

Walking Worthy

Obedience, Doctrine, and the Narrow Way of Salvation

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma



Book 3 - Chapter 02 – Study 05

When Grace Is Abused and Sin Rules

Revised May 16, 2026

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Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

Published by:

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

Bixby, Oklahoma

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Before you turn another page, stop and ask yourself one question, and answer it honestly:

What if what you believe about your salvation is wrong?

Not slightly off.

Not incomplete.

But wrong in a way that affects your eternity.

This is not written to entertain you, comfort you, or agree with what you already believe. It is written to confront, to challenge, and to test. Because the truth is, many have been taught a version of faith that feels right, sounds right, and is widely accepted, yet does not stand when measured against the full counsel of the Word of God.

Many believe they are saved.

Many feel secure.

Many have never questioned what they were taught.

Yet the Scriptures warn that many will seek to enter and will not be able.

So then, what separates truth from deception?

This study is not asking you to trust a preacher, a tradition, or a denomination. It is calling you to do what God Himself commands: to test everything, to examine every teaching, and to measure every belief against His Word.

If what you believe is true, it will stand.

If it is not, it must be corrected.

This may make you uncomfortable. That is not a mistake.

*Truth has always exposed what is false, and correction has always required
humility.*

Do not rush through this.

Do not defend what you have always believed simply because it is familiar.

And do not ignore what challenges you.

Because this is not about winning an argument.

This is about whether what you believe will stand before God.

Test it.

Search it.

Prove it.

Your eternal life depends on it.

Opening Exhortation: A Letter Before the Study.

God Understands!

Brothers and sisters,
There is something I keep hearing over and over again from believers whenever sin, compromise, or correction is brought before them. Almost as if it has become one of the most common comforts spoken in this generation.

“God understands.”

And many times, the moment those words are spoken, the conversation ends there.

As if saying that phrase somehow settles the matter before Heaven.

As if understanding automatically means approval.

As if because God sees our weakness, He no longer requires obedience from us.

But I fear many people do not truly understand what they are saying when they speak those words.

Yes, God understands.

He understands every temptation you face.

He understands every pressure on your mind.

He understands the weakness of the flesh.

He understands fear, loneliness, confusion, pain, exhaustion, trauma, desire, and every hidden battle inside the human heart far better than we understand ourselves.

But His understanding is not like human understanding.

Human understanding often excuses sin.

Human understanding lowers standards.

Human understanding says, "I understand why you did it, so it's okay."

Human understanding comforts rebellion so nobody feels judged.

But God does not understand like man understands.

Many people have created a version of God that comforts them in disobedience instead of calling them out of it.

They speak about His compassion while forgetting His holiness.

They speak about His mercy while ignoring His judgment.

They speak about His patience while continuing in the very things He has already warned them about.

And I say this carefully, because many believers today are using the phrase "God understands" as protection against conviction.

But if understanding alone removed judgment, then Adam and Eve would have never been removed from the garden.

Do you think God did not understand why Eve reached for the fruit?

Do you think God failed to see the deception of the serpent?

Do you think God did not understand curiosity, temptation, or weakness?

Of course He understood; Yet He still drove them out. That alone should humble us deeply.

God understood Cain before Cain ever killed Abel.

God even warned him that sin was crouching at the door.

God understood the jealousy rising inside him.
God understood the anger and pride burning within his heart.
Yet Cain was still judged.

God understood the people before the flood.
Scripture says He saw the thoughts of their hearts continually.
There was nothing hidden from Him.
He understood every reason behind their corruption, every
desire, every violent thought, every rebellion.
Yet the flood still came.

And what about Sodom?
Do you truly think God did not understand how broken that
city had become?

Do you think He did not understand the corruption, confusion,
lust, violence, and darkness that consumed them?

He understood all of it perfectly.
Yet fire still fell from heaven.

Brothers and sisters, this is the part many people refuse to
face.

God understanding sin does not mean God accepts sin.
In fact, His perfect understanding is exactly why His judgment
is perfect.

We live in a generation that desperately wants compassion
without repentance.
People want God to sympathize with them while allowing them
to remain unchanged.
They want mercy without surrender.

Grace without holiness... And Salvation without crucifixion of the flesh.

]But the gospel was never: “Remain as you are because God understands.”

The gospel is: “Repent and be transformed.”

Christ did not go from city to city telling people to stay comfortable in sin because the Father understood their struggles.

He warned them to repent.

He warned them to deny themselves.

He warned them to take up their cross.

He warned them that the narrow path would cost them something.

Yet today many believers use “God understands” almost like a shield against conviction itself.

Whenever the Spirit exposes something, instead of falling broken before God, people comfort themselves by saying: “He knows my heart.”

Yes.

He does know your heart.

And that should frighten you more than comfort you, because Scripture says the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.

Many people trust their feelings more than they trust the warnings of Scripture.

They convince themselves that sincerity will protect them while continuing in compromise.

But sincerity has never saved rebellion.

Saul was sincere when he partially obeyed God and spared what God told him to destroy. Yet the kingdom was torn away from him.

Judas walked with Christ Himself and still betrayed Him.

Israel saw miracles in the wilderness and still died outside the promised land because unbelief and rebellion remained within them.

God understood every one of those people.
Yet judgment still came!

