

The Awful Nature of Sin

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Scripture References: Amos 5:18-6:14; I John

We all know what sin is from the Bible. Most Christians dwell on sins of commission and often neglect the sins of “omissions”; they also, unless they are sensitive to the Holy Spirit, tend to not recognize their commission of sins such as unforgiveness (which the Bible clearly shows will send a person to hell if not repented of), jealousy, pride, etc.

The past few days the Spirit of the Lord has been dealing with me about writing this article and I thought it strange because this is not something that we teach on – this is *basic*, kindergarten type stuff in the Scriptures that should not have to be addressed. However, I know that this is on the Heart of God so I’m going to set forth what He gives me to write in this area today.

We should never forget the horrible nature of sin – the sins of the human race are so bad that they destroyed us spiritually by separating us from a Holy God. Sin was so horrible that a Holy God had to personally intervene in human history, suffer torture and crucifixion in order to redeem mankind. This one fact alone should make us disdain sin and seek to lead holy lives that please the Lord.

The Lord had me write a book on Hebrews, a commentary from the Spirit and I think that this epistle from the Scriptures perhaps gives one of the best pictures of sin from God’s perspective, especially in chapter 10.

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the Truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain Fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will Devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies Without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 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?" ■ Hebrews 10:26-29 NKJV

As I've stated many times, in all my years of preaching I've never preached the same message twice but I did have the Lord change my message one time just at the moment I stepped into the pulpit at a church in Salem, Oregon. He had me preach about The Day of the Lord from Amos chapter 6 because it applied to that church. They had heard nothing but "grace" and "love" preached as is so true of many churches today and sin was rampant in the congregation.

The worship leader and his wife told me after the service that my coming to that church was prophesied, yet they rejected the Word preached to them! Why? Well, unfortunately sin has become common place in most churches today. And it is sin that allows the devil a doorway into our lives. If you ever want to slam the door shut on the devil's face in your life you simply must put sin away and live a holy life – when you do sin be quick to repent like King David was.

Yet as was recently brought to my attention by a friend from Chicago, there are many large ministries and churches that are teaching what is sometimes called "New Covenant Theology." The following is a quote this month from such a ministry:

"The extreme legalist believes that if a Christian does not confess their sins they will go straight to hell. The less extreme believe that at the very least, the person will lose their fellowship with the Lord, and He will not answer their prayers. Both are wrong. **If you have made Jesus your Lord, you've become a new creature, and sin is no longer an issue between you and God.**

Jesus paid the price for all sin, and there is nothing left to pay! There is no other way to say it: All is forgiven forever (Hebrews 10:10 and 14)."

Well, "if you'll buy that I've got some ocean front property in Arizona" I'll let you have real cheap as the old George Strait song says. If what this minister said is true then he should just cut and remove I John from his Bible. And, in fact, if you believe this then you would have to accept the conclusion that I John is not inspired by the Holy Spirit and you should remove it from your bible as well.

Personally, I believe the Apostle John, the closest to the heart of the Lord and the longest-lived of any of the original Apostles knew what he was talking about when he was inspired to write:

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

“My dear children (clearly not written to the unbeliever), I write this to you so that you will not sin.

“Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”

I remember a testimony from my friend, Dr. Myers, a medical doctor in Mississippi who provides medical aid to the poor. When I was staying at their house about 11 years ago he relayed how when he was in medical school the Lord pulled him out of his body and talked to him about sin. The Lord said, “It hurts me when you do that.”

Now I want to talk about sin a little bit from the perspective of the Dark Kingdom to give you their perspective and why we always say that “sin is an open door”; at our church in Montana I like to say “if you leave your front door open all the time the day will surely come when you’ll have to confront a Grizzly Bear in your kitchen or a mountain lion, wolf or moose in your living room.”

The same thing is true of sin from a spiritual perspective; if you leave the door of sin open in your life and are not quick to repent, then demons will operate through that open door until you slam it shut in the devil’s face.

I shared in *Mysterious Secrets* how I learned from many humans who had worked in the Dark Kingdom how deadly sin is to the natural protection of a Christian by the Holy Spirit. Often we don’t realize how literal the Bible truly is! Every born-again believer actually does have a shield of faith that protects them from the “stones” or “arrows” of the witches (higher level witches possess 4 of these “arrows” that they refer to as “stones” that they will throw at you to harm or kill you).

Also, there is a “wall of fire” – the same *Fire* from the Presence of God in the Holy Spirit that Israel saw in the Pillar of Fire – around a Christian and the more prayerful you are (again, prayer is the most powerful weapon that we have against the demon powers that want to take us out), the greater the

diameter of this wall of fire around you. If you are prayerful and have a large wall of *Fire* around you then these “stones” will be burned up before they even reach your shield of faith.

However, the very moment you sin the wall of fire goes down!

A man I interviewed in Nigeria who worked as an Agent for The Queen of the Coast – a demon spirit we encounter there all the time; “she” lives in a huge mansion under the sea – said that when they went into a certain Assembly of God church as Agents of the Devil to cause trouble that about 75% of the church was easy to attack because they were in sin.

He told me, “Our main purpose in going there was to win souls for Satan.” At the time he said this in 1989 it almost floored me. Churches are so ignorant about the operations of the devil in the midst of the congregation. This type thing used to not be seen too much in America although I remember a woman who came to our church, Lakewood, in the ‘70s who would stand up when Brother Osteen was preaching and cause trouble – the ushers would carry her out on their shoulders like a board because her body became stiff as a board when Pastor John began rebuking her.

The church I mentioned in Salem, Oregon, where I ministered twice in 1996 and the Lord changed my sermon message is also the same one where I told the pastor after the Sunday service, “Did you know there are three witches in your church?” He replied, “No.” I said, “Well there are and you’d better do something about it because they ain’t here to get saved!” I have no doubt that one of the reasons they were there to attack that particular church is because there was so much sin in the church.

The brother who is now an evangelist that worked for The Queen of the Coast told me how hard he began to laugh right in this Assembly of God church when they began to sing a very popular chorus we sing in our churches in Africa – “Jesus Power Super Power.” He said that he could see in the spirit that most of the people singing were living in sin and because of this they were in extreme danger of being seriously harmed and even killed by he and the other Agents.

I also remember very clearly how the Lord told me specifically in 1996, “Whenever I give you a Word of Knowledge about certain diseases that I want to cure and you call people up to the altar for prayer to be healed be sure to tell them to first repent of any sins.”

At that same time He also showed me at a church I was ministering at how *dangerous* it can be for a Christian to come up for prayer when a disease is called out if they don't have that disease. At that time I was praying on the platform and just before the service started the Lord said, "I want to cure arthritis so I stood up and went to the altar and called it out. About 12 people came forward for prayer and as I was going down the line praying for people I stopped at a woman when the Spirit of God said, "She doesn't have arthritis."

I challenged her, "You don't have arthritis; why are you up here?" She replied, "I just wanted to get a blessing." I said, "Well that's very dangerous, my sister, you might receive a "non-blessing" – you could receive arthritis."

We need to be holy, reverent people of God and not live sinful lives. We need to be quick to repent and we need to be working with the Holy Spirit to conform us to the Image of Christ. I hope you will make a decision today to repent of any "hidden" sin in your life that you have tried to keep secret. Understand the seriousness of sin and be quick to repent. The Lord will bless you for it and you will be less open to attack from the enemy. Amen.