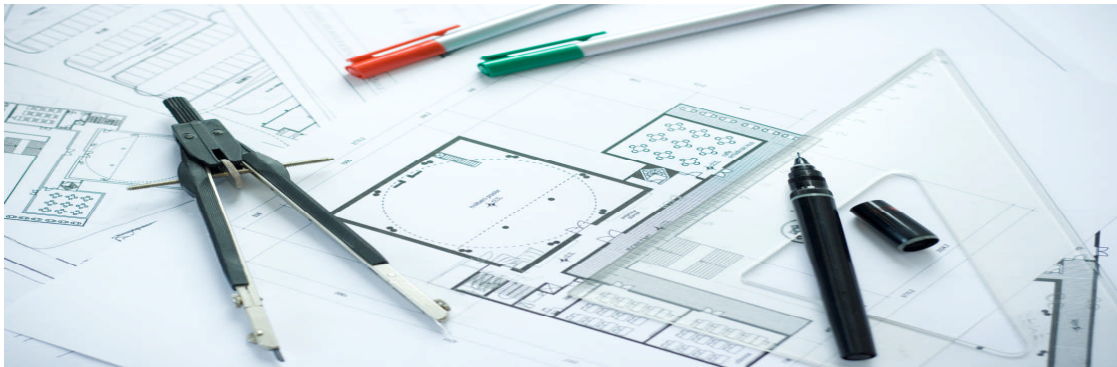


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# Sin BY DESIGN

A SERIES FOR THE MATURE DISCIPLE AND NOT  
FOR THE WEAK OF CONSCIENCE

Presented by Bill Ireland



## What is Sin?

***Sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death***

*But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:14-15)*

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*This study will use scripture giving preference to the King James version of the Bible.*

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## Foreword

Sin is one of Scripture's most sobering subjects, yet it is also one of the most essential for the mature disciple to understand. In a world that trivializes wrongdoing or redefines morality, the Bible presents sin as a deadly spiritual force—one that corrupts, deceives, enslaves, and ultimately leads to spiritual death. *Sin – By Design* invites the reader to look beyond surface-level definitions and examine the deeper mechanism of sin: its origin, its operation, its relationship to temptation, and its connection to Satan's mission in the world.

This study is not for casual believers. It is crafted for those who desire to walk in righteousness, overcome the flesh, and understand the spiritual warfare that surrounds them. Through scripture, word studies, and practical analysis, the work reveals how sin functions, how Christ conquered sin and death, and how believers can live victoriously through faith, obedience, and the power of the Holy Spirit. May this study strengthen your resolve to resist the Tempter, walk in the Spirit, and live as a new creature in Christ.

## Summary

The document presents a comprehensive biblical study on **sin**, its nature, its mechanism, and the believer's path to overcoming it. It emphasizes that sin is not merely an action but a condition, a spiritual force rooted in humanity's fallen nature and exploited by Satan.

## Key Themes

### 1. What Sin Is

Sin is defined as transgression of God's law, lawlessness, rebellion, and "missing the mark." Hebrew and Greek word studies (ḥet, avon, pasha, hamartia) reveal sin as moral distortion, covenant violation, and failure to meet God's standard.

### 2. The Origin and Consequence of Sin

Sin entered the world through the first Adam, spreading corruption and death to all humanity. The wages of sin is death—physical, spiritual, and eternal. Sin separates man from God and places him under the law of sin and death.

### 3. The Mechanism of Sin

Sin follows a predictable pattern:

- **Lust** (flesh, eyes, pride of life)
- **Temptation** (initiated by Satan, the Tempter)
- **Choice** (the will responding to temptation)
- **Sin** (when desire conceives)
- **Death** (the final outcome)

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This mechanism mirrors James 1:14–15 is explored through a “root cause” analysis model.

## 4. Satan’s Mission

Satan’s identity, fall, and ongoing mission are examined. He deceives, tempts, blinds, accuses, and seeks to destroy God’s creation. His strategy is to exploit human lust and disrupt the believer’s ability to walk by faith.

## 5. Jesus Christ and Sinlessness

Jesus lived a sinless life by submitting His will to the Father, resisting temptation through speaking God’s word from scripture, and as being made flesh refused to rely on his pre-incarnate divinity. His obedience qualified him as the perfect sacrifice, defeating Satan and redeeming humanity.

## 6. Overcoming Sin

Believers overcome sin through:

- Walking in the Spirit
- Prayer and Submitting to God
- Fleeing youthful lusts as necessary
- Wearing the armor of God to stand
- Resisting the Devil by speaking God’s Word

The new nature in Christ empowers believers to resist temptation and live righteously.

## 7. The Role of Salvation and Sanctification

Salvation frees believers from the law of sin and death. Sanctification is the ongoing process of maturing, resisting temptation, and submitting one’s will to God’s will.

## 8. Conclusion

Sin is a response mechanism to temptation through lust exploited by Satan. Thankfully, God has provided a designed remedy through Christ. The believer’s victory comes through faith, obedience, and walking in the spirit not fulfilling the lust of the flesh.

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## Believe the Word

God demonstrates to us that words matter. In fact, His words created all matter. He speaks things into existence. There is a heavenly language of authority and power and majesty. The Bible describes wondrously the word was with God and was God. The Greek rendering of the word “word” is the “logos.” This one term “logos” is one of several Greek words translated as “Word.” Considering the logos there is reasoning and a choice set before us. One needs to decide if the Bible is true. One needs to decide if it is relevant. One needs to decide to connect these preserved words that are quick and powerful so that they can be activated in our lives in obedience to God’s plan for our lives.

In the New Testament book of Hebrews we learn that Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Words spoken in faith can release the power of God in our lives. They can transform our lives as it renews our mind. Call it a mystery but consider that the Book of Revelation says that there is a blessing to the reader who reads the book of that prophecy aloud, see Revelation 1:3 and additionally, the warning that one should not add or take away any of the book recorded by John, Revelation 22:18.

(Revelation 1:3)

*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

(Revelation 22:18)

*For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.*

## Word-of-Faith

The sanctification process and maturation of a disciple of Christ includes an ever-increasing understanding and application of the word of faith. The creative power as spoken and as used in prayer engages the creator and creature in actions of obedience to accomplish God’s will on earth. The “Lord’s prayer” contains the revelation of our responsibility and God’s readiness to have us accomplish His will in our lives. What is required is to be humble and submit our will to serve by faith and please Him – Consider the Lord teaching us to pray from Matthew 6:10 in part – “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” These are not wasted words empty of meaning. How are we to account of an obvious limitation of God’s will in the earth expressed in the Lord’s prayer? Why pray for His will to be done on earth and at the same time acknowledge that His will is done in Heaven? Why the obvious short coming about God’s will failing to be on earth and how it points to us to ask for this? When we pray, “thy will be done on Earth” it is saying, God use me as your servant to bring your will into the earth. His word includes the instructions to ask, seek and knock as described in Matthew 7:7-14.