Please hear me carefully.

I am not saying God lacks compassion.

I am not saying He is without mercy.

Because without His mercy none of us would still be breathing right now.

But mercy is not permission to continue resisting Him.

Many mistake God delaying judgment for God approving their condition.

But Scripture warns us that because judgment is not executed quickly, the heart of man becomes fully set on evil.

People begin believing they are safe simply because consequences have not arrived yet.

But delayed judgment is not canceled judgment.

The days of Noah prove that.

Sodom proves that.

Israel proves that.

Judas proves that.

And perhaps the greatest example of all is the cross itself.

Do you think the Father did not understand the agony of Christ in Gethsemane?

Do you think God the Father did not fully understand the suffering, fear, sorrow, and pain that stood before His only begotten Son, the Christ?

Yet the cup was still not removed.

Why?

Because holiness and obedience still had to be fulfilled.

Brothers and sisters, God's understanding does not remove His righteousness.

His compassion does not cancel His holiness.

And His mercy does not erase His authority.

And this is why we must stop comforting ourselves with shallow phrases while continuing in compromise.

Yes, God understands your weakness.

But He still commands repentance.

Yes, He understands your temptation.

But He still commands obedience.

Yes, He understands your pain.

But He still commands surrender.

And yes, He understands your heart completely.

Which means there is no excuse you can hide behind before Him.

It saddens me to know that many people will stand before God one day believing they were safe because they convinced themselves that God's understanding meant approval. But understanding has never replaced obedience.

If anything, knowing that God fully sees us should produce greater fear of the Lord, greater humility, and deeper repentance.

Because nothing is hidden from Him.
Nothing is misunderstood by Him.
And nothing will be justified simply because we felt it strongly enough.

Written with love, warning, and truth by John, servant and disciple of Christ, Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry.

The Full Biblical Study.

WHEN GRACE BECOMES AN EXCUSE AND SIN TAKES THE THRONE

Why Many Who Claim to Love God Still Serve the Master They Were Supposed to Bury.

I will speak simply and honestly, because this is how I lived it and how God dealt with me.

Sin is not just doing something wrong. It is alive inside us.

It pushes, it pulls, it speaks, and most of us do not realize how much influence it has over our choices until we try to resist it.

Scripture says sin rules the body and demands obedience (Romans 6:12). Paul said it works in our members (Romans 7:23).

He was not being poetic; he meant exactly what he said.

Sin gives commands, and we obey.

I obeyed it for a long time, even while saying I loved God.

When Adam opened the door, sin entered humanity (Romans 5:12). It touched everything. Not just behavior, but blood, thoughts, impulses, desires, the way we react, and the things we chase. That is why the inward pull feels so real.

Most people already know it, even if they pretend, they do not.

They can feel that pressure that does not come from God inside their minds.

We do not like to call it sin, so we rename it as habit, struggle, trauma, weakness, or personality. We soften the word to make it feel smaller. But Scripture calls it rebellion (1 John 3:4).

In the concordance: The word disobedient is H4784, a Hebrew Word: מְרִיָּה and the definition is to be contentious, rebellious.

Rebellion is the correct word; it is not a flaw, not a small slip, just plain rebellion against God.

That is what was in me, and that is what it is in anyone who continues in disobedience.

Sin is not a restless child that can be calmed down with a comforting word. It has only one goal; it wants the throne of your heart.

Christ said whoever commits sin becomes a servant of sin (John 8:34). That means it rules, and you obey. There is no neutral ground. Either sin sits on the throne or Christ does. There is no third option.

For years I pretended I was in control. **I was not.** The hardest part was not admitting I was wrong. The hardest part was actually admitting what obedience might cost.

I knew that if I fully obeyed God, it would change my home, my habits, and the peace I was trying to protect. I was already getting push-back just from making small “Godly” changes, little by little. So, I could only imagine the backlash if I brought the whole change I needed to make all in at once.

I hesitated because I was afraid that immediate complete change might harm the people closest to me. They weren’t ready for change, and I imagined the chaos it could cause, the arguments, the confusion, the resistance.

Deep down, I was also afraid that following God fully would require me to move on without them, and that terrified me. I didn’t want to be the one who “left them behind.” I told myself that God wouldn’t want that, so I used that idea to slow down my obedience, thinking I was protecting them, when in reality, I was just delaying what God showed me and had commanded me to do.

People do not stay stuck because they are weak. They stay stuck because they lie to themselves. I did. I told myself I would change gradually as my family did and tried to make it sound spiritual. I said I was waiting for the right moment and had convinced myself that slow change was wisdom, that easing into obedience would protect the people I loved and that it would keep things calm and smooth.

I chose to allow myself to believe that gradual correction would keep peace in the home. It did not, it only strengthened what was wrong by also allowing them to the false believe that God was flexible and understanding to the point of forgiveness. I was indirectly teaching them to be Luke-warm. In all reality, I was teaching them to be disobedient!

Trying to change slowly became more dangerous than the sin itself. It was like having cancer and treating it with a warm towel, hoping it would shrink and die. I adjusted a little here and there, but the problem remained. I was touching the cancer without removing it. I was cutting a little, backing away, then cutting again, never finishing, never killing it and worst, never healing. Instead of removing the sickness, I allowed it to spread.

