

FEROCIOUSLY Fighting Sin in our Lives



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APRIL 2018

www.LightontheRock.org

After Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, ask yourself: “How FEROCIOUSLY am I fighting what’s wrong in my life, the sins I have allowed to remain in me?” What happens if we don’t root them out? HOW do we gain the victory over sins that have plagued us all our lives? Is it even possible to be rid of all sin in this life? What warnings does our God give us about cohabiting with unconquered sin? What’s the path to sure victory? All this and more in today’s sermon.

Hello, family of our heavenly Father and brothers and sisters of Yeshua the Messiah – and MY brothers and sisters, wherever you are, and welcome to Light on the Rock, where everything we post is free and ... we diligently endeavor to be sure they are true to God’s word.

I hope this message moves you to action. And if you feel it is important, warn others about how important this topic is; tell them of this website.

We’ve worshipped and celebrated the Passover of our Lord. He rose and ascended to be accepted on our behalf. Our friend, our Saviour, our Beloved King – went through unspeakable pain and horror and finally death – for you and me. To pay for our sins.

I have a question: ***how well do you and I show him we so deeply appreciate him and what he’s done? Or do we sin lightly/ easily?***

We’re into the Days of Unleavened Bread that is all about KEEPING SIN OUT of our lives, just like we put leaven out of our homes a while back. ***And YOU didn’t put sin out. The Blood of the LAMB, PASSOVER, is what removed your sin. Nothing we do removes our sins, except to ACCEPT the blood of the lamb slain for you. And by the time we started the Days of U.B.,***

the leaven was all out. *So the Days of UB are not about putting sin out – but KEEPING sin out.*

And as my wife added just now – “and it’s also about ***taking in Christ*** much, much more”. As we EAT unleavened bread, yes – we’re remembering to be letting Christ into our lives more. Thanks, hon. That’s the KEY to victory: more of Him, less of us.

I gave a recent sermon on delevenering our hearts. Let’s continue that focus. You’ve avoided eating anything leavened. But what about real sin itself – what leaven pictures? Either we’re blind and self-righteous or most of us will admit that we sinned, and had to repent of some sins, this week and during the days of unleavened bread that are now past. Remember that “Forgive us our debts” is part of our daily prayer according to Yeshua’s sample prayer.

And it’s so easy for sin just to sneak up on us. **Hebrews 12:1 speaks of laying aside the “the sin that so easily ensnares us”**, especially when we’re away from home. You’re driving around town, feel hungry, see your favorite hamburger or taco restaurant coming up – and before you know it, you almost ordered a leavened sandwich! In the same way, how easily sin can sneak up on us – as leaven – if we’re not on our guard and even going on the attack.

My topic today is this: How serious are you and I about FEROCIOUSLY fighting SIN – or anything that displeases our Father] or is not according to his will? Believe me, I preach to myself most and foremost in this sermon. I’m referring to ALL sin, and ANY sins, big or small, that you’re letting stay in your life. Let’s include our dispositions. Is there a kindness and gentleness coming to fruition in our lives (they’re some of the fruit of the spirit).

But neither do I want this sermon to depress you. Just wake up to the CHUNKS of awful sin too many of us are allowing to remain in our lives.

What are the consequences if we don’t heed this message?

- You won’t be seen by God as coming out of this world – and so we will have to go through the plagues he will send on this world before He sends Yeshua, the Son of God, as Messiah and ruler. (Revelation 18:4)

Revelation 18:4

“And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come OUT of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”

- Another way of saying that is **that IF we don't keep ongoing sin out, we probably won't be counted worthy to escape** the things coming upon this world if we don't fight sin and overcome. That means we're more likely to have to go through the Great Tribulation, the time of worst trouble the world has ever seen. I don't want to go through that if I can.

Luke 21:36

"Watch therefore, and pray always that **you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass**, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- **Our reward in the kingdom will be significantly less** – and we'll be left wondering, "was it worth losing so much just because I got lazy, careless, scornful of God's way –instead of fighting sin with all I have?" We read Moses resisted the pleasures of Egypt – for he looked to a reward, a greater one from God. Heb 11:26. How about you, and me?

