

FAITH ENABLES CHRISTIANS TO OVERCOME SIN

1 John 5:4-5

(Not entirely original with me)

INTRODUCTION: Although Christians are saved, have eternal, are indwelt with the Holy Spirit and are members of God's family (Children of God), they still have the same problems as everyone else and sometimes those problems cause the Christian to drift away from God. The biggest problem Christians face is called SIN. Sin must be overcome if a Christian is to be useful to the Lord and to other people. Sin also prevents God from being able to help a Christian overcome his/her problems. So, just how is sin a big problem for a Christian?

I. SIN IS A BIG PROBLEM FOR THE CHRISTIAN

1. The first thing about sin is it's "guilt."

- Everyone is guilty of sin says the Bible - Romans 3:23
 - It takes just ONE sin to be as guilty of sin as those who commit lots of sins - James 2:10
 - God is Holy and cannot be around ANY sin, not even a "tiny, itty-bitty" sin.
- There is "legal" guilt and "emotional" guilt.
 - "Legal" guilt means one has violated God's law.
 - Break just ONE of God's law and one is still accountable - 1 John 3:4
 - The penalty (price) of breaking just ONE of God's law is DEATH, eternal separation from God - Romans 6:23; Revelation 21:8
 - "Emotional" guilt is a person's conscience of sin, knowing he/she has sinned.
 - When a person knows he/she has done wrong, he/she feels "guilty."
 - One's conscience is bothered by the feeling of "guilt" over his/her sins.
- Some have their consciences so hardened that they feel no "emotional" guilt, however the "legal" guilt still remains - is there.
 - God still holds a person accountable and will judge him/her on that last day - John 12:48; Acts 17:30-31
 - Unforgiven sin also prevents God from being able to help the Christian - Isaiah 59:1-2; 2 Peter 3:12
 - Therefore each Christian has to bear his/her burdens alone.
 - Whatever comfort, peace, victory, strength God might provide will not be provided for the Christian who remains in his/her sin. Isaiah 57:19-21

2. The second thing about sin is it's "power."

- The problem of sin is not just "guilt-"
 - Guilt is terrible, bad
 - However, sin also has the power to enslave a person so that he/she can't do what he/she really wants to do.
- Jesus described the power of sin - John 8:31-34
 - When a person commits sin, he/she becomes a slave of sin.
 - There is a way to be released from the slavery of sin.

3. Paul describes his life under sin which keeping the Law of Moses could not help - Romans 7:14-24

- He said he was "***sold under sin***" - Romans 7:14
- He couldn't do what he wanted and ended up doing what He didn't want to do - Romans 7:15
- He discovered that sin dwelt in him - Romans 7:17, 20
- He wanted to do good, but he didn't know how - Romans 7:18

- He discovered that he was a captive to sin - Romans 7:23
- Discovering his condition in sin, he felt "wretched" and cried out for deliverance - Romans 7:24
- Sin is like a powerful drug which enslaved, addicts until one is able to be freed from its grasp which cannot happen with God's help but only through FAITH in Jesus can one ever escape from sin's grasp.

II. FAITH IN JESUS OVERCOMES SIN

1. Faith in Jesus provides the forgiveness of sin needed.

- Remission of sin is promised to those who believe in Jesus - Acts 10:43
 - Remission is made possible by Jesus shedding His blood - Ephesians 1:7
 - Jesus became the needed sacrifice for those in sin - 1 John 2:2; 4:9-10
 - Through Jesus' blood, the believer is justified (no longer guilty) and is therefore spared from the coming wrath of God - Romans 5:9
- Forgiveness is promised to those whose faith in Jesus moves them to repent and be baptized - Acts 2:38; 3:19
 - "Repentance" is the change of mind in which one turns from sin to serve God.
 - "Baptism" is the burial in which one is united with Christ in His death, that one might also be "crucified" with Him and then rise to walk in newness of life - Romans 6:3-7
- Forgiveness continues as the Christian repents and confesses his/her sins in prayer - Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9

2. Faith in Jesus provides the needed power over sin.

- Paul speaks about freedom from sin in Romans 6:6-7
 - *"...we should no longer be slaves of sin..."*
 - *"...has been freed from sin..."*
- In Romans 8:1-2, 12, 13, Paul describes where the needed power comes from:
 - It is the law (principle) of the Spirit of life in Christ which frees one from the *"law of sin and death..."*
 - The Holy Spirit enables one to *"put to death the deeds of the body..."*
 - With the help of the Holy Spirit, one then has the help of God to overcome sin - Ephesians 3:16, 20, 21; Philippians 4:13
- The promise for the Holy Spirit was given by Jesus, then by His Apostles:
 - To those who believe in Him - John 7:37-39
 - To those who repent and are baptized - Acts 2:38-39
 - To those who obey Him and become "children of God." - Acts 5:32; Galatians 3:16-27; 4:6; 5:16

CONCLUSION:

1. Overcoming sin is found in believing in Jesus, trusting and being convinced of what He says.
2. Sin can certainly be overcome:
 - Over the legal and emotional guilt of sin.
 - Over the power of sin which enslaves
 - Jesus does this through the gift of His blood and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