Eventually I learned something I did not want to hear. Obedience hurts, **but delay hurts more.** When God shows you the truth, He is inviting you into freedom. If you hesitate, sin regroups, the flesh grows louder and excuses multiply. I prayed, but my steps did not change, so nothing changed. I continuously said next week, next month, later. But Sin does not care about your timelines because **delay is agreement.**

Eventually, things became heavier. One day I sat in the bathtub with the shower running. On the outside I was calm, silent, showing nothing was wrong, but inside I felt sad, broken, defeated, embarrassed, tired, exposed, and worst of all, alone. The problem was not stress or other people. The problem was me. I had allowed small things, then bigger things. I backed down when I should have stood firm. I let fear guide decisions, and the consequences touched my whole family. Because of this, my family became divided, not following, not listening, somewhat disobedient at times, stressed, depressed, for

the most part not connected, disconnected, not working as a team, just pointing fingers and passing blame, and worst, disconnected from God.

Sin rarely stays with one person. Sin will spread into the entire household if left unexposed and alive.

Marriage made this harder. Paul said the unmarried person can give themselves to the Lord without divided attention (1 Cor 7:8, 32). He was not lowering marriage. He was telling the truth. A married man carries his household. If sin touches him, it touches them. It becomes the atmosphere of the home. I saw that in my house when my compromise became their burden.

I tried to keep peace by saying yes to things I should have corrected.

I kept choosing agreement instead of truth.

I told myself it was love, but it was fear disguised as love. I was afraid of conflict, afraid of discomfort, afraid of tension.

I feared losing the approval of the people I cared about in my own home.

In short, I feared my feelings and my relationship with my family more than I feared God and that fear became poison.

A friend reminded me of something Christ said, and it speaks directly to one of the greatest struggles we face as disciples: choosing whose voice we will obey.

Will we listen to God and allow Him to correct and restore our lives, or will we listen to our feelings and try to fix things according to what we think we need?

I want you to read the following verse and let it sink in.

Read it once. Then read it again slowly, part by part, and let the Holy Spirit show you what Christ is truly saying.

This is Christ speaking directly to you.

Matthew 10:34-39 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

This is why some of you have felt torn inside.

You began seeking God more seriously, yet suddenly there was tension in your home, resistance from people around you, confusion in your mind, or even a battle within your own heart. Part of you wants to obey God completely, while another part keeps pulling you back toward comfort, fear, approval from others, old desires, or the life you are used to.

Some of you have already experienced this verse without even realizing it. You tried to walk closer to God, and suddenly people around you became uncomfortable. Conversations changed. Relationships became strained. You felt separated, misunderstood, or even attacked simply because your heart started changing.

Others feel this war silently inside themselves. You know what God is calling you to do, yet your emotions keep arguing against it. Your flesh wants peace without surrender. It wants God to heal the pain without touching the thing causing it.

That is why Christ spoke these words. He was warning us beforehand that following Him would force a decision.

Truth always exposes where our loyalty truly is.

I wish I could say I responded correctly when God began confronting me, but I did not. When the pressure increased, I looked for small escapes, something to feel good for a moment, something to avoid facing the truth. Games, media, projects, small accomplishments here and there, even side jobs for extra money, became outlets.

They fed the same thing that was choking me, and the time I spent on them was wasted, time that should have gone to growing in God and with my family.

Before I realized it, I was tangled, and the chains were tight.

I never felt a strong punishment, not at first. It was not like when my mother used to beat me with a belt and left marks; the kind that stayed in my brain so I would think twice before trying that same thing again.

It was not like sticking a knife into an active electric outlet either. I am pretty sure that kind of lesson goes straight to the soul, and you will never do that again unless something is seriously wrong with the brain.

The lack of “punishment” made it worse, because the lack of pain made me believe everything was fine.

The flesh becomes bold when the consequences are slow.

It keeps pushing boundaries. It keeps whispering that nothing bad is happening. But damage does not always come suddenly.

Most of the time it is slow and quiet.

One day you look around and everything is broken and you barely noticed when the breaking began.

That was when God confronted me. He confronted me when I was at my lowest.

Most of us do not recognize we are at our lowest until we have fallen all the way down to a place of no return.

So, God allows our actions to run their course so the consequences can wake us up, so we finally call out to Him.

I found myself in another of my lowest moment, and He confronted me once again, and this time about this prolonged ongoing problem.

He did not soothe me or tell me it would get better if I waited.

He showed me the truth, without excuses.

He exposed my rebellion, and He made it clear that it needed to die.

He did not tell me to manage it. He told me to kill it.

Scripture says the old man must be crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6). That is not poetry. Something in you must die, piece by piece, day by day, decision by decision.

It will fight and scream and make you feel like you are losing yourself, but you are not losing anything worth keeping.

You are losing what was killing you and what is destroying your relationship with God.

I thought my delay was patience. I thought my fear was tenderness. I thought my compromise was wisdom. I was wrong. None of it produced obedience.

I realized I was in complete disobedience and that my world was on the verge of destruction because of it.

I realized that my feelings had fooled me once again.

I had cried, had felt bad, had even felt guilty. I had even prayed emotional prayers, but nothing changed because complete obedience had not begun.

Emotion alone cannot change you. Obedience is what changes you.