REWARDED BY WORKS SCRIPTURES -- be sure to look these up (**Matthew 10:41-42; 16:27; Revelation 22:12; 2 John 8; Heb 11:26; 2 John 8; 1 Cor. 3:8, 14; Luke 6:23, 35**).

- **Worst of all, if our Father decides that you or I willfully and knowingly sinned**, and willingly put his Son through the crucifixion with little regard, and we scorned his gift of His Son, and His gift of eternal life, what's left? Well, let's read it. Gladly I say that I don't believe this will be a lot of people. God our Father wants as many as is possible to be saved and have eternal life. But those who scorn his Son's sufferings and death, or treat sin lightly and knowing they're doing this, will not be in the kingdom of God. They (potentially you and I also if we don't wake up) will be deemed adversaries of God and His Way.

Hebrews 10:26-31

"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Heb 12:14-15 says we won't see God without peace and holiness, and be careful lest we FALL SHORT of the grace/favor of God. This is serious.

Has God got your attention yet?

- Sometimes I wonder how much more we'd resist sin if we could be transported back and time **to watch and listen to what happened to Yeshua** that painful night and day when he ended up impaled and crucified as he suffered untold pain and anguish and rejection. Is this gossip you want to say – worth it? NO.

SOME ENCOURAGING REMINDERS:

- **ONLY ONE** person in history never sinned. Yeshua the son of God. He was flesh and blood but he did have some definite advantages. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. His DNA was from his FATHER and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18, 20; called son of the Highest – Luke 1:32).

He came from God and remembered much of what had come before ("I saw Satan fall like lightning" Luke 10:18; "with the glory that I had with you before the world was"- John 13:5; "Before Abraham was, I am" – John 8:58).

- **The rest of us will never be able to say we have totally overcome sin until we're changed to spirit.** That's when this corruptible will put on incorruptible life. **1 Cor. 15:53-55.** That's when death is swallowed up on victory!

Even Mary the mother of Jesus was flawed, for ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). But even flawed human beings can find favor with God, make him pleased and happy and accept us. That's largely what I'm trying to say today.

But WE now have also received the "Incorruptible seed (THE Holy Spirit)" – **1 Peter 1:23**; and in the end, those who are part of his Bride will be seen without spot or wrinkle (**Ephesians 5:27**) or any blemish, and will be presented FAULTLESS to him (**Jude 24**), but that's only thru and by faith in Yeshua. So it ends well for those who heed.

- **Even the "heroes", the "big names" of the Bible stories, were very, very FLAWED men and women.** They lied, they worried, they

feared, they fought, they lusted, they committed adultery, had dozens of wives, they connived – but they will be in the 1st resurrection. Think of King David, Samson.. even the righteous kings, some of them committed big, big sins before they died. The Priests had to keep offering sacrifices for themselves and their own households because they themselves sinned all too often.

And so do you. And so do I.

I say all this by way to encourage you a bit before I start because this sermon is going to get a whole lot tougher before I'm finished. But I don't want you discouraged. I want you to be encouraged to fight, to FIGHT, TO FIGHT sin in your life, and never ever, ever give up!

But are you VERY AWARE you're in the FIGHT of your lives?

Read 2 Cor. 10:4-5 –the weapons of our warfare are not carnal – but MIGHTY IN GOD *for pulling down strongholds and casting down arguments...*

Paul encouraged Timothy to “wage the good warfare” – 1 Tim. 1:18

- **I don't believe most of us are nearly as aware of the WAR that's** going on in your head. Satan wants to take you out! GOD wants you to put on HIS armor and take Satan on.

The 4 S's in our fight – Satan, SIN, SELF – our old self, the old carnal nature in each of us; and 4th -- **Society** (Satan's world that we are called to COME OUT OF - Rev. 18:4).

