows them to indulge. (2 Tim 3:1-4)

### **D. Stubbornness**

1. Stubbornness destroyed King Saul. (1 Sam 15:23)
2. A stubborn man must never be wrong. When he is there is little hope for change.
3. A stubborn man often is easily controlled by others.

### **E. A resistance of real change.**

1. Repentance involves change. (2 Cor 7:9-10)
2. Change represents the unknown and possible hurt. With faith in God we will change. (1 John 5:4)

### **F. Procrastination.**

1. Why put off things that pertain to salvation? (2 Cor 6:1-2)
2. The judgment day will not wait on us. (2 Peter 3:10-11)

### **G. Lack of Judgment in Romance.**

1. Who we marry may have eternal consequences. (Matt 19:9)
2. The strongest of men have fallen due to an unwise marriage. (2 Cor 11:4-8)
3. Often we must make a clean break.

## ***III. Be Willing to Take Action Now.***

### **A. Confession of a weakness is not enough. (Rev 2:5, 16)**

### **B. In many cases a clean break is called for. Will you do it?**

“It is much easier to repent of sins that we have committed than to repent of those we intend to commit.”

### **C. If knowledge is lacking, then make it sure! (Rom 12:1-2)**

## ***Conclusion:*** Sin is common to all men. (Heb 12:2)

### **A. Sin must not however be the master of our lives. (Rom 6:19-23)**

### **B. Some resist becoming a Christian because they do not think they can overcome sin. Yes you can! God said so.**