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## *Part I - What is Sin?*

When an individual breaks the law, they become a transgressor. Once guilt of the transgression is established then there is to be a punishment that fits the crime. This type of judgement is familiar to us all as to criminal matters. It should be no surprise that a judgement for failing to obey God's commandments and laws would have consequences. The Bible calls these transgressions against God's laws as sin. The penalty of this sin includes separation from God and His love and the punishment in an eternal hell. In scripture we find that the wages of sin is a death penalty. Sadly, the consequence of sin was never intended for man but Satan with about one third of the angels that sided with Satan and through pride, fell from grace with no opportunity for redemption.

God revealed a plan of redemption to save man from the penalty of sin. This plan has been revealed prophetically in the Old Testament. Some say that the fallen man's sinful nature was as an infection that had passed to all generations. However, it was Adam's sin that exchanged his relationship of sinless submission to God and passed his allegiance from God to Satan and hence, all those that came after now were slaves to the law of sin and death manipulated and subjected to Satan. In Genesis it is recorded that there was a promise that there would be a SEED from Eve that would pay the debt for sin. This gave us hope. A hope that continued to be revealed as to a coming savior and a defining victory over Satan's grasp and his tyranny of sin and death over man. As for Hope, there were over 400 prophecies found in the Old Testament that revealed the working of this plan.

### Overcoming Sin

This study on what is sin does not review details of the redemption plan but rather explores the nature of sin and the mechanism that causes sin. For those who by faith believe in Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross, his death and resurrection, the believer seeks to follow and obey God's commands. By knowing the nature of sin a disciple of Christ can overcome the corruption that is in the world through lust. The believer can mature in his faith and therefore can better resist the Devil and is able to acknowledge as to God's commands. The new life in Christ is to live a life no longer enslaved to the consequences of the first Adam's fall under Satan's control but to enjoy the results of salvation secured by the second Adam, Jesus Christ. Man is freed from the law of sin and death where another law in Christ enables one to walk worthy of the higher calling to obey God. Obedience in this case is from submitting our own will to God's will. Obedience by faith is made possible under the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ found in Salvation.

Salvation through Christ restored this right relationship to God by the forgiveness of sins and repenting from obeying the appetites of the flesh. Growing in faith is then realized by an empowering of the Holy Spirit to hear God's word and will for our lives and act in faith in the Son of God. The effect of salvation translates into a rebirth - but this time unto the spirit rather than the flesh. The old debt of sin now being satisfied in Christ. The believer could then experience righteous living by that same faith that saved him from sin and death. Righteous living is simply obedience to God's will. Victory over sin, living righteously, is a process of maturing or sanctification. This process is required as a refiner's fire to purify and be filled and led by the Holy Spirit in this life.

The practical question is how to walk by faith and after the Spirit to please God. Is there a way to not sin and to realize walking righteously with God? This is where this study begins and where we may discover that living by faith provides no room for sinfulness and is a life well pleasing to God.

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## Definition of Sin

Consider the word in Hebrew and Greek we translate as sin:

Hebrew:

- **het** (חַטָּא): Refers to missing the mark or error.
- **avon** (אָוֹן): Indicates iniquity or moral distortion.
- **pesha** (פְּשָׁע): Signifies rebellion or transgression against a covenant.

Greek:

- **ἁμαρτία** (hamartia): This term is derived from the root meaning "to miss the mark" and is used extensively throughout the New Testament, occurring approximately 174 times.

## Our own Righteousness

Consider this scripture stating that on our own we cannot satisfy or be good enough to pay the debt of sinfulness or walk righteously by our own good works:

(Isaiah 64:6)

*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

(Romans 3:19-23)

*Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

## Review of How Sin is in the World

According to the Bible, sin is fundamentally a transgression (disobedience) against God's law and is called lawlessness carried out by the children of disobedience. Becoming Christian has a deeper meaning about living righteously. This deeper meaning challenges a common belief that we are still shackled to sinful living even as new creatures or the new man being forgiven of their former life rather than having been set free from the law of sin and death. The challenge is to live righteously by abiding in Christ under the law of liberty a result of the finished work of the second Adam, Jesus Christ. Living righteously is one of living by faith – a life of obedience to God's will (see chapter 3 of this study - What is Faith).

(1 John 3:4-6)

*Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He (Christ) was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.*

(1 John 3:24)

*And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

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(Romans 14:23b)

*... for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

Sin separates man from God, disrupting the intended relationship between the Creator and man.

(Romans 3:23)

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

(Mark 7:20-23)

*And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

(Romans 5:12)

*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:.*

Original sin is simply the act of rebellion by the first Adam having fell from grace by choosing disobedience over obedience. The resulting state of corruption and separation from God then affects all of man.

## Lust unto Sin and the Two Laws

The New Testament informs that the root cause of human inclination toward sin, often referred to as the "sinful nature", is found in three intrinsic characteristics of lust. These three are recorded in the New Testament in the book by James:

- 1) The lust of the flesh,
- 2) the lust of the eye, and
- 3) the pride of life.

These are appetites without self-control where the natural man is enslaved to these appetites. In the presence of temptation (by the Tempter/Satan) man is enticed and drawn away to act on the lust resulting in sin. Man on his own without Christ is simply enslaved to the flesh with its lusts that can be enticed by the Tempter and any meaningful temptation. What can overcome this proclivity to respond to the temptation is found in the new nature given through salvation that came by obedience of the second Adam, Jesus Christ. Accepting the Good News, being born again positions the new man under the law of liberty. Then the process of sanctification renews and transforms the mind learning to live by faith in the Son of God.

Sin and death are outcomes of falling to temptation. The process of sinning is through one's own lust, and those lusts are revealed in Scripture as a precondition to committing sin. And the precursor to being drawn away by lust is temptation. This tempting has an origin in Satan who is also known as the Tempter. Satan promotes disobedience but a believer must choose to obey the lust (disobey God) that is enticed by temptation.

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(James 1:14-15)

*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

The Tempter targets the lust that is a resident desire of the flesh, but it requires the will of believer to choose to sin as enticement from the Tempter towards disobedience. Fortunately, the godly have a way of deliverance from sin by living by faith. The ungodly have no such deliverance from acting out and are enslaved to walking by the flesh. It is only when acted upon by choice that the believer is compromised, leading to sinful actions.

(2 Peter 2:9-10)

*The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.*

Jesus emphasized the seriousness of lust in Matthew:

(Matthew 5:28)

*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart...*

This shows there is still a battle in the mind through temptation before translating into outward actions with our resident lust, if not realizing the tools to resisting the Tempter, we may choose that desire contrary to righteousness in the new life in Christ.

## Reconciliation or Separation from God

Fortunately, the Gospel, God's plan of redemption, provides an escape from the consequences of sin which is death physically and spiritually. One may study salvation separately to explore the scriptural account of the reconciliation wherein a repentant man can receive by the goodness of God repentance and then by the love of God salvation from the consequences of sin and death. The hope of reconciliation is therefore within this plan of redemption.

