

darts of the evil one. Reading your Bible (Rom 10:17) and praying in the Spirit (Jud 1:20) will build faith.

e) Get a good devotional book and read a portion each day.

f) Get a small New Testament and take it with you everywhere and take time out at lunch and breaks to read some of the Word.

g) Memorize scriptures regularly. Start with 1Cor 10:13; 2The 3:3; 2Pet 1:10; and Jud 1:24. Hide these scriptures and others in your heart, that you will not sin against the Lord (Psa 119:11).

h) Spend your free time with spiritually minded people and follow their Godly example (2The 3:9).

If you have been having problems with sin, please print this out and put it on your wall and read it every morning and make sure you follow the instructions.

If you have victory over sinning, please take this short tract and give it to everyone that you know is having a sin problem.

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MoreChristLike.Com

POB 263, Aylmer Ontario, Canada N5H2R9

Contact: Bob Mutch

Tel: 519-636-6636

Email: bobmutch@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.MoreChristLike.com>

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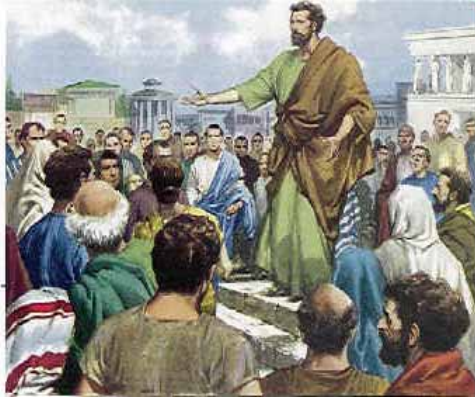
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Pauls Experience in Romans Chapter 7

Most Protestant sects teach that Paul's experience in Romans chapter 7 is the experience we are to expect as a Christian. One of sinning and repenting, bemoaning our wretched experience, doing the evil we don't want to do, and being captive to the law of sin.



I hold that the Bible teaches that Romans 7 was Paul's experience before he was converted to Christ. Following are a number of scriptures that I have put in two categories — pre-conversion and post-conversion.

Pre-Conversion:

Rom 7:14 but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Rom 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Rom 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into *captivity to the law of sin* which is in my members.

Rom 7:24 O wretched man that I am!

1Ti 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Post-Conversion:

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me *free from the law of sin and death*.

to lust after her" (Mat 5:28) then stay away from the beach and the mall and avoid immodestly dressed woman at all cost. Run from them, flee, close your eyes, plea the blood! Whatever you must do! Take radical measures!

You may say "Why?... this sounds like bondage!" No! Your sinning is bondage. For by what "a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage" (2Pet 2:19); this is the Bible's instructions to get you free from bondage. Jesus said if your "right eye offend thee, pluck it out" and if your "right hand offend thee, cut it off" (Mat 5:29,30) and you complain at giving up the Internet, the mall, and the beach. Shame on you! You have yet to find godly sorrow.

It is not easy to break and turn away from a "form of godliness" that has been "denying the power thereof" and your habit of sinning and repenting over and over. You have seared your "conscience with a hot iron" (1Tim 4:2) by all your hypocrisy and all this going back to the barf and excrement of sin (2Pet 2:22) so many times. So make sure your godly sorrow is deep and true and your repentance is firm and solid.

3. Practical Christian Living How-to:

After you have made a clean start you now need to take steps so that you will not fall back into sin.

- a) Avoid the places of temptation of the sins that you have been falling into.
- b) Find a spiritual person that has victory over sin and be accountable to them.
- c) Listen very closely to and obey the voice of the Lord - who will be faithful to warn you when temptation is near.
- d) You must start your day with prayer and reading of the Bible. This is more important than breakfast. Make sure you get to bed early so you can get up early and spend at least 30 minutes in devotions every morning. It is by faith that we have the victory over the world and quench all the

Cast out this unholy doctrine that Christ doesn't have the power or the will to "save his people from thier sins" (Mat 1:21). Plug your ears and cry "eternal life, eternal life", when the priests of Baal plead for sin. Have no more to do with this foul, blasphemous teaching that holds we must sin in word, thought, and deed daily.

You will never become more Christ-like if you continue sinning, as "he that committeth sin is of the devil" (1Joh 3:8) and you never can be of the devil and be Christ-like at the same time. You can be no more a sinning saint (holy one) than you can be an honest thief, a chaste fornicator, or a sober drunk!

Renounce this teaching at once and have no more to do with it!

2. Pray For Godly Sorrow & Repentance:

You must get before the Lord and beg for godly sorrow that will work repentance unto salvation (2Cor 7:10). See the sins you have been committing as "exceeding sinful" (Rom 7:13). "Bewail" (2Cor 12:21) what a terrible example your sinning experience has been before your family, other Christians and the world. But you say "I thought salvation was by grace alone through faith alone and that it is not of works least we can boast" (Eph 2:8,9). Yes, that is right, but true faith will not be found where God has not worked godly sorrow and repentance in the heart. For it is "godly sorrow" that "worketh repentance to salvation" (2Cor 7:10). godly sorrow and repentance is the ground where saving faith for salvation is born.