- **If you don't realize you're in a war, you won't be fighting as you should**, and you won't be putting on God's ARMOR like you should. Nor are we capturing every single thought that is not in the will of God, and bringing it into the captivity of the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Every single thought.
- *My mental picture is that what I see in the church too often is a bunch going out to fight Satan, self, society and sin – in their underwear and panties.* I don't believe – based on the evidence of what I see and hear and experience even in my own life at times – that we're all putting on our spiritual armor of God to fight ferociously. Where's the helmet of salvation, or the breastplate of righteousness, or our sword of the word, or

the shield of faith ... or any of the other pieces. Do we take our calling seriously enough to really engage in a *ferocious* fight against sin.

But somehow, out of this motley crew of called-out ones, God is going to have a HOLY BRIDE for his son. Somehow.

- **Salvation is a free gift, once – and if -- we repent and accept Yeshua the Son of God as our Savior. Salvation is God’s work. It’s what HE does.**

We can’t and won’t earn it. *A gift is not something you qualify for. It’s a gift.* Ministers and members of the church get **this mixed up with rewards**, which is something we work for and qualify for. Salvation and eternal life are God’s gifts to all who accept it and accept him. That’s why GOD and Jesus are called our SAVIOR. And make no mistake about it – they both are your Savior. Saving us is their work. And Yeshua has sat down at God’s right hand, as he finished his work on the cross, as he bellowed out “Finished!”. On the other hand, earthly priests never could sit down. There was no chair in the temple for them – picturing their work could never end, because they themselves were FLAWED.

Now, like any gift, even this unimaginable gift from our Creator, you can refuse it, dishonor it, throw it away, or walk away from it. If we do that, and some ARE, those people will not be saved. Look at Eph. 5:5; Hebrews 3, 4; the whole epistle of Jude, big parts of 1 and 2nd Peter, and many more spell that out very clearly.

Some of us are grossly dishonoring our Savior.

- **REWARDS** -- now that’s where OUR actions come in. There are many, many scriptures that speak of being rewarded according to our works. Too many confuse this with salvation and eternal life. Salvation is a gift. Not a reward. Rewards are what we are given to do, our function, our role – in the kingdom of God. Some who fight the good fight real hard will have more rewards. Others may be in the kingdom, but may be regarded as “least in the kingdom”

Let’s start with a couple scriptures.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore **purge out the old leaven**, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover,

was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth”.

Romans 12:1-2

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **you present your bodies** a living *sacrifice*, **holy**, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

OK – here’s what I’m getting at: we’ve thrown out the Christmas tree, don’t keep Easter, we keep God’s holydays, we keep the 7th day sabbath, and ... frankly, the changing has just begun. Those things must be done, true, but a true child of God is all about becoming more and more like our Father and Saviour. It’s way beyond just changing from Sunday to Sabbath. It means we seek him so we can be HOLY, as HE is holy.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. **Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.**

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Let’s read part of Paul’s admonition in Romans 6. In Romans 5 he has just said that where sin abounds, grace from God super-abounds. Let’s pick it up.

Romans 6:1-14

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? **2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?** 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even **so we also should walk in newness of life.**

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that

our old man (self) was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 Therefore DO NOT LET SIN reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but **present yourselves to God** as being alive from the dead, and **your members as instruments of righteousness to God.** 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

ARE WE AS AWARE OF GOD’S PRESENCE AS WE SHOULD BE?

*Would we act the way we sometimes act, would we talk the way we sometimes talk, would we **BE** the way we really are like sometimes – if we knew Yeshua was standing nearby and watching everything? Would we? I think not.*

Well brethren, this is what the days of Unleavened bread are supposed to teach us. **And the FACT is, the Messiah RESIDES in you and DOES see everything you’re doing and everything you’re saying, and how you behave! He sees it ALL.**

SO WHAT SINS ARE WE CO-EXISTING WITH?

What am I getting at?

Too many of us still let **SOME** sins stay in our lives. Your secret sins. And just like ancient Israel let many Canaanites remain in their cities – just **look at Judges 1 for the list** – those people came back to attack them from time to time.