(Isaiah 59:2)

*But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

As to the second death we find in Revelation:

(Revelation 21:8)

*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death..*

The only way of escape from sin's penalty is accepting to receive the free gift of salvation by believing in Christ's death and resurrection. There is a summary given by 1 John.

(1 John 3:4-9)

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*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

## The Remedy for Sin: Believe in the Blood of Christ

Scripture presents Jesus Christ as the only remedy for sin. His death on the cross serves as the atoning sacrifice that provides a way to be reconciled to God.

(Romans 6:11)

*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

It is important to note here that man, though fallen, had in him the gift of faith, the lifeline that could still allow man to obey God by the pre incarnate Spirit of Christ. It was by faith in God that that even those before were able to believe and then obey God's word and to be found in right standing. This was not unto salvation but unto righteousness by believing God's word. Now in the fullness of times we have Jesus, the word made flesh, who needed to be obedient to God unto death on the cross to atone for the sin of the world. The stakes were high as the first Adam had failed.

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection evidenced the fulfilment of God's plan that defeated Satan, sin, and its consequences. Christ's death on the cross as a sinless (like a lamb without blemish) and pure sacrifice satisfied the nature of the debt required for the offense of man's disobedience. Through Christ's shed blood the penalty for sin and death was paid in full. This study will point out in later chapters concerning the legal victory was the illegal killing of Jesus as he was not under the law of sin and death as an Adamic being. Simply, killing Jesus violated the law of sin and death where this illegal action led to his victory in the Court of Heaven. Recall as witnessed in Job where God announced - have you seen my servant and only son but without the restriction to preserve life as in the condition with Job.

(Romans 5:19)

*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

Follow carefully what I am saying here as some cheapen the sacrifice by saying Jesus was more than flesh to be victorious and could not sin or be tempted saying fully God and fully man. This is a widely held belief that is in error. We see that Jesus was tempted but without sin and this was only due to his choice to obey unlike the first Adam. God's love sent his only son who left his estate (preincarnate) in the Godhead to become flesh (the second Adam). This was the incarnate Jesus who was to suffer for the sins of the world (from the first Adam) as the mystery of Christ. Christ Jesus became flesh (as the second Adam and the virgin birth by Mary that made him the second chance). As the second Adam living sinless (obedient to the Father) only then

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would that sacrifice satisfy the debt over sin and death. This would release the claim that Satan had acquired from the first Adam's sin. The victory over sin by Jesus would restore the relationship between God and man as revealed in the Gospel.

(Ephesians 2:13)

*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

Christ's resurrection signifies victory over sin and death on behalf of sinful man. Consider John:

(John 11:25-26)

*Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*

*Believest thou this?*

Believers individually and collectively as the church, are given the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ. By believing in the Son of God, man is changed from sinful to righteous. The believer can then rely upon the power of God to resist the Tempter and has resisted temptation to secure that victory over the temptation. The believer is in pursuit of holiness found in obedience to God's will by faith.

It is this goodness of God that led to repentance. The giving of His only Son who lived sinless (never fell to the Devil's temptation) qualified Christ to take the weight of the debt of sin. The reconciliation allowed sinful man to be made righteous. The fact that Jesus, being righteous also became sin (when the Bible finds that the crucified Christ had the sin of the World placed on him) it revealed that this dual identity broke the power of sin and death over man. This is called the mystery of sin and the Mystery of Christ.

(Romans 8:10-11)

*And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

When one accepts the goodness of God unto repentance and then enters salvation by faith in the Gospel then there is an indwelling of the Holy Spirit that seals our becoming a new man – born again. The Holy Spirit has been given that vital role in the process of sanctification of a believer. A believer can live unto God. No longer is the saved man indebted to the lusts of the flesh where he was enslaved! Nothing is preventing the believer from walking freely in the Spirit except to sin by choice. Many who profess being a Christian are not aware of the call to live without sin.

(Galatians 5:16-17; 25)

*This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ... If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

The Spirit enables and leads believers by faith to overcome temptation. The believer matures in the faith by submitting his will to God's will. Often one reads we align God's will with ours, but this is an arrogant and prideful statement as the believer is to submit his will to God.

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## Living Righteously

The Bible offers hope for living righteously on earth through faith in Christ and reliance on the Holy Spirit. Chapter 9 of this study lists many of the verses that map out the authority to live sinless as a believer. There are two tables referenced as table 10A and 10B that summarize the essential truth on living sinless in this life without delay.

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Perfect obedience (knowing and doing God's will) in this life remains a challenge if we do not submit our will to God humbly, bowed down. We are to find a place in God's grace with faith that provides strength to overcome sin by resisting the Devil and having him flee.

## *Part II Jesus was Sinless*

Jesus lived a sinless life because he was obedient to the Father and when tempted (in the wilderness) he endured temptation without sin. As the Adamic man, Jesus was relying on God's word as Jesus spoke directly to Satan by faith speaking God's word on the area of temptation presented and Satan did the fleeing. Jesus went to the cross obedient unto death for the joy that was set before him in bringing the Gospel to the lost fallen man lost to Satan by the disobedience of the first Adam.

(Hebrews 4:15)

*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

This verse revealed Jesus' successfully remained sinless despite experiencing the full range of human temptation by direct encounter with Satan the Tempter in the wilderness. Jesus depended on submitting his will to the Father. Jesus communed with the Father by faith through prayer and revealed truth from scripture and not of any claim to his prior deity. The divine person of Christ was abandoned until it was restored at the resurrection from the dead. Some will say Christ was fully God and fully man during his earthly ministry and death. Recalling that this is against the scripture that says he became flesh. If divine always and man then he would not have died. If divine, then what is meant by having been exalted to the right hand of God after having victory over Satan in the center of the earth. Then why would revelation explain that after the Lamb had died then he received power, riches, and wisdom, strength, honor and glory and blessing unless it was emptied fully and then restored. Living sinless was living holy before God as we are to do also, where it says be ye holy even as I am holy. Freed to live by Faith.

(Psalm 16:10)

*For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

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(Acts 2:33)

*Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear*

(Revelation 1:18)

*I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

(1 Peter 3:19)

*By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;*

(Revelation 5:11-12)

*And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*

(Philippians 2:8)

*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Jesus submitted his will to the will of the Father. And as a man, he died with the sin of the world, separated from God. The Spirit of Christ in the virgin birth was made (Adamic) flesh, then he was made sin at the cross and finally exalted at resurrection and put on incorruption.

Throughout His life and ministry on earth, Jesus demonstrated obedience to God the Father. Jesus Christ submitted his will rather than invoking his prior estate in the Godhead or even his own will. If he at any point relied on divine power to resist temptation, then Satan could retain the lost and enslaved man.

## Did Jesus Use His Pre-Incarnate Divine Nature to Resist Sin?

The Bible provides unambiguous evidence that Jesus prior estate in heaven was a oneness with the Godhead. However, when God the Father sent His only son to be the savior of the World the Christ emptied himself and took on the form of a man, Jesus. In his earthly life he had to submit his will to the Father in complete dependence on the Father where the Father was greater and Jesus could do nothing separate from the Father.