When I finally recognized what was happening within me, I understood something very simple. **You cannot manage sin.** You cannot negotiate with it. You cannot talk it into behaving. You either hide it, or you kill it. And if you choose to hide it, you are feeding it.

Scripture says that whoever covers his sin will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes it will find mercy (Proverbs 28:13).

When I hid it, it grew roots. When I excused it, it grew teeth. At first, it was quiet, then it demanded more. Sin does not care about your tears or your promises.

Sin only needs one thing: for you to serve it until your last breath. Because once you die outside of Christ, there is no more repentance. There is no more choice. There is no more life. Sin's victory is sealed.

People cling to what feels familiar because change feels dangerous. That is how the human mind works.

Even when the familiar thing is killing us, we hold it close because part of us fears the unknown.

Sin takes advantage of that fear. It promises comfort and relief, but none of it is real.

The comfort is fake, and the escape it offers is in a cage with a label addressed straight to hell.

That day in the bathtub everything caught up to me. Not through a vision or a loud voice, but in a silence that cut deeper than words.

I sat there and it felt as if God held a mirror in front of my face. There was no place to hide. No excuses. No explanations. Just truth.

I saw rebellion living in me, and I was the one feeding it. I was the one defending it. I was the one making room for it.

It finished breaking me, but it also woke me up.

So, yes, I learned that sin only understands one response, and that is death. **It cannot be trained to obey**, and it has to be crucified. That truth is not symbolic. It means something in you must actually die.

Not in a dramatic moment where everything changes instantly, but through a steady surrender. Choice by choice. Day by day as our Lord shows us our flaws.

Keep in mind that the old nature will fight, it will scream, it will make you feel like you are losing yourself; But the only thing you are losing is the part that is destroying your relationship with God.

For a long time, I also misunderstood what grace really was. I thought grace meant God understood, God felt for me, and God would simply wait and make it easy for me to change. That was what I chose to tell myself and believe.

Grace is patient, yes.

Grace is kind, yes.

But grace is not permission to continue in disobedience.

Grace is the power God gives to us so we may deny sin and live for Him, as Titus 2:11-12 teaches. If grace does not produce obedience, then it is not grace. It is only a soft blanket that covers chains, so you do not have to feel them.

These are the same chains we are bound with when we are not in Christ, the same chains He has set us free from if we are truly in Him.

I spent too much time hiding under that blanket, telling myself everything was fine, even though nothing was fine.

Emotion without obedience is just noise. Even Judas felt remorse, but he did not return to God (Matthew 27:3-5).

Many believe God is only love, yet Scripture says He abhors.

One of the things church does not want to teach us is that even though God loves people, he also “kind” of hates some. Neither do they want to teach that we are to abhor all that which is evil, even evil people.

Hate is hate but abhor is stronger. To abhor is to detest and reject. Lev 26:11 And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.

Lev 26:30 And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

Rom 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

The majority of Pastor actually teach a God of full forgiveness because all He has is love for us. Yet they fail to teach truth because it does not sell well in the church. They hide from us the

truth that God will see us as abominable/detestable because of our disobedience.

Titus 1:16 says that some claim to know God but deny Him by refusing to obey. They become abominable to Him, reprobate, unfit for the good works and commandments He gives.

Feeling bad is not repentance. **Obedience is repentance** and I did not understand that at first.

Paul wrote that if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live (Romans 8:13).

That is not a suggestion. It is a command, and it is a warning. You cannot pray sin away while still making room for it. God gives power, but you must act.

The Holy Spirit strengthens, but He does not make your choices for you.

You must deny yourself, pick up your cross and put sin to death (Luke 9:23). God will give you strength, but He will not obey for you.

God did not comfort my excuses or speak to my feelings first. He spoke to my will, telling me to choose, to give Him my fear, my comfort, and my excuses, to stop being lukewarm with Him, and to stop calling my delay wisdom.

In that moment, I realized that if I continued living in disobedience, I would lose everything that mattered.

So, I began to die. I started laying down parts of myself. Choices, habits, words, desires. Some things have fallen away slowly, almost unnoticed. Other things fell away all at once.

Some changes confused me and some hurt, but each time something died, something new came alive.

I have learned that the more I surrender, the more I see real life.

Not the kind of life that comes from feeling good for a moment or that this world offers, but the life that Christ gives.

A life with weight, a different type of peace, and self-purpose.

A life where you begin to see God, His creation, His love toward us, and His patience toward us.

He has also shown me that even though He is patient, we all have an expiration date.

That is how I understand the warning to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, because we do not know when our time ends.

Death will come like a thief in the night, and once that moment arrives, there is no changing course.

I am not telling you this to sound dramatic. I want you to see and understand disobedience the way God showed it to me, because that is the only way a person becomes free.

Many think they are safe because they lack knowledge, but a lack of knowledge can still be disobedience if a person refuses to seek the truth.

Scripture says that if someone knows what God requires and refuses to do it, that is sin (James 4:17). And when God has given someone much truth, He expects much from them (Luke 12:47-48).

People like to say, with great power comes great responsibility, but Scripture says the same about truth. When God gives truth, He requires obedience. The more He shows, the more He expects.

