

Ro. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ez. 18:20a The soul who sins is the one who will die.

Ps. 51:4a Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

1. sin defined, described, and explained

Ro. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Mt. 7:13-14 [Jesus speaking] “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Ez. 17:19 “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: As surely as I live, I will bring down on his head my oath that he despised and my covenant that he broke.

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Ro. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1Jn. 1:10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Ecc. 7:20 There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

Ro. 14:23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Heb. 3:12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

Jas. 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Lk. 10:31-32 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

1Jn. 3:4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

Ps. 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.

1Jn. 5:17a All wrongdoing is sin,

Ps. 66:18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

Heb. 3:12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

Jas. 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

QUOTE Have you faced the fact that the great error of all sin is exactly this: it is against God. Oh, how we need to feel deeply that the greatest evil of every sin, no matter how small man may judge it, is that it is against God. Joseph, in fleeing the temptation of Potiphar's wife, was able to pinpoint the evil in the proposed act by asking, "*How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*" (Genesis 39:9b). Do you realize the great evil of all your sin? Have you faced with trepidation the realization that it is against God that you have sinned, and in the face of His mercy committed all your evil?

Perhaps, like other deceived persons, you are satisfied that all your sins are of very minor proportion, especially when compared with David's. While you are ready to acknowledge an occasional and unimportant infraction of the law of God, do you doubt seriously that your sins are bad enough to constitute a major problem? How big does sin have to be in order to be heinous? Consider these sobering words, *Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all* (James 2:10). Do you realize that if you just break one tiny fraction of the law of God – one least point – your guilt before God is as great as if you broke the entire law? You may say, "I consider such a view unjust and I refuse to accept it." Such a response reveals, at best, the great deception under which you live. You have learned to accept this very principle in many insignificant areas of life. All games and sporting events have rules. How far out of bounds does a basketball player have to be before the play is voided and the basket not counted? How far off sides must the football player run before a justified penalty occurs? Many a score has been voided by a minor infraction of the rules and many a game has been lost because the least of the laws was violated. Surely, the God who made man has more right to make and enforce laws than do the designers of mere games. Face it honestly, even the tiniest infraction of God's law has earned you the permanent brand of **desperately wicked sinner**.

But are you really such a *little* sinner as you pretend? Are not your sins far more grave and more numerous than you have yet admitted? Didn't you arrive at this view of the insignificance of your sins by comparing yourself with someone else? Nearly everyone can find someone who looks worse than they do. A businessman, who faithfully supports his wife and children, can compare himself with a drunkard lying in the gutter and congratulate himself on his outstanding life of uprightness, but let that same man compare himself with the absolute standard – Jesus Christ the Lord – how will he then measure up? If the housewife, who has never actually cheated on her husband and has only occasionally considered it and not all that seriously, compares herself with the worn-out prostitute plying her trade downtown, she will look good indeed, but if she stands beside Christ, she will appear so shabby and unworthy that she will burst into tears. The drunkards and prostitutes and murderers of this world are not the standards of righteousness. God set the standards. Jesus Christ, the incarnate God, fleshed these standards out and showed us in His own life how God expects us to live. No one has any right to compare themselves with anyone other than Christ, and no one can compare themselves with Christ and come away looking or feeling good.

2. the origin of sin

Job 38:4-7 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone – while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?"

Ez. 28:11-19 ¹¹The word of the LORD came to me: ¹²“Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ¹⁶Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. ¹⁷Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. ¹⁸By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. ¹⁹All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.”

Is. 14:3-15 ³On the day the LORD gives you relief from suffering and turmoil and cruel bondage, ⁴you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon: How the oppressor had come to an end! How his fury has ended! ⁵The LORD has broken the rod of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers, ⁶which in anger struck down peoples with unceasing blows, and in fury subdued nations with relentless aggression. ⁷All the lands are at rest and at peace; they break into singing. ⁸Even the pine trees and the cedars of Lebanon exult over you and say, “Now that you have been laid low, no woodsman comes to cut us down.”

⁹The grave below is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you – all those who were leaders in the world; it makes them rise from their thrones – all those who were kings over the nations. ¹⁰They will all respond, they will say to you, “You also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us.” ¹¹All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you.