(Philippians 2:6-7)

*Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

This passage reveals that Jesus did not have his prior divinity to deny the temptation falling prey to Satan. The incarnate Christ was flesh and flesh alone. It was a big deal. It was a huge risk.

In Jesus' resisting Satan's temptations, as detailed in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus relied on the Word of God rather than any internal claim to the divine authority other than obedience to the Father.

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Each response he gave to Satan was grounded in Scripture, reflecting his dependence on God and an example for believers to follow.

(Hebrews 4:15)

*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

This verse highlights that Jesus resisted sin not by overcoming temptation with divinity, but by remaining obedient to God within the constraints of becoming a man, yet special as to birth in the similitude of the first Adam.

## Would Using His Divinity Nullify His Sacrifice?

For Jesus' sacrifice to be the perfect atonement for man's sin, he had to fully identify with man as compared to the first Adam revealing why there was a need for the virgin birth – not corrupted by the seed of fallen man. This identification included facing temptation as a human and conquering sin through perfect obedience to the Father. If Jesus had relied on his divine nature to resist sin, it would undermine the completeness of his identification with man. This would invalidate being able to be a true sacrificial lamb as modeled in part by Abraham and Isaac. This notion that there was a deity connection on earth could not satisfy the cost of disobedience of man before God or the heavenly court (recall how God and the Angels were revealed in the book of Job).

The validity of Jesus' sacrifice is tied to his role as the second Adam—a figure who succeeded where the first Adam failed. Recall again this verse in Romans:

(Romans 5:19)

*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

This verse in Romans clearly frames Jesus as one man not the intertwined or dual person God-man. The first man Adam had a legacy that was sin and the last Adam's legacy life eternal. This effect over the race of man followed the Adamic disobedience and then the Adamic obedience toward all men. This study calls this overarching effect as placing the Adams being as a federated man, both at origin without sin. Each Adam's choices bound those who came after. One to the Law of Sin and Death and the other unto a quickening spirit found in the Law of the Spirit in Christ.

(1 Corinthians 15:45-47)

*And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.*

# Select Biblical Topics

The first Adam lived earthly and the second choose heavenly. To be the perfect substitute, Jesus had to live as a human, fully subject to the same temptations and weaknesses, yet remain sinless. The start of the Adams is that they were equivalent in being – divine origin and sinless. The first Adam’s ending was earthly by disobedience – the fallen man under who became enslaved to Satan unto sin and death. The second Adam’s ending was the Lord of Heaven offering the law of liberty in Christ from obedience. It is important to draw a line at the start of each as both with divine origin, sinless and then account for the consequence of the choices to disobey and then to obey. In obedience, the second Adam resulted in – the Lord from Heaven in resurrection.

## Satan's Defeat and Man’s Redemption

Because Jesus did not sin, he was not under the first Adam’s consequence with the law of sin and death. Jesus death on the cross was therefore an illegal death as mentioned earlier. The resultant victory in Christ over sin and death concluded with the subsequent resurrection with Satan in defeat. Satan’s power to enslave man was nullified in Christ’s victory. Man could through salvation change allegiance by believing in the Gospel by faith.

(Hebrews 2:14-15)

*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

His victory over sin and death ensured that Satan could no longer claim a right to enslave man. Therefore, Jesus did not rely on his prior divinity to resist Satan and did not sin during his earthly ministry. Instead, He fully embraced being a man, obedient to God the Father. This perfect obedience qualified Him as the unblemished Lamb of God, whose sacrifice redeemed man and secured eternal victory over Satan. Far from being nullified, His sacrifice remains the cornerstone of salvation, breaking Satan’s hold and restoring the repentant man’s relationship unto God.

## Was Jesus Tempted, and If So, by Whom?

Jesus was tempted. Remember the most notable account of his temptation is found in Matthew 4:1-11, where Jesus is led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil. The devil tempted him in three specific ways:

- Lust of the Flesh: The devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread to satisfy his hunger after fasting for 40 days (Matthew 4:3).
- Lust of the Eye: The devil urged Jesus to throw Himself from the pinnacle of the temple, suggesting angels would save him, (Matthew 4:6).
- Pride of Life: The devil offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if he would bow down and worship him (Matthew 4:8-9).

In each case, Jesus resisted by quoting Scripture from the Old Testament, being faithful to God’s will. This listing is complementary to that found in 1 John.

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(1 John 2:16)

*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.*

## Was Jesus Tempted at Any Other Time?

The wilderness temptation is the only account of Jesus being tempted. Luke 4:13 notes that after the wilderness temptation, the devil left Jesus until an "opportune time," implying there would be some future event wherein Satan would challenge Him. It would be speculation to consider any pre crucifixion events or even post resurrection events prior to Jesus' return. However, it seems that the "opportune time" could be in the period of the millennial reign where Satan is first bound over in the pit and then again is released as to set out to try to deceive the elect after removal from the 1000 years in the pit as described in Revelation.

While many have noted that Jesus was tempted after the wilderness mentioning the exchange of prayer at the time of the crucifixion when Christ in prayer was asking the Father if this cup could pass. But this was just Jesus saying of the Father "Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. "Jesus had no other temptations is explained with the Tempter given Luke.

(Luke 4:13)

*And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.*

Clearly every temptation had ended, and this is reflected in the demons always being troubled by Jesus' presence during his subsequent ministry.

Therefore, the wilderness temptation completely satisfied the content of the scripture that states that Jesus being tempted in all points but without sin.

## How Can Believers Resist the Devil?

Believers are encouraged in Scripture to resist the devil and his schemes that we are not to be ignorant. First consider,

(2 Corinthians 2:11)

*Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

(James 4:7)

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

## Practical Guide to Overcoming temptation:

### 1. Rely on God's Word

Jesus demonstrated the power of the word of God in countering temptation. Memorizing and meditating on God's Word equips believers to stand firm. Psalm 119:11 says, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Do not forget, it is with the word of God in your heart that man will speak as Jesus did to resist and defeat the Devil.

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## *2. Pray Regularly*

Prayer: Jesus advised His disciples in Matthew 26:41, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” It is fascinating that Christ is informing his disciples that they are placed above temptation and there must be a falling to get into it. If the spirit is willing, then the spirit is waiting for the disciple to be submitting his will to God to overcome. See *By Design – Effective Prayer*.

## *3. Wear the Armor of God*

Ephesians 6:10-18 describes the spiritual armor that protects believers from the devil’s attacks. This includes the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. It is important to add the additional notion that there is also an offensive battle.

## *4. Stay Accountable*

Fellowship with other believers provides encouragement and accountability. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us to “consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.”

## *5. Submit to God*

Finally, submission to God is the foundation of resisting the devil. When believers submit their will with God’s will, they are empowered to stand against evil. Proverbs 3:5-6 emphasizes this trust: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” And “Not my will but Your will be done.” See *By Design – Faith*.