Here are some examples:

- You carefully scour the ingredients of foods you buy so you don’t inadvertently eat something that has a little lard in it or something else. But then you are quite open in **your gossip** about what you heard so-and-

so has done, or had happened to them. You might even couch it in the sanctimonious gift wrapping of “this is something for you all to pray about...” – and then you gossip away.

- **WAY too many marriages among believers are falling apart.** WAY too many. I'm not talking about allowable divorce due to sexual immorality and adultery. But even there, God did not divorce Israel after the first time they committed spiritual adultery at the gold calf, nor the 2nd time, nor the 50th time. So yes, you can divorce for that, but even then, try to keep the marriage together if there is true contrition and repentance and change.

Now if you've divorced or separated, it's done. That's between you and God. I'm talking to the rest of you now: You made a covenant with that lady or gentleman between you, the spouse and God Almighty. But I'm seeing WAY too many be willing to leave the wife or husband of their youth and file for divorce. This is a LEAVEN of a horrible kind. Please go back and read Malachi 2 and get God's mind on this.

Malachi 2:13-16

And this is the second thing you do:

You cover the altar of YHVH with tears,

With weeping and crying;

So He does not regard the offering anymore,

Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands.

14 Yet you say, "For what reason?"

Because YHVH has been witness

Between you and the wife of your youth,

With whom you have dealt treacherously;

Yet she is your companion

And your wife by covenant.

15 But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit?

And why one?

He seeks godly offspring.

Therefore take heed to your spirit,

And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

16 "For the Lord God (YHVH Elohim) of Israel says

That HE HATES DIVORCE,

For it covers one's garment with violence," Says YHVH of hosts.

"Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

Marriage takes work. I've been married 43 years, but I admit that if Carole and I didn't work on our marriage, and work HARD on it, we could have been divorced long ago too. And still could – if we don't continue to work hard at it, because all relationships are fluid. Ladies, About 30+ yrs ago, I gave my wife several rock-solid reasons she was free to leave me. I'll leave it at that. But I'm just trying to make the point, our marriage has not always been stellar, by any means – but she stuck it out and worked on things, forgave me, and I've worked very hard to regain her love and trust especially in the past 30+ years.

And one thing about marriage is that God is so open about the marriage problems even Bible “heroes” had. Abraham and Sarah had pretty hard fights, and she was rough on Hagar. But they grew, they worked things out, they stayed together, they set us the example.

Where is this idea coming from that church brethren can just walk from their marriage and then go marry someone else? And why are SO MANY *ministers* sanctioning , allowing and even ADVOCATING separation and divorce and performing weddings for those who are choosing to remarry? MINISTERS! Wake up.

I realize there ARE acceptable grounds for divorce in 1 Cor. 7 and elsewhere. If the unbelieving spouse departs, then the other is not bound to that marriage. True, that's there.

- You get mad at the children for doing something you don't feel they should do on the sabbath, but after your wife goes to bed, you look at a little internet **porn**. Oh, it's just a few minutes, you say. It's still adultery – by Christ's standard in Matthew 5. I bring this up because more and more men who are believers are confessing it, may even have an addiction to it. Porn is SO easy to get free access to, that hundreds of millions of men and even some women spend time on those sites every single day or many times a week. This applies to married men, to teenagers, to young men, to men in their 70's, and it applies to more and more *women* as well. I think it's one of the secret sins going on especially among many, many men in the church. Men, let's all put this sin away. The computer and smart phone have made it so easy – and my heart cries for our young boys and girls being exposed to all this.

THE POINT of clean and unclean meats – and our decisions

We can be SO careful not to eat any pork – to be sure you separate the clean from the **unclean and miss the point of clean and unclean**

meats. What is that point? At the end of Leviticus 11, Yah makes the point: “distinguish between the clean and unclean; you shall be holy, for I am holy.”

The point is this: when we choose not to order pork or crab in the buffet line, that should remind us to make distinctions in our daily life between what is approved by God, what's holy -- and what is not.

So what we let our eyes see, what we let our minds mull over and ruminate on, where we allow ourselves to go, what we allow ourselves to listen to or to speak about – all these things and times are DECISIONS: WILL I BE HOLY, will I keep the leaven of SIN out of my life, or will I wallow in the mire of some sin here and there and accept it in my life?

