

## You're Not A Sinner?

You say you're not a sinner? But that is contrary to what God says in His Word:

*"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"*

*Romans 3:23*

*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"*

*Romans 5:12*

*"What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;"*

*Romans 3:9*

*If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

*1 John 1:10*

Yes, we are all sinners. The good news is we can have our sins forgiven, if we trust that Christ's death on the cross paid for them all.

*"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

*Romans 6:23*

*To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men.*

*- Abraham Lincoln*

## Not Free

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because of the terrible load of guilt they are carrying, and they are robbed of ever having true peace.

★ *commit adultery.* They are forced to do many things to cover up the possible discovery of their unfaithfulness.

★ *gossip.* A lot of effort is needed to win back the trust of one who was talked about, when they discover the disloyalty of the rumor spreader.



★ *cheating on a test.* Because they never learned the lesson the first time around, they may have to repeat the test or even the grade.

★ *do something behind the backs of parents and teachers.* They find they didn't get away with anything when it comes back around when they are a parent or teacher.

★ *hurt others.* After cruel acts or unkindness they wonder why they are all alone and without friends.

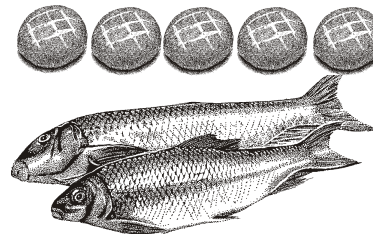
Committing sin never makes one free. That's why God wants all to flee its presence and even the appearance of doing it. It is a slave master that robs one of his independence, and controls one completely. No one ever gets away with any sin! There is always a painful, price tag on sin.

The **Bible View**



Editor: Bill Brinkworth Web: [www.openthoumineeyes.com](http://www.openthoumineeyes.com) Vol.: 83

## Little Can Be Much



Somehow many Christians have gotten it into their heads that if God is blessing it will be shown by prosperity and ease. Perhaps that thinking was drummed into them through the "prosperity gospel" crowd, who teach that God wants you to be rich and have an easy life to show you are right with Him. Maybe it is our own natural thinking that makes us believe that any problems can only mean that we're not right with God and His hand is against us. That teaching is not evidenced in the Bible, however.

Yes, there were times when God gave peace and prosperity to some at certain times, but the

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## Not Free

You've heard folks say it, and so have I: "I don't want to be a Christian, because I want to be free." But are they free when they:

★ *have to have that next cigarette.* They're not free to quit; they're bound to continue the habit.

★ *lie.* Many times they have to lie to cover up their last untruthfulnesses.

★ *do drugs.* Their addiction has robbed their freedom from their lives. Many times they physically can not survive unless they have their "fix".

★ *drink alcohol.* The drunk is not free to live his life without the next drink. It takes the booze to get him through the day. He can't do without it.

★ *commit deceptions.* Their stomach is tied in knots

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majority of the time God's evidence of power was during "bad" times and problems. The hard times are a time to get close to Him and see His mighty power.

His miracles were often performed with the most irrational objects, and resulted in the most illogical solutions. Yet, when all was finished, there was no question that God had done a great thing. Some of these great supernatural occurrences were:

- ☞ The earth was created in six days by God only, not over millions of years and not by many different occurrences. Being created by one God is not the way that a "natural" man would understand the world to exist.
- ☞ The people were scattered at the tower of Babel, not by a disease, not by an enemy, but by a confusion of languages.
- ☞ God's people had a way of escape from the encroaching enemy when Moses simply stretched his hand over the sea, and watched as God took an "impossible" method to open the Red Sea for them to cross to safety.

- ☞ The walls of a protected enemy were knocked down by a simple shout at Jericho, not by ramming machines, nor by a vast army.
- ☞ Naaman's leprosy was cured by simply dipping in the Jordan River seven times, not by some doctor's cure or some super drug.
- ☞ Gideon was vastly outnumbered, but got the victory in battle with only 300 men, lamps, pitchers, and their shout.
- ☞ Outsized David slew his adversary with a small, smooth stone propelled from his sling.
- ☞ Vast enemies were chased by little, God-controlled hornets.
- ☞ Five, small barley loaves and two fishes fed over 5,000 people.
- ☞ A blind man's sight was restored not by surgery or some miracle cure, but by spittle and clay.
- ☞ Sins of man can be forgiven simply by Jesus' paying for those 2000 years ago by the blood He shed on Calvary, not by our good works or our payment for them.

*The true wealth of  
a nation lies not in its  
gold or silver, but in  
its learnings,  
wisdom, and in the  
uprightness of its sons.*

*Kahlil Gibran*

Anyone can get by with the help of millions of dollars; there's no miracle in that. There's no proof that God is in the solution when money bought the way out of the problem. When there's plenty in the check book, just about anybody can change any situation. Solving situations with plenty isn't necessarily God's fingerprint of solution. Usually he uses the smallest thing or weakest person.

Perhaps wealth is not proof that God is necessarily blessing those that have it. Maybe it's the other way around. Maybe wealth is not such the blessing we'd like to believe. Many that have much are often not as close to God as those that are counting on Him for their daily bread, trusting Him for deliverance from their dilemma, and seeing Him work in their lives every day. Little is much when God is in it.

## **I Refuse To Be Discouraged**

*Author Unknown*



*I refuse to be  
discouraged,  
To be sad, or to cry;  
I refuse to be downhearted,  
and here's the reason why.*

*I have a God who's mighty,  
Who's sovereign and supreme;  
I have a God who loves me,  
And I am on His team.*

*He is all wise and powerful,  
Jesus is His name;  
Though everything is changeable,  
My God remains the same.*

*My God knows all that's  
happening;  
Beginning to the end,  
His presence is my comfort,  
He is my dearest friend.*

*When circumstances threaten  
To rob me from my peace;  
He draws me close unto His  
breast,  
Where all my strivings cease.*

*I'm looking past all my  
circumstances,  
To Heaven's throne above;  
My prayers have reached the  
heart of God,  
I'm resting in His love.*

*I give God thanks in everything.  
My eyes are on His face;  
the battle's His, the victory is  
mine;  
He'll help me win the race.*

*If you carefully fulfill the various duties of life,  
from a principle of obedience to your heavenly  
Father, you shall enjoy that peace which the world  
cannot give -- Samuel Adams*