## *Part III - The Mechanism of Sin*

This section examines the mechanism of sin. As part of this lesson, it may be important to explain a process used to properly fix things once they break and where also we do not want it to break again. What do we need to know and in what order do we need to know it? This is discovered by asking or interrogating the systems of concern from a mechanized point of view of the parts in that larger system with actors acting on the object of interest by intention or even unintentional. What is of concern is when something or some things lead to undesired or unintended adverse outcomes. Events we want to minimize or eliminate from recurring. Things that take time, cost money, or harm in some way within the context of the use of the item in the small or in the large view of things.

In this analysis one may view items and systems of items that are involved with a mission’s goal. Consider the mission of buying and obtaining groceries as a desired outcome. And then say you fail and cannot buy those groceries. This means that there is less food available for sustenance and the problem could be bigger in the worst case, starvation.

Let us not run ahead too far in the analysis and think there is a parallel to saying that there is an undesired outcome called sin. In a small example one may be offending someone, as an undesired event or worse, because of sin, one is going to hell. But pause on that and stick to the example of something failing to achieve a mission, buying groceries.

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## What is the Root Cause of a Problem

At the heart of this is the idea that there is a reason something failed in the events in time that had to occur to make the mission successful. We call the actionable reason something failed the root cause. A process we think we can change or fix with enough time and resources on this journey to the root cause, which is not immediately known. The approach is to say or walk it backwards to the instant and the energy needed, applied, or failed to apply that if that had worked everything would be fine. We do this with a series of why statements.

- *Mission: Get Groceries; Mission failure: There are no groceries. Now start the process:*
- *Why? I did not bring them home from the store.*
- *Why? My credit card was declined.*
- *Why? The credit card company issued a fraud lock on the account. (It can get annoying, but success is always nearer when we get to the root cause)*
- *Why? The credit card fraud department thought the grocery store purchase, or a prior purchase, was suspicious but at the time I did not know.*
- *Why? They notified me by text, and I did not see it.*
- *Why? I forgot that my phone was at home on the counter.*

Now, this is actionable at this point in this mission failure analysis - you can mitigate the poor outcome (no groceries) by responding to the text and saying you confirm that all the charges are legitimate. Now you can go back to the store or find another form of purchase and complete the mission. To prevent future events like this you might put your grocery list on the phone that helps to remember to take the phone with you when shopping (and have it charged – an alternate root cause), eliminating the root cause, not able to communicate timely to the fraud suspicion that locked the account at checkout.

These “why” questions could have led to various potential root causes such as no balance available or insufficient funds or that there were fraud and steps are needed to restore access to funds. In the worst case, accounts may be deactivated, blocking access to funds. In this case one can’t go back and get groceries, and in this worst case, go a little hungry but not starve.

How might this be applied in Bible Study where we may be immature Christians failing at faithfulness or not resisting the devil effectively or by offending someone unlovingly where even our communion with the Father is hindered and we find that we need to examine our situation to be in right standing with God or our brother before taking communion.

Considering sin as the undesired event as a local problem but do not forget that in the worst case there is a bigger undesired event, death, and hell. Since sin leads to death, we can focus on this to avoid the problem in the first place. If all have sinned, then we know the entire population of people that can sin is all the people. So, say you do not want to die. Then you may say you do not want to sin. If you hear there is a valid solution to this basic problem and that you can change your intrinsic propensity to sin, then that is something.

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## Sin's Root Cause

Let us try the process to find the root cause and see if it is easier to solve the problem of sin. Use the question with the why statements.

- *Why will you die? Everybody will, so I will too.*
- *Why will everybody die? All have sinned and have racked up a big debt with the judge. Big enough so no one can pay the bill. Seems hopeless – having no hope means there is no apparent fix. Nothing you can do. However, in the system, there is a greater story that provides a way to escape.*
- *Why, I am a sinner, I have sinned. I have a sin nature. And there is no way to pay the debt, so I go to prison and die.*
- *By and by, you are introduced to someone that is offering to pay the debt for you. Or accepting Christ gives you a new DNA so you are no longer guilty and have passed from death to life. Being Born-again unto life in Christ. It might be interesting to ask why this new life?*
- *Why, God created me and knows me.*
- *Why, God loves me.*
- *Why, God desires a relationship with man evidenced by sending his son to die as an atoning sacrifice to pay the penalty for sin.*

This might be actionable – what does he require? Take the steps to remedy the condition. Now you won't die. But are you free from sin or just on probation? Will you have reduced nature to act sinfully as the fix was to receive a new nature. A nature that is inherently dead to sin instead of a slave to sin to death. Here the root cause was a sinful nature and the fix, to receive a new nature that is no longer a slave to sin and death but alive unto God.

Taken from the lesson in Part I, "What is Sin?" Consider the portion of the lesson that maps out the actors in who, when, and why of sinning. If we understand the mechanism of sin, the root cause, what leads to sinning we can apply targeted countermeasures. It is meaningful, if Satan is the enemy, just how this warfare works. First a summary of the context of the battle that continues and what is Satan's mission so we develop a strategy based on Scriptural truth to aid in being successful in the fight as God has preserved his word and we can obey the word-of-faith over sin in order to live righteously in Christ.

## Satan's Mission Revealed in the Bible

Satan was cast unto the Earth and his demons (fallen angels). With fallen man in the Earth Satan and the fallen angels set themselves to seek and devour who they may as the prince and power of the air – his subversive kingdom to oppose the will of God. Unlike God's approach to fallen man to offer redemption and cure the sin problem, the angels as a class of created being made it impossible for them to be redeemed. Their choice to oppose God was final. Hell was created for the adjudication and final judgement and punishment of these fallen angels. The entire revealed heavenly and earthly realms include all these creatures yet with a plan to redeem man.

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## The Fall of Lucifer

Satan, originally known as Lucifer, was created as a beautiful and powerful angel. Biblical references, as found in Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:12-19, describe his fall from grace due to pride and rebellion. Lucifer sought to exalt himself above God, saying, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God" (Isaiah 14:13). His pride led to his expulsion from heaven, along with a faction of angels who followed him in rebellion.

The Bible further portrays Satan as an angelic being who was a special angel before God, as the Bright and Morning Star. We are told that Satan from a position of pride fell from God's grace and was cast to the earth with a third of the angelic host that Satan persuaded to his desire to be above the Most-High God. In scripture Satan is referred to many names such as Lucifer, the Devil, the Tempter, the Accuser of the brethren, deceiver, serpent, father of lies, Beelzebub or lord of the flies, and the Adversary. Satan's efforts as the tempter, deceiver, and enemy of righteousness are in full spiritual battle mode in the Earth trying to defeat the plan of redemption that included extremely high stakes. Satan's interactions with God, angels, demons, and man are revealed in the natural and supernatural worlds. It reveals there is a court of heaven taking place outside of our common knowledge in a battle of spiritual warfare going on in the heavenlies.

