

GOD HELPS BELIEVERS WITH THEIR SINS

Romans 7:15-18; Galatians 5:17

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: When a person is saved, doesn't that mean that he/she doesn't sin anymore? If that person does sin, does that mean that he/she wasn't ever saved in the first place? Why do believers in Jesus keep on sinning?

Sin is straying from any of God's standards, a lack of conforming to God's moral law and it is anything in a person that does not express the holy character of God and how God wants His Children to live. Everyone, even Christians sin, so what can be done?

I. THERE ARE MANY AREAS OF SIN

(Proverbs 6:16-19; Galatians 5:19-21)

1. There is failing to live by God's directives, His grace or His provision, failing to take one's needs to God.
- *Hebrews 12:15; Isaiah 50:11; Jeremiah 2:13; 17:5*
- *Hebrews 4:16; 10:25; Galatians 5:5; 5:16; Ephesians 6:10-18*
2. There is living with evil thoughts and an attitude of sinfulness.
- *Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 15:19*
3. There are the sins of the tongue such as lying, filthy talk, gossip, spreading strife, outbursts of anger.
- *Proverbs 6:17-19; Matthew 15:19; Ephesians 5:4; 4:29*
4. There are overt sins, such as immorality, stealing, fraud and murder, etc.
- *Matthew 15:19; Galatians 5:19-20*

II. ONLY GOD CAN HELP WITH ONE'S SINS

1. God has made provision for the believer's sins and that is through His forgiveness.
- *1 John 1:8-10; Romans 8:31-34; John 13:1-10; Psalm 32:1-5; 51:1-13*
2. Salvation comes to the believer through his/her belief in Jesus Christ, but it does not remove the problem of sin and temptation to sin, therefore God has a solution for one's sins.
- *1 John 1:8-2:2; Romans 6:1-8*

III. UPON CONFESSION OF ONE'S SINS, GOD CAN FORGIVE

1. Confession of one's sins (agreeing with God) is truly seeing one's sins for what they are and wanting to be rid of that which God hates
- *Proverbs 28:13-14*
2. Confession is being honest with one's self about what God calls sin, not rationalize, deny or try to pass the blame as Adam and Eve did.
3. Confession of one's sins is realizing that one is still a child of God, but out of fellowship with God.
- *Romans 6:4-11; 7:14-21; Galatians 5:17-21*
4. Confession of one's sins is naming them one by one, not lumping them all together (Lord, please forgive me of "all" my sins...). If one is honest and ruthless in confessing his/her sins, the God is faithful and righteous to forgive and cleanse every single time one asks for forgiveness.
5. The only sins one can confess are those that are known and as long as one lives on this earth there will always be known sins and unknown sins. God not only forgives the knows sins one confesses, but He cleanses that believer from all sin (unknown) and fellowship is restored and kept.

IV. THE REASON BEHIND CONFESSION ONE'S SINS

(1 John 2:1; Proverbs 28:13-14)

1. Confessing one's sins will help one to deal with sin and to seek the fellowship and strength of God and is never to be used as an excuse to continue in sin and to do so:
 - It treats sin lightly
 - It misses completely the point and reason behind confessing one's sins.
 - It ignores God's plan to transform the believer into the image of Jesus, His Son.
 - It ignores God's discipline.
- Hebrews 12:5-11; Psalm 32:1-5*

V. THE BELIEVER'S SINS ARE TAKEN CARE OF

(1 John 2:1-2; Romans 8:31-34)

1. Jesus Christ is the believer's advocate (helper, intercessor).
- Romans 8:34; Revelation 12:10; Luke 22:31-32
2. Jesus Christ is completely righteous therefore qualifying Him to take the place of the sinful believer as advocate, intercessor and helper.
3. Jesus Christ is the payment for the believer's sins by His atoning sacrifice which has been accepted by God.

VI. GOD HAS PROVIDED THE WAY FOR BELIEVERS TO HAVE VICTORY OVER SIN

(1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 32:6-7; Romans 6:1-14)

1. Every believer will continue to experience temptation.
 - Temptations are not unique to just a single person and no believer is alone in his/her battle with sin.
 - All temptations are common to everyone else.
 - Comfort can come in knowing that others have faced and are facing and will face in the future similar testings and temptations that one might be going through at any time.
- Hebrews 11:2-12*
2. God is in control of the believer's temptation.
 - *1 Corinthians 10:13-14*
 - God knows every believer's weakness, level of resistance at any and every moment of his/her life.
 - When temptation comes to the believer, it can be handled, but often is not because he/she just hasn't been walking with God as God wanted.
 - When temptation comes, God has allowed it for His own reasons.
 3. Concerning temptation, the believer should:
 - Flee from certain temptations. *(1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22)*
 - Pray about the temptation. *(Matthew 6:13)*
 - Not tempt the Lord by unbelief or by not trusting God's power or by being careless.
- Deuteronomy 6:16; Matthew 4:6*
4. Always avoid unnecessary temptation. Don't "play with fire..."
 - *Proverbs 5:8; 7:6-20*

VII. GOD'S WAY OUT OF TEMPTATION AND SIN

1. Believers should live their lives depending upon the power of the Holy Spirit.
- *Galatians 5:16; Romans 8:2-10*
2. One should live his/her life according to God's Word.
- *Psalms 119:9; 2 Timothy 2:16-17; Hebrews 3:7-12; 4:12*
3. Every believer needs to understand and rest on his/her position in Jesus Christ.
- *Romans 6:1-14*
4. Believers should avoid needless temptation.
- *1 Corinthians 10:14; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22; Proverbs 7:6-15*
5. One should be faithful in praying and in faith.
- *Matthew 6:13; Ephesians 6:18; Psalm 119:33-38*
6. One needs to watch and control his/her thoughts and attitudes according to God's Word.
- *2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Philippians 4:8*
7. By being alert and vigilant, one can avoid much temptation and sin.
- *1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8*
8. Believers need to live by faith and thus avoid much temptation and sin.
- *2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 5:5; Hebrews 4:1-2; 11:1-6*
9. Believers need to have the right fellowship and associations with others.
- *Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:33-34; Psalm 1:1; 119:63*
10. By having the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ, one will have the right values and priorities.
- *Matthew 6:21-33; 2 Corinthians 10:5; 1 Timothy 6:6-12*
11. When one realizes that he/she will reap whatever he/she sows, thinking about the consequences of his/her sins will help keep one out of temptation and sin.
- *Galatians 6:6-7*

CONCLUSION:

1. Belief in Jesus Christ brings salvation, eternal life, indwelling of the Holy Spirit, adoption into the family of God but does not give a perfect life and sin still happens.
2. As salvation is found by doing things God's way, the problem of sin can also be taken care of by doing things God's way.
3. God has instructed the believer to come to Him in sincerity admitting, confessing his/her sins, agreeing with Him in the awfulness of sin and He will forgive him/her of his/her sins.
4. As long as one lives on this earth, he/she is going to be tempted to sin and will sin but Jesus intercedes for the believer and has already paid the penalty for the sins of the believer but the believer must confess his/her sins in order to be forgiven and restored to fellowship with God.
5. Sin causes the believer to lose fellowship with his/her heavenly Father, God but not his/her salvation or relationship as a child of God.
6. Christians should pray, read God's Word and be with other believers to find strength to resist temptation.