I want to get into HOW to beat all this, but just please – analyze what SINS are you not fighting? We all have a bunch. A bunch.

- Laziness, not finding work, not willing to work.
- Forgiving those who have offended you, even if 7x in a day and they repent – Luke 7:3-4.
- Gossip
- Filthy language – God's name in vain, using toilet words
- Worry, anxiety – that's a lack of faith and saying the thing you worry about is bigger than God.
- CARELESS about taking care of God's temple. Your body, your health, your weight. Yes, I preach to myself on this and all these points.
- Careless how we're using the precious gift of TIME we have been given.

How DRASTIC are your actions against the things that are keeping you from growing? Yeshua said TAKE DRASTIC action – when he says in Matthew 5:27-30 to cut off your right arm if need be. His real point is not to have a lot of amputees around, but to DO WHAT IT TAKES to master the problem.

The BIGGEST KEYS TO KEEPING SIN OUT of our lives

A big way I differ from other sermons I've heard – or even have given myself in the past – is there's a lot of focus on the SIN, the problem. That's the wrong focus. **In my experience, what we focus on – magnifies.** Don't focus on the sins still in your life, but on the One who takes away our sin. I more I focus on being fat, the fatter I get. Paul said, when I think of 'don't covet' – I ended up coveting all the more (Romans 7: 7-8).

The more we grow close to Yeshua, the more we want to please Him, obey him, and distance ourselves from sin. I have a recent sermon on falling deeper in love with Him.

1. ABIDE IN Christ AND YOU WILL bear MUCH fruit.

John 15:1-5

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch CANNOT bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do NOTHING".

It's time to diligently seek after God as never before. Here's a sermon on Diligently Seeking after God -- HELP ME GET THIS MESSAGE OUT.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxcGBWyBQ3M>

OUR hard work is to stay abiding in him. To fight the things that pull us away. That's our task. Abide, stay close. ALL RELATIONSHIPS ARE FLUID. Close one day, distant later. Abide... work at it. Cut out Facebook and time wasters.

This also tells us this: and many of you will disagree with me – but hear me out: **QUIT focusing on the things you want to overcome – and focus *instead* on your Messiah.** Focus on obedience and pleasing God, rather than on where you've failed. *Focus on being close to him. You'll see big changes if you do.* It's a POSITIVE focus, rather than a negative one. **Philippians 1:11** says **the fruit of righteousness IS BY Jesus Christ.**

1 John 3:24 says we abide in Him when we keep his commandments. And he is in us by His Spirit. Read that yourself.

Paul also teaches us that when we focus on Yeshua, we grow from glory to glory.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding** as in a mirror **the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord

There's the KEY. Get close, stay close, BE close to Christ and Father. Just as Yeshua said even HE could do nothing by himself, Folks, we're no better than he, we're no stronger than he. We can't overcome and win the war against sin by ourselves either. He said what he did, all those miracles, and his spiritual strength, were not HIM – but his and our FATHER empowering him. It's the same for us! Don't focus on sin. Focus on Father. Focus on Saviour.

John 5:19

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself,** but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."

John 5:30

"I can of Myself do **NOTHING.** As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because ***I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.***

If Yeshua says even HE can do nothing of himself, where does that leave US?

We're also told to Look to Yeshua/Jesus in Hebrews 12:2That's the KEY to overcoming. You and I could come up with 10 steps to overcoming, **but it boils down to this: ABIDE IN HIM, AND YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.** So we have to FOCUS on him, find time to BE WITH him, much more time talking to him in prayer, LISTENING to him in more study of his word and learning to hear his voice day by day.

Hebrews 12:1-5

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,** who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For **consider Him** who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

You'll also see the POSITIVE focus Paul puts on overcoming sin by looking at the positive reasons. Read Ephesians 4:25-30 and Eph 5:3-5. Start speaking gracious words, and not potty-mouth words. Start sharing, instead of stealing. Speak truth, and no more lying. Be kind – instead of gossiping and spreading news of so-and-so's old sins. God HATES that. Even you ministers have to stop

talking about the brethren's sins when you ministers get together. We cannot continue in terrible sins and expect to be in God's kingdom – Eph 5:5.