## Interactions with God

Despite his rebellion, Satan remains subordinate to God's sovereignty, as depicted in Scripture in Job. In Job 1:6-12 and Job 2:1-7, Satan appears before God and challenges the faithfulness of Job, a servant of God touted by God in the court of heaven and before his angels as a righteous man. Here, Satan assumes the role of "the Accuser," questioning Job's loyalty as dependent on God's blessings which would nullify Job being a true servant without being propped up by God and hence Satan would have God as a liar. Though God permits Satan to attack Job, He sets boundaries on how far Satan can go, as this most interesting exchange occurs behind the earthly veil events taking place between heaven and earth.

## Interactions with Angels and Demons

Throughout Scripture, the Spirit of God and Angels are often depicted as combating or restraining Satan's influence. For example, in Daniel 10:13, Daniel prayed, and an angel was sent to deliver a message to Daniel, but the angel was delayed because of opposition from a demonic force referred to as "the prince of Persia," until Michael the archangel intervenes. This illustrates the ongoing spiritual warfare between God's angels and Satan's forces and man in the earth.

## Interactions with Man

One of Satan's primary missions is to deceive and enslave man and lead all men away from God and to interrupt the plan of redemption with one strategy – to kill the "seed." Many times the lineage from Adam to Jesus, was recorded by the Jews. We see that the attacks included killing all the children under the age of two when certain world rulers were threatened by the promises recorded between man and God. This occurred in part during Moses's time and then again after the birth of Christ by Herod. This work of grace by God to man were set in motion in creation and continued in the Garden of Eden. This is where a serpent appears and seduces Eve and then tempts Adam to submit to Satan's will and disobey God by eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that they were instructed not to eat (Genesis 3:1-6). This act of the Tempter putting forth a temptation and seduction to man reveals the

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weakness of the flesh through lust. Adam could have resisted being engaged by Satan to put doubt on what God had instructed Adam and Eve.

Unfortunately, they responded by disobedience to God and submitted their wills to sin. It was submitting man's will to Satan's will and mission to corrupt God's creation. Contrast this with Jesus using the word of God without the twisted version offered by Satan to deceive. Adam failed by acting on Satan's entertainment to join Eve. The will to disobey God's command preceded that act to join Eve in eating the fruit. Just as easily in the Temptation of Christ there could have been a loss of the only Son of God. But Christ did not fail and remained sinless to the cross. God did not have 10 sons! It was down to one and only one. One and only one with Noah and with Moses, and with Isaac and Christ. Out of weakness of conscience and unbelief the church and their manifold traditions add focus upon earthly solutions ties rather than on heavenly truth. We are deceived to act on perceived religious ideas. These include building monuments to Moses, Elijah and Jesus at the transfiguration. But the Father says, not three but one Jesus – only. How often do we error by making alters to religiously venerated beings that are not venerated as to faith in Christ. It is Christ alone and in God's word to have our worship and prayer. The Lords Prayer (focus of Chapter 6 in this study – Effective Prayer) describes this in more detail.

Satan is also portrayed as a deceiver who blinds people to the truth of the Gospel. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Paul writes, “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ.”

We should then stay alert, trust in God's plan revealed in the Bible and realize by faith in Christ the victory he waged against Satan on our behalf. We who by our will submit to God and believe in the Son of God there is freedom from the law of sin and death. Satan's goal to destroy what God loves—God's creation in man. Refer to Peter.

(1 Peter 5:8)

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

## Victory by Overcoming

It is my hope that this snapshot of the background of the spiritual warfare that is going on and the preparation of the disciple will bring victory over sin and realize that the believer can walk in righteousness. We can use the weapons of our role as Kings and Priests of the Most-High God to realize the victory over Satan. Therefore, consider the mechanism of sin and where the Father has revealed to you how to overcome with faith in God and the word of power that God has placed in you.

Principles to the mechanism of sin: First if there is no Tempter (who is not omni present), then there can be no sin. No sin because lust cannot be “tempted” to engage. Sinning requires lust to conceive the sin (walking by flesh, fulfil the lusts of the flesh). Sin requires a tempting by the Tempter to poke at the weaknesses of the flesh through lust (by a choice to disobey or a weakness to like to disobey when tempted) to end up sinning. This is why we all have the ministry of reconciliation. It is transactional events believer to believer in the faith that God has placed in us to help us in the sanctification process.

Resisting temptation is resisting the Devil. If mature as a Christian, you can use the Word-of-Faith to resist the devil and he will flee, and you will overcome. If you are not mature, you flee from the lust, do not get into that situation. It is faithful and spiritual to flee so not to be drawn “away” to disobedience to God. Sinning is not willy nilly happening because of you, but there are vulnerabilities in you to sin, but the new nature is there as greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. The not tempting you

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more that you can bare, while God tempts no man it is the responsibility of the young believer to do the fleeing to not sin and to the more mature, Satan will flee and end temptations as the believer's voice spoken with authority of God is overcoming power.

Consider these interactions and actors:

- *Satan: The Tempter*
- *You: Believer or disciple*
- *Your Condition: A new Creature; New Nature; Dead to Sin is a reckoning you are to apply.*
- *Your Mission: Servant of Christ, Obey and call God's will into the earth (Your will be done on earth ...) is our prayer and our action God intends for His glory and His good pleasure, and it pleases God when we live by faith.*
- *Your Vulnerability: You own your lust.*
- *Your Strength: Equipped and furnished with the armor of God and the Word-of-Faith.*
- *Satan's Actions: To deceive and bring temptations against your specific vulnerabilities he detects and exploits.*
- *Satan's Purpose to deceive; To nullify your ability to serve; to get you to walk in the flesh and not act by faith; to diminish your capacity as servants of God is accomplished by Satan tempting you to render you ineffective, harm your testimony, cause fear and doubt so not to walk by faith as one who overcomes or in the alternative to flee – fight or flight.*
- *Your Duty: Not to be ignorant of Satan's Devices; self-control; control the tongue; prayer; Trust God. Study to be spiritually minded; Have the mind of Christ; walk by faith pray out loud. Speak the Word.*

In summary, the Satanic objective is not that you know or believe in his agency but his deceptive and subtle process to nullify the believer from following God's will.

1. The tempter tempts,
2. The target of the temptation is your lust.
3. Respond to the temptation with the word of God – this resists the devil and if immature, flee from youthful lusts.
4. Successful resistance is where the devil will flee and cannot therefore tempt you, giving no thought to the temptation. If needed and if one is too easily distracted towards the temptation, then there is an open door with the Father through confession as the disciple has an advocate with the Father.

## Can Sin Occur in a Believer's Life Without Temptation?

Sin occurs from the action imposed by an external temptation against internal natural desires or lust, as James 1:13-15 describes. James 4:17 asserts, "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them" which is equivalent to whatever is not of faith is sin. If it is not of faith and it is doing things we know we should not then it falls into the category of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. If we are of an understanding as believers to know how to resist the Tempter's temptation, then it will interrupt any Lust-sin cycle. How to resist the devil is therefore fundamental to overcoming temptation and walk freely in the liberty in Christ, to be free from slavery to sin. This is discussed further in Chapter 9 as to the Two Laws, Two Adams and Two Choices.