Even hidden sin still counts before God. Leviticus 5:17 says that if a person sins, even though he did not know it, he shall still bear his guilt. David understood this which is why he prayed and asked God to cleanse him from hidden faults (Psalm 19:12).

Ignorance is not safety; truth is safety. Christ said the truth makes you free (John 8:32), but truth cuts before it heals and kills before it resurrects.

This is only the beginning. There is more to say about why people do not change, how grace becomes a trap, why feelings deceive, how sin attaches itself to the mind, and how the old self must be buried so that new life can rise.

If you are breathing, you still have a chance to kill what is killing you and your relationship with God, so do not look away and get out of that cage.

The Gospel of Christ teaches that love for God is proven only through obedience. Christ did not offer alternative expressions of love, emotional sentiment, or verbal affection as substitutes. He repeatedly tied love to doing what God the Father commands. From the Law to the Gospel, God defined love toward Him in one way: obey His voice. No verse presents any other method of showing love to God apart from obedience.

Challenge Question: Can anyone show one passage in Scripture where love for God is demonstrated in any other way apart from obedience?

1. SIN IS A MASTER, NOT A MISTAKE

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.” Romans 6:12

When Christ said that the sinner is the servant of sin, He was not speaking symbolically. He was describing a spiritual government. Sin is not just something a man does; it is something that rules him. Every time he yields, sin strengthens its throne.

The person living outside the covenant of baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Ghost is under sin’s dominion by law. That is why moral improvement fails, because it tries to reform a slave without dethroning the master. The flesh may polish itself, but it cannot free itself.

Consider Adam. He was not deceived by confusion; he was ruled by decision. When he obeyed the serpent instead of God, he transferred allegiance. From that moment, sin became the new ruler of man’s body. Humanity inherited a corrupted nature, one that resists God instinctively.

Sin commands obedience the way a tyrant commands fear. Its authority is spiritual, not emotional. That is why no one escapes sin by promising to do better. Promises do not break covenants. Death does. You do not negotiate with a master who wants your soul. You fire him. Paul wrote, “He that is dead is freed from sin.” (Romans 6:7). Death to the old self is the only way the legal contract of sin is canceled.

Modern religion softens this truth. It calls sin “struggle” and disobedience “weakness.” But the Word of God calls it bondage. To remain under sin after receiving truth is to live like Israel in Egypt, crying for deliverance while clinging to Pharaoh’s food. Until sin is dethroned, every prayer and every act of worship is done in a divided heart. A person cannot serve two masters. He will love one and hate the other. Christ does not share thrones, He replaces them.

B3-C04-S04- "Righteousness and Holiness Obedience That God Recognizes" explains that righteousness is not inherited but proven through obedience. "He that doeth righteousness is righteous." (1 John 3:7). To remain under sin's control while claiming salvation is to deny the very definition of righteousness.

In Summary

John 8:34 "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." Sin is not just doing something wrong. It is a spiritual master that rules whoever obeys it. Every time a person gives in to sin, they strengthen that master's control.

Romans 6:16 "To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are." Obedience shows who your real master is.

1 John 3:8 "He that committeth sin is of the devil." Sin proves alignment with darkness, not with God.

James 4:4 "Friendship of the world is enmity with God." You cannot serve both.

Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death." Sin always ends in separation from God.

When Christ called sinners "servants," He revealed a spiritual law. Sin is not a random weakness it is a government that owns whoever obeys it.

Adam did not fall because of confusion; he fell because of allegiance. The moment he chose the serpent's word over God's, he transferred authority. Since that day, sin has ruled through the body's desires and the mind's pride.

Moral discipline cannot free a slave; it only polishes his chains.

Freedom begins only when the old master is dethroned. Again, Paul said, "He that is dead is freed from sin." Death breaks ownership. That death happens when a person surrenders completely in the covenant, repentance, baptism, and the

indwelling of the Holy Spirit or what some know as Spirit sealing. Until then, sin still has legal claim.

Modern religion calls sin a “struggle” to avoid responsibility. But the Bible calls it bondage. People say, “I slipped,” but the truth is they bowed.

Until sin loses its throne, no amount of worship, prayer, or emotion will make a person free.

1 John 3:7 He that doeth righteousness is righteous.

Righteousness is not inherited by belief; it is proven through obedience.

A believer still ruled by sin is not walking in righteousness, he is serving two masters.

In the end it is simple. Every morning a man reports to somebody.

Two employees may live in the same house, but the one who reports to his master first shows who he truly serves.

It is the same with God.

When your eyes open, who gets your first loyalty?

Do you report to hunger, scrolling, comfort, habit, or work?

Or do you report to God?

A servant does not ask what he feels like doing. He asks what his Master commands. If prayer is an afterthought, then God is not your Master, no matter what you say.

The first voice you answer each morning exposes your true allegiance.

God is not looking for talk. He is looking for obedience.

Who did you report to first today?

That answer tells Heaven everything.

2. THE FLESH LOVES SIN

“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing.” Romans 7:18

“The carnal mind is enmity against God.” Romans 8:7

The flesh is not an innocent victim. It is a willing partner of sin. It is hostile toward God. It does not need the devil’s help to rebel. It was born that way.

Paul said plainly, “The good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.” (Romans 7:19). That confession was not weakness. It was recognition that sin lives in human nature. The flesh cannot be negotiated with, persuaded, or disciplined into holiness. It must be crucified.

