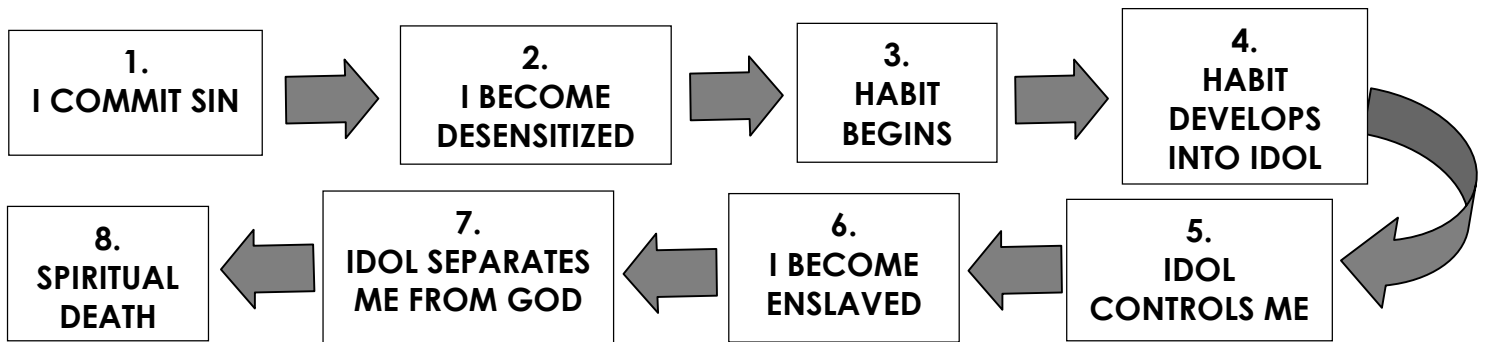


CHAPTER 1: A PLAN FOR VICTORY
Lesson 4 THE CYCLE OF SIN

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”
(Romans 6:23).*



The purpose of this chart is to show how we enter into the bondage of sin by choice. As ultimately unsatisfying and devastating as it is, no one would continue in sin if it were not for the fact that it is addictive. As we present our bodies to be abused by the forces of evil, sin enslaves us to the point of death.

But Jesus Christ came to set us free from sin, and to give us another choice. We can serve the One who gives eternal life or we can serve sin, which leads to death. The only way out of this cycle is to be born again and receive Christ as our Savior and the Lord of our life. No longer can we be the lord of our own life!

1. I commit the act of sin. Write James 1:15.

2. I become desensitized. It becomes easier to sin the next time I am tempted. I become past feeling. Write Ephesians 4:19.

3. Habit begins. Sin becomes second nature. We all have a “habit capacity.” This can be used for good or bad. Write Romans 6:16.

4. Habit develops into idol. When my habit takes priority, it becomes my idol. It becomes more important in my life than pleasing God. See Ezekiel 14:3, 6.

5. Idol Controls me. Compulsive and addictive behavior sets in. It becomes a daily ritual. Write Romans 7:19, 23, 25.

6. I become enslaved. My habit is life-dominating. Write John 8:34, 36.

7. Idol separates me from God. You are either a slave to sin or a slave to Christ. Write Proverbs 5:22-23.

8. Spiritual Death. Romans 6:23 tells us that “The wages of sin brings death”—not only physically, but spiritually—separated from God for eternity. For the Christian, it brings spiritual deadness and corruption.

Write Luke 13:3.

Only when we are truly honest about our sin can God’s Holy Spirit show us the real problem, as well as the real solution. Jesus promises that those who believe in him will “not perish but have everlasting life”

What is the remedy?

Write John 3:5-7.

What does it mean to be born again? Write John 3:16-17.

Even though we will all die, do you want to be saved from spiritual death? After you die, do you want to go to heaven? Salvation is as close as your own lips and heart. People think it must be a complicated process, but it is not. If we believe in our heart and say with our mouth that Christ is the risen Lord, we will be saved.

Write Romans 10:9.

This passage quotes Deuteronomy 30:14, which says, “The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.”

Confessing Jesus as your Lord means you will “do it.” You will obey what the word of God says and do it. Believing in Jesus to save us from our sin and obeying God’s Word leads to life!