While, believers are not immune to sin, they are equipped in God's word with the tools to resist and overcome temptation and be sinless increasingly as Christ was the example. Maturing as a disciple of Christ means one learns to walk in submission to God's will and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit for living righteously.

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## *Conclusion*

Satan's identity and mission in the Bible is one of rebellion, deception, and destruction, aimed at undermining God's authority and leading man astray and keeping him captive and in darkness apart from God. Through his interaction with God, angels, demons, and man, Satan reveals himself as a relentless evil. For believers, knowledge and insight into Satan's devices serve as both a warning of spiritual warfare and a source of hope in God's victory over sin and death that Jesus secured unto our salvation. The preaching of the Gospel is the power of God to rescue the lost. Changing from death to life as victorious servants of God in the earth waiting for Jesus' return. Victory in Christ is not a last-minute rescue. Compare to God leading the Hebrews across the Red Sea being "chased" by Pharaoh. They were not hurried in any way as TV portrays the event from Hollywood but crossed over dry land everyone.

This study has challenged a deeply held belief that many organized religious orders have been adopted based on councils held 1600 years ago or more relying on Tradition that they say is non-negotiable where there are also some small "t" traditions that are not as strong as Big T dogma. There are many who continue to challenge this belief in traditions over scripture today and have a scripture alone approach to truth and exclude tradition – this is good. Still the scripture is only as sound as revealed by the Holy Spirit to the believer. Sadly, many do not rightly divide the word of truth and claim things that are there that are not. They indirectly assert doctrinal error by claiming certain verses can mean things they do not such as the Jewish leaders were upset that Jesus healed on the Sabaoth as blasphemy becomes the proof that Jesus was fully God rather than given authority from the Father and never acted of his own will prior to resurrection. After some scrutiny into why they interpret scriptures in their own shadowy construction it usually can be seen through the test if a doctrine is good or bad given a doctrinal lens based on leaning to accept sinful behavior as permissible or rejecting the sin-forgiveness loop. All such doctrines that lead a believer to think they bear little or no responsibility towards continuing in sin should be rejected as doctrines of excuses to not live by faith as called upon by God to do so.

Author's Note: The BY DESIGN study series will explore further this old controversy as an in-depth legal point of view within the court of heaven as displayed in Job. Three excuses are examined in this chapter coining the controversies as Doctrines of Excuses. The core challenge topic: "Was Jesus both fully God and fully man vs Made flesh alone." The study will show Jesus did not and could not possess any deity when he took on Satan's claim as the second Adam. And if he had there would be no triumph over the first Adam's disobedience. The same work examines excuse Doctrines of once saved always saved and Calvinistic election. Why is it important? Living be these excuses allow the believer to accept sin from the old nature into the new, so all things are tainted by sin and threaten your place in eternity with God.

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## *Prayer: Alive unto God*

***My Father which art in heaven,***  
*Hallowed be Thy name. I thank Thee for entering  
my heart, and I exalt Thy holiness above all things, for Thou alone art righteous  
and worthy of praise.*

***Thy kingdom come.***  
*Thy will be done in me, and through me, in the earth as it is in heaven. I yield my  
will unto Thy will, and I choose obedience rather than sacrifice, that my life may  
please Thee by faith.*

***Give me this day my daily bread.***  
*Feed me with Thy Word, for man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word  
that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Strengthen me by Thy Spirit, that I may  
walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

***And forgive me my trespasses,***  
*As I confess and turn from every sin, every lust under self-control, and every  
disobedient thought that hath risen in my heart captive in the name of Jesus Christ.  
I acknowledge that sin is lawlessness,  
and that in my flesh dwelleth no good thing, but I thank Thee  
that in Christ I am made a new creature.*

***Lead me not into temptation,***  
*But deliver me from the evil one. Give me discernment to recognize the Tempter,  
making ready to resist him, and grace to flee when I must, that sin may not  
conceive in me and bring forth death.*

***For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.***  
*I reckon myself dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ my Lord.  
Cause me to walk in righteousness, to speak Thy Word in faith, and to stand  
clothed in the armor of God, overcoming by obedience resisting the devil as he  
then flees. I trust not in mine own righteousness, which is as filthy rags, But in the  
blood of Christ, which hath made me nigh unto Thee. I seek your perfect peace,  
faithful, watchful, and humble, until the day of Your appearing.*

***Amen.***

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<i>Scripture Index</i>	Chapter	Page	Note
<b>1 Corinthians 15:45-47</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	15	Quoted under "Using His Divinity"
<b>1 John 2:16</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	16	Quoted under "Was Jesus Tempted, If So"
<b>1 John 3:24</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	8	Quoted under "Review of How Sin is in the World"
<b>1 John 3:4-6</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	8	Quoted under "Review of How Sin is in the World"
<b>1 John 3:4-9</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	10	Quoted under "Review of Sin"
<b>1 Peter 3:19</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	13	Quoted under "Jesus Sinless"
<b>1 Peter 5:8</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	21	Quoted under "Interactions with Man"
<b>2 Corinthians 2:11</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	16	Quoted under "Resist the Devil"
<b>2 Corinthians 5:17</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	12	Quoted under "Living Righteously"
<b>2 Peter 2:9</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	10	Quoted under "Review of Sin"
<b>Acts 2:33</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	13	Quoted under "Jesus Sinless"
<b>Ephesians 2:13</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	11	Quoted under "Remedy"
<b>Hebrews 2:14</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	15	Quoted under "Satan's Defeat"
<b>Hebrews 4:15</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	13	Quoted under "Remedy"
<b>Isaiah 59:2</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	10	Quoted under "Reconciliation"
<b>Isaiah 64:6</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	8	Quoted under "Our Righteousness"
<b>James 4:7</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	16	Quoted under "Resist the Devil"
<b>Mark 7:20-23</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	7	Quoted under "Review of Sin"
<b>Matthew 4:1-11</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	16	Referenced under "Was Jesus Tempted"
<b>Matthew 5:28</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	10	Quoted under "Review of Sin"
<b>Matthew 5:28</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	8	Quoted under "Lust and Sin"
<b>Philippians 2:6-7</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	14	Quoted under "Our Righteousness"
<b>Philippians 2:8</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	14	Quoted under "Jesus Sinless"
<b>Psalms 16:10</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	13	Quoted under "Jesus Sinless"
<b>Revelation 1:18</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	13	Quoted under "Jesus Sinless"
<b>Revelation 21:8</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	10	Quoted under "Review of Sin"
<b>Revelation 5:11-12</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	13	Quoted under "Jesus Sinless"
<b>Roman 8:10-11</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	12	Quoted under "Remedy"
<b>Romans 14:23b</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	8	Quoted under "Review of How Sin is in the World"
<b>Romans 14:23b</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	8	Quoted under "Review of Sin"
<b>Romans 3:19-23</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	8	Quoted under "Our Righteousness"
<b>Romans 3:23</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	9	Quoted under "Review of Sin"
<b>Romans 5:12</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	9	Quoted under "Review of Sin"
<b>Romans 5:19</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	15	Quoted under "Would Using His Divinity Nullify"
<b>Romans 5:19</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	11	Quoted under "Remedy"
<b>Romans 6:11</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	11	Quoted under "Remedy"
<b>Romans 8:10-11</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	12	Quoted under "Remedy"
<b>Galatians 5:16-17; 25</b>	Ch. 2 — Sin	12	Quoted under Living Righteously"