The flesh’s favorite argument is comfort. It convinces the believer that obedience can wait, that compromise is harmless, that feelings are truth. But feelings are not truth, they are flesh speaking with emotional voice.

B2-C01-S08- “Why Feelings Cannot Be Trusted for Salvation” warns that “our feelings are influenced by ignorance and by Satan through other people.” The flesh listens to those voices because they make rebellion sound compassionate. The flesh whispers that “God understands and that He knows your heart.” Yes, He does, and that is the problem. Feelings are the doorway through which temptation speaks.

Every sin begins with justification. Eve looked at the fruit, liked how it appeared, reasoned that it was good, and then acted. That is the cycle: attraction, reasoning, rebellion and finally death. The flesh always rationalizes before it rebels.

B3-C03-S02-Letter “Called to be set apart - the chosen” reminds that holiness starts with separation. “Come out from among them, and be ye separate.” (2 Corinthians 6:17). A believer cannot stay planted in the soil that feeds the flesh and expect fruit of the Spirit. God calls His people away from worldly influence so He

can cleanse and fill them. You must change the environment that nourishes your weakness.

The flesh will never change its appetite. You cannot counsel the flesh. You have to crucify it. You must change its diet. Stop feeding it attention, entertainment, and excuses, and it will starve. But feed it indulgence, and it will rule you again.

In Summary

The flesh is not just weak; it's corrupted by nature. It doesn't need Satan's help to rebel against God. It wants comfort, not holiness.

Galatians 5:17 "The flesh lusteth against the Spirit." Your two natures are always in conflict.

Romans 13:14 "Make not provision for the flesh." Don't give it what it wants; starve its appetite.

Ephesians 4:22 "Put off the old man." You must actively reject the old nature.

Colossians 3:5 "Mortify your members." Sin dies when self is denied.

The flesh is not an innocent part of you; it is the seat of rebellion. It argues for pleasure, justifies compromise, and resists surrender. It measures right and wrong by comfort instead of truth.

Eve saw the fruit, liked how it looked, reasoned that it was "good," and acted.

Sin began not with a lie, but with a feeling. Desire gave birth to disobedience.

That is the cycle every believer must recognize: attraction, reasoning, rebellion, death.

Paul said nothing good lives in the flesh. Every decision that starts from emotion instead of conviction ends in spiritual loss.

The flesh wants to feel right, not be right and that is why salvation requires crucifixion, not counseling.

B3-C05-S05- "Submission Living Under God's Authority" says, "Submission is the proof of death to self." When you yield to God completely, the voice of the flesh grows quiet.

The flesh behaves like a spoiled child; it does not stop screaming until you start giving it candy. Every time you deny it, it gets weaker. Every time you compromise, it grows stronger. David's fall began when he stayed home instead of going to battle. Sin always finds us when we stop fighting.

Ask yourself daily: What have I fed more today, the Spirit or the flesh?
Whatever you feed will rule.

The flesh is not weak, it is wicked, which is why the only way to conquer it is crucifixion, not counseling.

3. THE MIND IS BLINDED

“The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.” 2 Corinthians 4:4

Sin’s deadliest weapon is not temptation but blindness.

The devil does not need to make you wicked. He only needs to make you unaware. Once the mind is blinded, sin no longer appears sinful.

A blinded mind defends its own captivity. It calls evil good and good evil. It quotes half a verse to justify a whole sin. It uses grace as armor against conviction.

This is why false doctrine thrives. Blindness makes deception feel like revelation. People sit under sermons that contradict Scripture and still shout “Amen.” They are not agreeing with truth, they are agreeing with comfort.

Paul wrote that “they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” (Romans 1:21).

Darkness follows rejection of light. When truth is ignored, blindness is invited.

Deception does not feel like danger, it feels like normal.

Scripture shows that even hidden or unknown sin still counts before God. Leviticus 5:17 says that if a person sins, even though he did not know it, he shall still bear his iniquity.

David prayed, Cleanse me from hidden faults (Psalm 19:12).

Ignorance may lessen earthly consequences, but it does not erase guilt before a Holy God. When truth is provided and available and a person refuses to seek it, that ignorance becomes rebellion.

Blindness also affects prayer. Many ask God for deliverance but resist the repentance required to receive it. They pray for freedom from addiction while keeping the source nearby. They ask for peace while refusing obedience. God does not answer rebellion dressed as prayer.

Only revelation from the Holy Spirit can open blind minds. When the Spirit brings conviction, it is light piercing darkness. That moment is mercy, God giving sight before judgment.

To reject conviction is to choose blindness willingly.

B3-C04-S04- “Righteousness and Holiness Obedience That God Recognizes” adds, “Those who do not study cannot discern righteousness.” A neglected Bible and concordance guarantee a deceived heart. Those who do not study cannot discern righteousness.”

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.” 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

In Summary

People stay in sin because they can't see truth. Their minds are not just confused, they're spiritually blinded. Satan blocks understanding so they can keep feeling “fine” while walking toward destruction.

Ephesians 4:18 “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them.” Ignorance is spiritual death.

John 12:40 “He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart.” When truth is rejected, blindness increases.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-11 “Because they received not the love of the truth... God shall send them strong delusion.” Refusing truth invites deception.