Forsake every sin that you have been making room for in your life. Take radical steps that you "enter not into temptation" (Mat 26:41). If you have had problems with porn, get rid of the Internet. Yes that's right! Get rid of it! Renounce the fleshly thought - that you want to hold unto that which has been a tool of Satan to have you deny Christ. If you have fallen into sin by looking upon a "woman

Rom 8:3 *For what the law could not do*, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

1Th 2:10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, *how holily and justly and unblamably we behaved ourselves* among you that believe:

2Co 6:4-6 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; *By pureness*, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

2Co 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

Act 24:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have *always a conscience void of offense toward God*, and toward men.

I trust you can see the difference between Paul's pre-conversation testimony and his post-conversation testimony.

Grace Offered For Obedience

Here are scriptures that support the position that God is able to keep his children from failing in temptations and falling into sin.

1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye



are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

2Th 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.

2Pe 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

Jud 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Here are some Biblical requirements for the above promises to work.

2Co 7:10-11 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Mat 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

2Pe 1:5-7 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

1Th 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

It is essential that you clearly understand Romans chapter 7, where "the evil which I would not, that I do" (Rom 7:19) and being in "captivity to the law of sin" (Rom 7:23) is the old covenant experience - where they were not converted in the sense that we are under the new covenant, but only justified. Also, in Romans chapter 8 where "Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Rom 8:2) is the Gospel experience - as "the law could not do" this (Rom 8:3).

It needs to be revealed to you that 1 John 1:8 is written to those that John declared the Word of Life so that they "also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1Joh 1:3), as those that don't have fellowship with the Father and claimed to be sin free without Christ are deceived. It is those that claim to be Christians and "keepeth not his commandments" that are "a liar" and are deceived (1Joh 2:3,4), not those that are "born of God" and "sinneth not" and have the testimony that they "keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not" (1Joh 5:18).

You need to see that when Paul held that he was a chief sinner (1Tim 1:15), it was because he was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious to the church (1Tim 1:13). After he got saved, he had the testimony to have "always a conscience void of offense toward God" (Act 24:16), and noted "how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved" (1The 2:10) to the church of the Thessalonians.

God needs to show you that when Paul stated that there "is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom 3:10), he is referring to those "that understandeth" not and those that refuse to "seeketh after God" (Rom 3:11). Not to the Christian whom Christ has opened "their understanding, that they might understand" (Luk 24:25) or those that have been rewarded because they do "diligently seek him" (Heb 11:6).

How to Stop Falling Into Sin

I am going to make some statements in this post that are strong and forward and I mean them with all my heart.

If you are going to profess Christ, you must get serious about staying free from sin. The cycle of sinning and repenting must be broken and you must resolve to do it at any cost.



If you are having a problem falling into sin and you are not willing to commit to following radical steps to get free and stay free, you probably need to stop professing - as you are just deceiving yourself.

In this post, I am going to give clear instructions on how to put a stop to falling into sin. If you “do these things” (2Pet 1:10) and continue in them, you are guaranteed by the Word of God that “ye shall never fall” (2Pet 1:10) into sin again.

1. Renounce the Sin-You-Must Teaching:

You must renounce the teaching that sin is compatible in any way, shape, or form with the Christian life. When I say sin, I am not talking about driving 10km over the speed limit, lacking patience with others, or being late for some commitment you’ve made. I am talking about willful sins such as anger, lying, viewing porn, giving into hatred, acting spitefully towards others etc... Things where you are clearly tempted and where God promised to “make a way to escape” (1Cor 10:13), but you refused to take it, and instead give into temptation and do what you clearly know is wrong because the Bible stands against it.

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2Ti 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Here are some scriptures that imply obedience is not an option but a requirement [for the children of God not to become one – just got accused of legalism :(].

Joh 5:14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

Joh 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Joh 8:34,36 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Joh 14:23,24 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me.

Luk 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Rom 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

1Jn 2:3,4 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1Jn 3:8 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.

3Jn 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

The Importance of Personal Devotions

While I think there are a number of things that are more important than personal devotions I have chosen devotions as one of the most important areas in my Christian walk that I need to work on. I have placed it second to retiring and getting up early because if I don't retire early and get up early there will be no time for quality devotions.



I am sure that obedience to Christ's moral law and humility in how we see ourselves and others are both much more important and no doubt there are other more important things in the bigger picture. Without obedience to Christ you don't have a Christian experience and if you have a

Here are a few scriptural promises of God's commitment to keep us in the time of temptation:

1Cor 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

2The 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.