And what we'll find is that Christ IS LIVING in us more and more, and HE is the One doing the works in our lives, to His glory. At that point we are experiencing the power of HIS resurrection – now working in us, living in us. We're letting the resurrection Yeshua be our life – and YES, you – like he did – will defeat sin.

Yeshua said the works he did were not his works, but the Father working in him. Read carefully what it says **in John 14:10, and again John 14:12-14**, that WE would experience the same thing if we get so close to him and our Father that they can be doing the work in us.

YOU and I cannot overcome spiritual sins and temptations by ourselves any better than Yeshua could. **He said he could do nothing by himself. Please slowly read John 14:10-12 – WHERE HE says the works he did were his Father's works, and that WE ALSO could do even greater works than HE did. START by believing what he said!**

John 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

NONE of this spiritual victory will be by OUR might and power, but as God says to Zerubbel – “by MY Spirit” (Zech 4:6-7.) Whole mountains will disappear, God says – but how? “He shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it’”. BY GRACE we are saved, by Grace and God's favor we will overcome. Not by all the effort we can muster – but by HIS SPIRIT in us. And that means ABIDING IN HIM, staying close to him, SEEKING him diligently.

You and I CAN overcome sin – through Christ. “I CAN DO all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13). When you feel you can't stop certain weaknesses and sins, **how about combining Phil 4:13 with 1 John 4:17** – that as HE is, so are we in this world? “Lord, I can't seem to stop my (your sin, name it); but YOU can, Yeshua. I know you are healthy, YOU are no drunkard, you never covet or lust but have a clean heart, You have perfect self control, you always please our Father... and Lord, as you are, so am I in this world, by being IN YOU, and you in me.”

2. KEEP A CLEAR VISION OF WHY YOU WERE CALLED; WHAT'S AHEAD OF YOU. When the vision is clear, it's easier to refuse the sin.

Yeshua finished his course – how? “FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM”. We just read it Hebrews 12:2. He had a clear picture of where he wanted to end up. SO what did HE do? He made sure he spent a lot of time in PRAYER to his father.

3. SEEK to PLEASE your husband/Maker Yeshua – you will find sin is not attractive. Neither is doing anything that He hates – like divorce, like ANY sin. God hates ALL sin – big ones, little ones – he hates them all. So when we are seeking to please him, we’ll find that we are hating selfishness, self-righteousness, vanity, worry, lust, greed, drunkenness, pornography, anger, meanness, being unkind, filthy language – all that will STOP!

John 8:28-30

28 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, **and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.** 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, **for I always do those things that please Him."**

I John 3:24 says we can come confidently before God when we do the things that please him.

There’s our example of HOW to win and beat temptation and sin. So he constantly sought Father’s will, father’s words, father’s way – and he kept the vision of WHY he was on the earth, very very clearly in focus.

John 9:4 – he said he had to work hard while it was day, for the night was coming when no one could work. He kept a sense of URGENCY. WE have to wake up, see how time is SHORT to get anything done.

As we seek to please him – guess what? When wrong thoughts come in, we will call out to HIM! Ask for strength to bring every thought to submission to obedience to Jesus Christ – as 2 Cor. 10:4 says.

NOW we have the strength to take on the sins – and conquer the thoughts. We MUST. When we WALLOW in the wrong thoughts they will develop into SIN>

James 1:12-15

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. [that’s our clear VISION we need to keep front and center]

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 **But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**

So let's get SERIOUS about fighting sin FEROCIOUSLY. And that will happen, if we focus on Yeshua, the CAPTAIN of our salvation and LET HIM live in us and fight sin through His spirit in us. We will win if we ask him to give us a LOVE for him as never before. And if we SEEK HIM with all heart, abiding in Him. If we focus on the positive goals, rather than on the sins. We'll win if we look to city whose builder and maker is God, as Abraham did. So let's do it!