Romans 1:21-22 “They became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” Pride blinds faster than ignorance.

Blindness does not mean absence of information. Most people today have more access to Scripture than any generation before them, yet the blindness remains. That proves the problem today is not knowledge, but rejection.

The devil blinds minds through comfort, pride, and half-truth. He teaches men to call rebellion “growth” and compromise “grace.” Once the lie feels right, they stop searching.

The mind without the Spirit becomes its own god. It reasons away conviction, defends emotion, and protects habit. Paul said they are “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Blindness grows in layers. First comes distraction, the heart stops paying attention. Then justification sin is renamed weakness. Finally comes delusion, evil begins to look holy. At that stage, even correction sounds like attack.

Truth must be proven, not assumed. A blind believer accepts anything that feels loving, even when it denies holiness.

B3-C05-S05- “Submission Living Under God’s Authority” reminds us that humility is the only cure for blindness. Pride shuts the eyes; submission opens them.

A man can stare at the sun and still claim it is night if he closes his eyes.

The light never left; he just refused to see it.

Every time the Spirit convicts and we say, “Not now,” another shade drops over our vision.

Ask yourself: When was the last time correction changed me instead of offending me?

That answer reveals whether the eyes of your heart are open or closing.

4. THE HEART GROWS HARD

“He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” Proverbs 29:1

Hardness of heart is not sudden. It is the result of repeated disobedience. Every time the Spirit convicts and we say, “not now,” a layer of callus forms over the conscience.

At first, sin hurts. The heart trembles. The believer feels remorse. But if he keeps returning to it, conviction fades and excuses grow. Eventually he can sin, worship, and sleep the same night. That is the tragedy of a hardened heart. It loses its sensitivity to God.

Emotion can deceive the hardened heart. Many mistake the absence of conviction for peace. But silence after disobedience is not approval. It is abandonment. When God stops speaking, judgment is near.

Jeremiah wrote, “The heart is deceitful above all things.” (Jeremiah 17:9). Deceitful hearts pretend to be humble while hiding rebellion. They justify sin through emotion: “I just do not feel convicted about it.” But conviction is not measured by feelings. It is measured by truth.

B2-C01-S08- “Why Feelings Cannot Be Trusted for Salvation” reminds, “Our feelings cannot be trusted, for they are constantly changing and easily influenced by sin and the world.” Feelings fluctuate; truth does not.

When Pharaoh refused to release Israel, each plague hardened him further. God did not make his heart stone. Pharaoh did. Repeated resistance created permanent rebellion.

The same danger confronts the modern church. When the Spirit corrects and the believer excuses, hardness follows. When sermons about holiness are replaced with messages about comfort, rebellion becomes religion.

A tender heart trembles at God’s Word. A hardened heart edits it.

In Summary

The more a person ignores conviction, the harder the heart becomes. Eventually they no longer feel guilt, only habit. At that point, sin is no longer resisted, it is justified.

Hebrews 3:13 “Exhort one another daily... lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” Sin numbs the conscience.

Zechariah 7:12 “They made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law.” Hardness is a choice.

Romans 2:5 “After thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath.” Every refusal builds judgment.

Exodus 8:15 “When Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart.” Comfort always tempts us to relax conviction.

The heart does not turn cold overnight. Each ignored warning adds another layer of callus.

At first the Spirit convicts sharply, then softer and eventually not at all. Silence is not approval, it is a warning. That silence is the most fearful judgment a person can experience when God lets them go their way.

Pharaoh saw miracle after miracle and still refused. His heart became stone because repentance became an inconvenience. The same danger faces every believer who explains away disobedience.

Hardness disguises itself as strength. People say, “I’m just strong-minded,” but it is really resistance to correction.

A soft heart weeps at truth. A hard heart argues with it.

The more we explain our sin instead of confessing it, the less we hear God’s voice.

B3-C04-S02- “Sanctification Being Made Holy by the Word and the Spirit” says, “Sanctification is the daily application of the cross.” That daily dying keeps the heart tender.
Stop applying the cross and the heart thickens with self-will.

B3-C04-S03- “Justification Being Cleared Before God” reminds that forgiveness removes guilt, but sanctification removes the desire to sin again.
Without sanctification, the forgiven heart soon hardens once more.

Think of a soldier’s hands soft at first, but calloused after long battle. Repetition builds resistance.

The same happens with sin. The first lie hurts. The tenth doesn’t. When conviction no longer pierces, danger is near.

If you can sin without sorrow, you need more than forgiveness you need breaking.

Pray as David did: “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

5. TAKING GOD'S GRACE FOR GRANTED

“Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid.”

Romans 6:1–2

“If we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.” Hebrews 10:26

Grace is not a safety net for rebels. It is power for disciples. It does not erase consequence. It changes character.

Many abuse grace because they confuse mercy with permission. They sin, repent verbally, and sin again, believing God's kindness will excuse habitual rebellion. That is not repentance. That is mockery.

Grace without obedience is counterfeit. It forgives what it never transforms. True grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts (Titus 2:11–12). If your grace does not teach you, it cannot save you.

The Danger of Emotional Grace (B2-C01-S08- “Why Feelings Cannot Be Trusted for Salvation”)

“Modern churches have become concerts and shows.” When sermons comfort the flesh instead of crucifying it, grace becomes anesthetic, not antidote. People equate feeling loved with being right with God. But love without truth is flattery, and flattery never saved anyone.

