Day 2 Overcoming Overwhelming Sin

**Main Points**

1. Not all Christians are struggling with sin. Many have learned the truth that because they are under grace and not under law, sin has no dominion over them (Rom. 6:14).
2. When considering why it is that a person struggles with sin (Gal. 5:19-21, 1 Cor. 6:9-11) the first question to consider is if he/she is truly a Christian, because Paul declares in Romans 6 that Christians are dead to and free from sin.
3. A person becomes a Christian when he/she BELIEVES and confesses that Jesus is who He claims to be (God in the flesh) and that God raised Him from the dead (Rom. 10:9-10). It’s not enough to join a church, recite a prayer, try to live by the words of Jesus, or be declared a Christian by some religious organization.
4. The normal Christian way of life is NOT to be overtaken by sin, but rather to be free from it. Not only that, a Christian is to consider himself/herself as dead to sin and has the power to not yield to it.
5. However, some Christians do seem to be overcome by sin instead of overcoming it. The author gives three main reasons:
* *A Christian sometimes doesn’t resist initial temptation to sin and becomes emotionally or physically addicted to the behavior. This person still believes in Jesus, but is more akin to the Prodigal Son. Others might still be in fellowship but be engaged in a private sin or addiction.*
* *Some Christians become involved in sin as they begin to mix law with grace. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15 that “the power of sin is the law.” So, as we begin to see our right-standing with God to be based on our obedience to laws (not just the law of Moses, but other Christians laws such as the concept of “spiritual disciplines”), we begin to fall into the trap Paul described in Romans 7, that of doing what we don’t want and not doing what we think we should. This person still believes in Jesus, but gets caught up in the lie that this back and forth life of sin is the “normal” Christian life.*
* *The third reason Christians fall into sin is that they are falsely taught that not only is it normal to struggle with sin, but that they are still a sinner with a sinful nature. In other words, they do not know who they are in Christ. They do not know they are free from sin. They do not know that they are holy saints, righteous, forgiven, and blameless in His sight.*

**Discuss**

1. Did you ever consider yourself to be a Christian for some other reason than FAITH in Jesus?[[1]](#footnote-1) Explain.
2. Have you ever known someone who claimed to be a Christian, but whose life in NO WAY indicated that he/she was a Christian? How can we help those who seem sympathetic to “being a Christian” but who still might only be so culturally or religiously, find true faith?
3. **Without going into the details about the sin itself**, share how God has set you free from an overwhelming sin.[[2]](#footnote-2) Was it through learning about who you are in Christ, being changed from the inside out, by being set free from law, or some other way?
4. Was there a sentence or paragraph that stood out to you in this chapter that you’d like to share or remember? Explain why it seems important or how it affects you.
1. Even true Christians can fall into this trap. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This could be the normal process of sin falling away after salvation or sin that began after someone already was a Christian. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)