

Scripture of the Quarter

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." John 5:14 NKJV

She said, "No one, Lord."And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." John 8:11 NKJV



he Bible records that at least twice, Jesus told people, to stop sinning. One man had received his healing and the other woman had been caught in adultery. So why is it, as "Christians", we think that we can keep on sinning and there will be no consequence in our lives? Will God continue to bless us even while we are <u>willfully</u> <u>sinning</u>? We want to believe that God will. Can you receive Blessings and Curses?

We reason that God is a <u>God of Love</u> and <u>He</u> <u>will understand</u> why I choose to sin, (does He?) What is the intent of your heart? Why do we continue to willfully sin? Have you said, "*I'll do it today, then I'll repent, and then I won't do it anymore.*" When tomorrow comes, we do it again and say we are sorry and ask to receive forgiveness. So now we are good, right?

Then why did Jesus tell them to Go and SIN No More? Can't we just sin when we want to because Jesus <u>already paid</u> for <u>ALL</u> our sins? If Jesus already died for all our sins, then aren't they already, forgiven? "Put under the blood." Yeah, that's what the preacher said, Past, Present, and Future. So we are okay, right? We don't have to pay attention to all those laws, that were just for those people in the Old Testament. What's that verse? **Romans 8:1**^(NKJV) There is therefore <u>now no condemnation</u> to those who are in Christ Jesus, <u>who do not walk</u> <u>according to the flesh</u>, <u>but according to</u> <u>the Spirit</u>.

What does it mean **walk according to the flesh**? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth, according to the Word of God.

The Bible tells us who <u>will NOT</u> inherit the Kingdom of God. **Galatians 5:19-21**^(NKJV) ^{V19}Now the <u>works of the flesh</u> are evident, which are: <u>adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness</u>, ^{V20}idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, <u>selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,</u> ^{V21}envy, <u>murders, drunkenness, revelries,</u> <u>and the like</u>; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who <u>practice</u> such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10^{(NKJV) V9}Do you not know that <u>the unrighteous will not</u> inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ^{V10}nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Revelation 21:8^(NIV) But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Does it sound like we can just continue to willfully sin and still go to Heaven? So if we continue to do what we want instead of what Jesus said to do, then we are the LORD of our lives and Jesus is not. If Jesus is Lord and you love Him then we are supposed to obey His commands.

John 14:15^(AMP) If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.

Prodigal Son

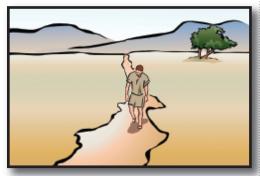
We are familiar that the son wanted to leave and not be under his father's rules, the young son wanted the inheritance that would have been his when his father died. Read the parable found in **Luke 15**:

^{V11} Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ^{V12} The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ^{V13}"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

Notice the father did not argue with him and the son left and believed everything was great. The younger son was the lord of his own life doing anything he wanted to do. ^{V14}After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ^{V15}So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ^{V16}He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

This is like us when we get out of God's will for our lives. We believe we are doing great, then our provision runs out. Why did it run out? We were doing things our own way. Notice that he did not go back to his father right away because he was still trying to do it his own way. Also Notice the father, who represents our Lord God our Father which is in Heaven, did not force the son and did not argue with him. <u>He</u> <u>let him go</u>. This is why it is, <u>when we choose to</u> <u>walk away from God</u>, <u>He does not force us to</u> <u>serve him</u>. <u>Nor does He force us to choose to</u> <u>follow His rules</u>.

^{V17}"<u>When he came to his senses</u>, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ^{V18}I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ^{V19}I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'



Praise God! Notice in verse 17 the young son came to his senses! Jesus is telling us that as God's children we are given a chance to come to our senses. The younger son made a decision to return to his father. He started to rehearse what he would say. Notice that he did not get to stay where he was in the same mess, he had to leave the life he was in and return to his father's house. It is not good enough to stay in the same lifestyle and just send a letter home asking for forgiveness. The son had to leave where he was and go home and submit to his father.

^{v20}So he got up and went to his father."But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ^{V21}"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

The father did not go after him, but was watching for his son to return. The day he saw him from a distance, he recognized him and was filled with love and compassion. He ran to his son and threw his arms around him. That is exactly what our Father does for us when we return to Him! God loves us when we come back. He throws His arms around us and kisses us! The son said his well rehearsed speech to his father. Has the devil told you that you have messed up so bad, so many times that there is no way God will take you back?



^{V22"}But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ^{V23}Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ^{V24}For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Here we see that as far as the father was concerned, the son that had left <u>was dead in the</u> <u>eyes of the father</u>. It is very scary when we realize that as sons and daughters—if we tell the Father we don't want to live under His rules and we want to live as the ruler and the Lord of our own life—He will let us go and we are dead to Him. But Praise God, <u>when we come to our</u> <u>senses and He sees us coming home. God will</u> <u>welcome us and restore us as His children</u>. Not just a servant but a son or daughter!

^{V25"}Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ^{V26}So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ^{V27}'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' ^{V28}"The older brother <u>became</u> angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ^{V29}But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ^{V30}But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

Now we have to deal with those "Christians" (brothers and sisters) that become bitter and are upset because the Father God welcomes and restores the son's status. Did you see how the obedient son began to belittle his brother? We must be very careful not to get so full of ourselves as to become offended with our brothers and sisters that are not walking with God or that have come back to the Lord and are being blessed.

^{V31}"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.
^{V32}But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

The Father went out to the older son that had been doing everything the Father had asked him to do. The Father pleaded with him to understand that his brother was not only out in the world missing but he was dead. The Father had given everything to the son that was faithful in serving Him but the son that returned was given life in the Father again.

Are you the son that has chosen to live life in your own terms? Have you started to realize that you are living with the pigs? Eating what they eat, drinking what they drink? You see that in God's eyes you are dead to Him. When we do things our way we are not in His will and we are the Lord of our own lives. We are not going to Heaven when we die. The Father will not force you. It is your choice!

Come home today! Please Don't wait! Tomorrow may never come.