¹²How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. ¹⁴I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” ¹⁵But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

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Gen. 1:1 - 2:25 look up if needed

Gen. 3:1-24 ¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'”

⁴“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the

eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

¹⁷To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

²⁰Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

²²And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." ²³So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

QUOTE No one can sin without paying a terrible price. Sin does not show favoritism. Sin degrades; sin twists and contorts; sin mars and scars; sin distorts; sin repulses; sin disfigures; sin maims; and sin uglifies. Now I don't think "uglifies" is an actual word, but it so wonderfully describes what happens as a result of sin that I just couldn't resist using it. Whoever sins really does become ugly in one way or another. And we have to understand, sin doesn't just affect us physically, it also affects us mentally, emotionally, relationally, spiritually, and in every other way. The wages of sin really is death.

Heb. 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

3. overcoming sin

Ro. 7:19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing.

Ps. 63:1 O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Ps. 142:5-6 I cry to you, O LORD; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.” Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.

Ps. 61:1-2 Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Am. 5:15 Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

Heb. 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

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QUOTE How often have people told me of their efforts to break bad habits. They had fasted, prayed, promised, chastised themselves, vowed to turn over a new leaf, devised a dozen ways to keep themselves from the source of their troubles. And yet, more often than not, they fell back. They just didn't have the resources. “My sins have overwhelmed me,” said King David. On his own, he was powerless before sin, as are we all. If you want to break a habit, don't make any more promises, for promises are just another way of reaching for victory all by yourself.

Ps. 60:11-12 Give us aid against the enemy, for the help of man is worthless. With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies.

Jer. 48:7a Since you trust in your deeds and riches, you too will be taken captive,

Pp. 3:3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh –

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Eph. 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Heb. 11:1-2 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

Ps. 31:1 In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Ps. 34:17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

Ps. 34:19 A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;

Ps. 50:15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

Ps. 79:9 Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake.

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Run And Hide by: Dennis Shortslef

In those moments I am weakest and understand the state I'm in
And there's no use in pretending I see myself for what I am
And I think You cant' love me but You've known me all along
And it's such a revelation to see I'm really not that strong... so...

CHORUS: I run and hide like a child who is frightened
I run and hide like the couple in the garden
For though You know me through and through,
You still love me yes You do,
But still I turn and run from You,
I turn and run from You.

Falling down is never easy; getting up is harder still
Finding that there's strength in weakness takes surrendering my will
But these times of darkness show my tremendous need
And no depth to which I've fallen is beyond mercy's reach... still...

CHORUS: I run and hide like a child who is frightened
I run and hide like the couple in the garden
For though You know me through and through,
You still love me yes You do,
But still I turn and run from You,
I turn and run from You.

Perhaps the day is coming when I'll quit this foolish game
Of thinking I could ever run and cover up my shame
Then I'll discover freedom that the free can only find
And lay aside, with my pride, these fig leaves I've designed... then...

I'll run and hide when I hear you calling
I'll run and hide despite how far I've fallen
For though You know me through and through,
You still love me yes You do,
And I'll know I can run **to** You
I'll run and hide **in** You.

For though You know me through and through,
You still love me yes You do,
And I'll know I can run **to** You
I'll run and hide **in** You.

Bedtime Story There was a wealthy man who lived on a high mountain. The road to his mansion, on one side, dropped off sharply, way down the mountain. On the other side, it was up against the steep mountain itself. The man needed to hire a driver for his horses. So he went into the town below to interview the candidates. He asked each one, "How good a driver are you? How close to the edge of the road can you get, and how fast can you ride the horses?" The various candidates made their claims, but finally one man declared, "I can get you within three inches of the edge, and I will gallop the horses." The rich man was impressed, but there was one more candidate left. So the rich man asked him, "How close to the edge of the road can you get, and how fast can you ride the horses?" The man replied, "Sir, I have a wife and three children who need my income. If you want me to drive your horses, I'll stay as far away from the edge as I possibly can, and I will **not** gallop the horses." The rich man looked at him and said, "You're hired."

Why did I tell you that story? Some people want to see how fast and furious, how close to the edge of life they can live without falling off the cliff into sin. But the secret of pleasing God has nothing to do with how close to sin we can get without falling off the edge, it has to do with how far away from the edge we can stay. I exhort you, steer clear of sin as far as you possibly can. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. If you find that you've fallen into sin, repent quickly. Run into the arms of God. Confess your wrongdoing to him and ask for forgiveness and mercy. Then, as needed, make it right with anyone you've wronged. Live your life with a passion to please **The Almighty** with every breath you breathe. If you do that, you'll have nothing to be ashamed of when you look back. Amen. God bless you all.