# Select Biblical Topics

## BY DESIGN – SIN Workbook (expanded)

### A. Multiple-Choice Questions

1. According to the study, sin is fundamentally:
  - A. A harmless mistake
  - B. A transgression against God's law
  - C. A cultural misunderstanding
  - D. A psychological condition
  
2. The root cause of sin, according to James 1:14–15, begins with:
  - A. Ignorance
  - B. Lust
  - C. Fear
  - D. Anger
  
3. Satan's primary mission in the world is to:
  - A. Encourage unity
  - B. Strengthen human willpower
  - C. Deceive, tempt, and destroy
  - D. Promote religious tradition
  
4. Jesus resisted temptation by:
  - A. Using his divine nature
  - B. Avoiding difficult situations
  - C. Quoting Scripture and submitting to the Father
  - D. Ignoring Satan
  
5. Living righteously is defined in the study as:
  - A. Following personal convictions
  - B. Obedience to God's will through faith
  - C. Avoiding major sins
  - D. Practicing religious rituals

# Select Biblical Topics

## B. Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

1. “Each person is tempted when they are drawn away by their own \_\_\_\_\_ and enticed.”
  2. Sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. The three categories of lust are the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.
  4. Jesus resisted temptation by relying on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  5. Believers overcome sin by walking in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 

## C. Open-Ended Questions

1. Explain the mechanism of sin as described in James 1:14–15 and expanded in the study.
2. How does understanding Satan’s mission help believers resist temptation?
3. Why is it essential that Jesus resisted temptation as a man rather than relying on his divinity?
4. Describe how the new nature in Christ empowers believers to overcome sin.
5. What practical steps does the study give for resisting the devil, and how can they be applied daily?

# Select Biblical Topics

## Answer Key

### Multiple Choice

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. B

### Fill in the Blank

1. **lust**
2. **death**
3. **pride**
4. **Word**
5. **Spirit**

### Open Ended Questions Answer Key – detailed

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#### CHAPTER 2 — SIN

#### ANSWER KEY (Open-Ended Questions)

#### *Leader Edition — Full Explanations*

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#### 1. Explain the mechanism of sin as described in James 1:14–15 and expanded in the study.

##### Answer:

James teaches that sin follows a predictable spiritual sequence:

1. **Lust (desire)** — The temptation begins internally. The desire is already present in the fallen nature.
2. **Temptation** — Satan uses lust as an entry point. Temptation cannot occur without a tempter.
3. **Conception of sin** — When the will agrees with the temptation, sin is conceived.
4. **Sin** — The act (or inward consent) becomes sin.
5. **Death** — Sin, when fully grown, brings spiritual death.

The study emphasizes that **sin never begins with the act**, but with the **desire**.

It also stresses that **Satan (the Tempter) cannot force sin**, but he can **appeal to the lust**

# Select Biblical Topics

**already in man by a temptation.** Understanding this mechanism exposes the earliest point of vulnerability allowing believers to resist before sin is conceived.

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## 2. How does understanding Satan's mission help believers resist temptation?

### Answer:

The study teaches that Satan's mission is:

- To **tempt**,
- To **deceive**,
- To **draw believers away** from God's will,
- To **exploit human lust**,
- And ultimately to **destroy** (John 10:10).

Knowing this:

- Helps believers stay **alert**, not naïve.
- Reveals that temptation is **strategic**, not random.
- Shows that Satan always works through the **mechanism of lust** → **temptation** → **sin** → **death**.
- Reminds believers that Satan cannot tempt without permission and cannot overcome a believer walking in the Spirit.
- Encourages believers to use the **Word-of-Faith**, just as Jesus did in the wilderness.

Understanding the enemy's strategy equips believers to **resist early**, **stand firm**, and **avoid being drawn away**.

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## 3. Why is it essential that Jesus resisted temptation as a man?

### Answer:

The study is very clear on this point:

- If Jesus had relied on his preincarnate **divine nature**, his temptation would not have been legitimate,
- His obedience to the Father by faith as the second Adam would not parallel the first Adam's test and failure. Without sin, Jesus and his sacrifice would not legally satisfy the requirements of redemption if there was any reliance on his prior deity. This is why he became flesh.

Jesus had to:

- Live as the **second Adam, fully man**,

# Select Biblical Topics

- Fully capable of sinning,
- Yet choosing obedience by **faith**,
- Using only the **Word of God**,
- And resisting Satan **as a man**.

This is what made Him:

- A legitimate substitute,
- A true Lamb without blemish,
- And the One who could **reverse Adam's failure**.

His victory had to be won **in the flesh**, or the cross would not be a valid payment for the sins of mankind.

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## 4. Describe how the new nature in Christ empowers believers to overcome sin.

**Answer:**

The study teaches that salvation gives believers:

- A **new nature**,
- A **new heart**,
- The **indwelling Holy Spirit**,
- And the **gift of faith**.

This new nature:

- Breaks the power of the law of sin and death.
- Enables believers to **act righteously**.
- Gives the ability to **hear God's voice** (John 10:27).
- Provides **self-control**, a fruit of the Spirit.
- Allows believers to **walk in the Spirit**, not the flesh.
- Makes obedience possible where it was previously impossible.

The new nature does not remove temptation but is able to resist it. The new nature **removes the former slavery** to sin and empowers believers to walk in victory.

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## 5. What practical steps does the study give for resisting the devil, and how can they be applied daily?

**Answer:**

The study gives several practical steps:

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# Select Biblical Topics

## 1. Use the Word-of-Faith

Speak God’s Word aloud, just as Jesus did in the wilderness.

## 2. Walk in the Spirit

Daily submission to God’s will prevents the flesh from dominating.

## 3. Recognize the mechanism of sin

Identify lust early — before temptation conceives sin.

## 4. Resist the devil

James 4:7 — resistance causes the devil to flee.

## 5. Guard the heart and mind

Avoid environments, influences, and thoughts that feed lust.

## 6. Practice confession and repentance

Keep fellowship with God clear and unhindered.

## 7. Abide in Christ

Stay in the Word, prayer, and obedience.

### Daily application:

- Speak Scripture when tempted.
- Pray “Thy will be done” as an act of surrender.
- Interrupt sinful thoughts immediately.
- Keep short accounts with God.
- Walk consciously in the new nature, not the old.

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## Group Discussion Question

**Where do you see the “mechanism of sin” at work in your own life—lust, temptation, choice—and how does understanding this pattern help you resist the Tempter and walk in the Spirit?**

# Select Biblical Topics

**Notes:**