2Pet 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

Jud 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Questions to consider:

- Do you accept the above promises of God - that he will make a way of escape in temptation?
- Have you made a commitment that - by the grace of God - you will never give into sin?
- Do you see the importance of hearing the voice of the Lord?
- What are you going to do to be more careful to hear and heed the Spirit's warnings?

In my post on 'Do You Know What Your Spiritual Needs Are?', I list (after retiring early and getting up early and having proper devotions), this very point — **#3 Listen to and Follow the Voice of the Spirit.**

While I was thinking about how the Spirit of God guides and directs us to help souls, and be careful in our Words and actions, I see that I need to also have this in my mind - that when a temptation arises I need to be very careful to hear the voice of the Spirit when he warns me that sin is near and bids me to watch unto prayer.

Wesley's 8 Step Progress From Grace to Sin:

(1.) The divine seed of loving, conquering faith, remains in him that is born of God. "He keepeth himself," by the grace of God, and "cannot commit sin."

(2.) A temptation arises; whether from the world, the flesh, or the devil, it matters not.

(3.) The Spirit of God gives him warning that sin is near, and bids him more abundantly watch unto prayer.

(4.) He gives way, in some degree, to the temptation, which now begins to grow pleasing to him.

(5.) The Holy Spirit is grieved; his faith is weakened; and his love of God grows cold.

(6.) The Spirit reproves him more sharply, and saith, "This is the way; walk thou in it."

(7.) He turns away from the painful voice of God, and listens to the pleasing voice of the tempter.

(8.) Evil desire begins and spreads in his soul, till faith and love vanish away: He is then capable of committing outward sin, the power of the Lord being departed from him.

proud view of yourself and your abilities God will resist you and all the devotions in the world will not help you if you don't cast off your pride.

The reason I see devotions as being so important is quite simple — you receive faith by reading the word (So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Rom 10:17) and through praying in the Spirit (But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith praying in the Holy Spirit. Jude 20).

This faith is what gives you victory over the world and your flesh (This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 1Joh 5:4) and gives you power to overcome every temptation from the wicked one (Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Eph 6:16).

I suggest starting your day with a minimum of 15 minuets in prayer and 15 minuets in reading the New Testament. You should rise early enough so interruptions from other family members and phone calls don't break up your time with the Lord.

From there you should slowly increase your time with the Lord each month until you are spending 1 hour in prayer and 1 hour in reading or studying the Bible. This time investment will pay unbelievable rewards in greater victory over the flesh and self, more grace, an increase in the fruit of the Spirit, and in a deeper and more fulfilling devotion to God.

If you fall asleep in prayer or reading then pray or read out loud. If that doesn't work for you, pray and read standing up. Praying and reading out loud is also a good cure for a wandering mind. I strong suggest you read Power Through Pray and Purpose In Pray by E.M. Bounds. These books will give you a conviction on the importance of prayer.

I would also suggest you get an mp3 player and listen to the New Testament instead of the news, talk shows, and easy listening music while you are driving. My car radio is currently disabled.

If you need more power in your life, if you are struggling to gain victory in an area in your experience, if you are feeling a strong drawing from the world, if you are not moving forward and gaining new ground then you need more faith. It is faith that gives you the victory over the flesh and the world and it is faith that will quench all the darts of the evil one. You will get this faith by reading the Word and praying in the Spirit.

Retire Early and Get up Early

This is one of the most important things a Christian can do. If you don't retire early you will not get up early. If you don't get up early you will not have proper devotions. If you don't have proper devotions your Christian life will be up and down and you will not make any solid progress.



When I came to the realization how important this was, I was getting up anywhere between 8am and 11am. Many times I would work late into the evenings (I am self employed) and felt I had an excuse to sleep in. When I got up there were so many interruptions to my devotions that they suffered many times by being broken and incomplete.

When I came to the conclusion that I must have better devotions this is the area I started to work on. I track my devotions in my offline journal for my own benefit and since I made a serious effort to do better in this area I can report good progress. I got up last month on average at 6:30am and I am aiming to do yet better.

If you have a job and you must leave home at a certain time, work out what time you must get up to have your devotions, get ready for work, and be out the door to get to work on time. Then calculate the amount of time you need to sleep and then you will have the time you have to retire in the evening. When you go past this time you need to make your self conscious that you are now either eating into your sleep time or the time you will spend with the Lord in devotions in the morning.

Progress from Grace to Sin in 8 Steps

I have been reading John Wesley's sermons on the issue of sin and the believer in order to better understand his position on the issue of what happens if a Christian sins. In doing this, I just gained a better insight for myself on how I can resist temptation so that I will - by the grace of God - never fall into sin. In Wesley's sermon 'The Great Privilege of Those that Are Born of God' he has a list of the 8 steps he calls "The Progress From Grace to Sin".



In this list, I consider the number 3 step to be the key to halting this progress. The number 3 step is "The Spirit of God gives him warning that sin is near, and bids him more abundantly watch unto prayer".