Judas is the perfect example of wasted grace. He walked with Christ, heard truth daily, yet never repented. He felt sorry but did not change. Remorse without repentance is emotion without transformation.

True repentance is not weeping. It is turning. Grace that does not change behavior only soothes conscience.

Presumed grace hardens the heart. Because judgment tarries, rebellion grows bolder. But the Word warns, “Do you despise the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?” (Romans 2:4).

David fell, but he repented immediately. He did not hide his sin behind grace. He threw himself on it. Saul justified his disobedience and blamed the people. Grace cannot save the unbroken.

Grace is not freedom to sin. It is freedom from it. Those who treat grace as license have never truly received it. “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid.” Romans 6:1–2

In Summary

Grace is not permission to sin; it's power to overcome it. When people take advantage of God's mercy, they turn the cross into a loophole.

Grace saves from sin, not in sin.

Titus 2:11–12 “The grace of God... teaches us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly.” True grace trains, it doesn't tolerate.

Hebrews 10:26–27 “If we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.” Willful rebellion cancels protection.

Jude 1:4 “Ungodly men turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness.” Abused grace becomes deception.

Romans 2:4–5 “Despisest thou the riches of His goodness... not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?” Mercy is meant to bring change, not comfort.

Grace is the most misunderstood gift in the church. It was never meant to excuse sin but to empower transformation. The same grace that forgave the adulterous woman also told her, “Go, and sin no more.” Forgiveness ended her guilt; grace redirected her walk.

When believers rely on grace but reject obedience, they create a false gospel one that promises heaven while preserving hell's habits.

That is the spirit of religion without repentance.

It preaches love but hides judgment, offers forgiveness but denies correction.

Grace is costly. It cost the blood of the only begotten Son of God. To use that blood as a safety net for repeated rebellion is to insult the very cross that shed it.

Paul warned that continued willful sin after receiving knowledge of truth leads to judgment, not covering.

Grace covers the repentant, not the resistant.

B2-C01-S04 – “The Full Biblical Pattern of Salvation” makes this clear: grace is the entry point; obedience is the seal.

Grace invites; obedience preserves.

B3-C04-S01-Letter – “How much is God worth” adds, “The one who sacrifices nothing shows he esteems God lightly.”

If grace never costs you your habits, you haven't valued grace.

Imagine a judge who cancels your sentence but tells you are never to return to crime.

If you walk back into the same act the next day, the problem is not the judge it's your heart. That's what many believers do with grace.

Grace is God's open door. But if you use that door to walk back into sin, it becomes the same path that leads to judgment.

Ask yourself: Has grace changed my lifestyle, or just relieved my guilt?

Because If grace only brings relief, it's being abused.

And If grace brings change, it's real.

Final Consideration

You have now seen what Scripture says, not what is commonly taught, not what is assumed, but what is written. At this point, the issue is no longer understanding, it is response. God does not measure what you agreed with while reading, He measures what you obey after seeing it. If something in this study exposed an area of your life, that was not accidental, that was light, and Scripture is clear that light brings responsibility. What you now know, you are accountable for.

This is where many fail. They read, they agree, they feel conviction, and then they delay. But Scripture does not treat delay as neutral. “To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” So the question is not whether this study was correct, the question is simple, what will you do with what God has shown you? Will you obey immediately, or will you explain it away? Will you remove what He has exposed, or will you manage it? Will you submit, or will you delay? There is no third option.

God is not asking you to fix everything at once, but He is requiring that you stop defending what He has already revealed. Repent where you must repent, cut off what must be cut off, and obey what you already know. Do not wait for a better moment, do not wait for stronger feelings, do not wait for more clarity. Scripture has already spoken, “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart.” This is that moment.

If the fear of the Lord is present, obedience will follow. If obedience does not follow, fear was never received. The line is clear, and the responsibility is now yours. Choose.

Additional Studies Available

These studies are provided freely so anyone may examine the Scriptures carefully.

All studies follow the numbering system shown below.

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The complete list and description of studies are available at: zionsroar.org/biblical-studies.

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B3-C02-S01 - Letter - How much is God worth

B2-C03-S03 - Letter - Examine Yourselves for an Indwelling

B3-C01-S03 - Letter - The Warning Hidden in the Obedience of Demons and the Gift of Free Will

B3-C03-S01 - Letter - Discipleship Commitment accountability

B3-C03-S02 - Letter - Called to be set apart - the chosen

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Do not delay this examination. Open your Bible today and test everything you have been taught.

Do Not Keep This Message to Yourself

If this study has caused you to examine the Scriptures more carefully, do not keep that examination to yourself.

Truth spreads when it is shared.

Consider passing this booklet to someone else who may also need to ask these same questions.

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Search the Scriptures.

Examine every claim carefully.

The Bereans were called noble because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify whether the things they heard were true.

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NEED HELP?

You were not meant to figure this out alone.

If you have questions, need clarification, or want to go through these studies with someone, reach out.

We will study the Scriptures with you, step by step, so that what you learn is clear, proven, and grounded in truth.

**If what you believe is true, it will stand.
If it is not, it must fall.**

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