

Articles and Sermons :: Why does a Christian sin?

Why does a Christian sin?, on: 2016/5/17 7:11

Many times a person who embraces Christ and experiences a true born again experience gets the idea that he is responsible to keep and obey the law. They do not really know that God in Christ has already totally set them free from the law. They think that the ought's / should's and the ought not's / should not's apply to them. Then they act independently from Christ and put forth many efforts trying to do good things while avoiding bad things.

As they go about doing this they find out that the harder they try, the worse their own situation comes. They found out what Paul found out when he tried to do this.

Rom 7:15-16, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

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

They find out that only that they can not do the "good things" but they actually end up doing the "bad things" they are so desperately trying to avoid.

They also find out like Paul that they have the will and desire but lack the power to perform these desires "for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

Why couldn't Paul do the good things and avoid the bad things that he truly desired?

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."

Now a law is just something HOW A THING WORKS or how a thing functions. Law is the governing principle by which a thing or person functions properly or "the law of its being." While under a law a person CAN NOT function any other way. This is IMPOSSIBLE because this person is governed and ruled by this law.

Now when you try to do good or avoid evil by applying the should's and should not's you will bring yourself under the Law of sin and death.

God never intended us to keep the law; it was only a teacher to bring us to Christ.

Gal 3:24, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

Do you see yourself alive but separate from Christ? Then you will make a law out of most anything. That is why freedom only comes when you know you are "dead" and crucified with Christ and you are no longer alive. Then and only then we can know it is Christ living in us and manifesting Himself as us.

When we think that we have a separate life from Christ we will automatically be under the law of trying to be good. Romans 6:11; "He that is dead is freed from sin." A dead person can't try to do anything. If we are under the law of trying to be good, we are acting as if we are not dead; we are acting as if we are alive apart from Christ, producing our own goodness or righteousness.

Likewise, if we are condemning ourselves for not being good, we are really expecting to have the power to produce goodness and are condemning ourselves for failing. That is a false expectation, because it is impossible for us to produce any goodness apart from Christ. There is no "good you," nor is there any "bad you." Christ is living and expressing Himself through His human branch, vessel, temple, wife, and body. Think about it. If we humans can produce our own evil, then there is a strong possibility that we can produce our own good, and if that is the case, then why would we ever need a Savior at all?

The Law of Moses is "I should not," and is called the ministry of condemnation. The law of Christ is "I Am," and is called

Spirit and Life.

I think we would be surprised to know how much law we are unknowingly under. Personally, I tried to fix, change, and rearrange myself and anyone around me, although I attempted to be very passive about it. This kind of behavior seems nice, but ironically it is not. I never thought that I was a controlling person, *per se*, but I really was. I was what today's psychologist would call, "passive aggressive." I had a victim complex, being self-righteous and judgmental. I accused everyone of doing me wrong, because it was always the other person's fault, and never me.

If it is not personal laws we put on ourselves, we put religious laws on ourselves, as well. One huge law is trying to have enough faith. Actually we put "faith in our own faith" rather than in the Lord (which actually makes trying to have more faith just another law). We think if we give more money, we will be more successful. That kind of "if, then" mentality is conditional and not freedom, it's just another law. Sometimes we idolize our pet doctrines instead of the Person of Christ, making our way of interpretation, law. Sometimes our particular kind of spiritual jargon becomes law. Sometimes the uniformity of our dress or church affiliation is law. Sometimes our political persuasion is group law. Any demand on our human self to conform to church, politics, or a group mentality can be nothing but law. Do we realize that, "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse" (Gal. 3:10)? We are actually under a curse when we try to keep all these laws.

The "Outer Law" was my "PERSONAL TRAINER"... training me that I am weak and need a Keeper. So, by the mighty keeping power of my Lord, I am a "KEPT PERSON", and perfectly maintained by my permanent "MAINTENANCE MAN". Now I free from trying to change or even maintain myself. I can rest in HIM!

The New Covenant has but one law. The Bible calls it the "Royal Law," the law of love: love God, love neighbor, and love yourself. When all this responsibility to love unconditionally falls on us, our hearts sink; for we honestly must admit to failure. We simply cannot love. Yet, why did we think we should try to be like Christ anyway? We would have to be God to love that way. That is the point! Only God Himself can selflessly love.

What we don't understand is that our human vessel hasn't the capacity to love unconditionally. We were created to contain Mr. Love, Himself; but we were not created to produce it. Love is not a commodity to get, it's not a "how to" self-improvement program or an earned achievement. LOVE is a Person. We humans contain, not produce. When we discover that we are radically replaced by Christ, that "We don't live any longer, Christ lives in us," then we know we live by receiving, and not by achieving.

Freedom means that we are free to, or free not to, because we are led by the Spirit of God. "For as many as are led by the Spirit are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14); therefore, all the "I should's" and "I ought to's" of the law have no more claim on us. We are "dead to the law" in order that we can be married to another who raised us up from the dead, even our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 7:4).

Our freedom from sin and death is not a result of finding a new way or method of functioning, or another learned behavior. No, that is back to self-effort again. It is a result of leaping by faith into the arms of our Savior and trusting in His work at Calvary that sets us free from this bound-up life. Jesus did it for us. He condemned "sin" and "death" in the flesh (Rom. 8:3).

So are you truly enjoying freedom in Christ?

If not just ask God to show why - it must be some law or idea that you have to make yourself better or to do better.

Are you struggling to get faith?

Basically, Christians are trying to get what they already have in Christ. They are trying to get into a room that they are already in. Christians are striving to improve themselves instead of resting in the power of His resurrection life. If we understood what the Bible declares to be true, then there is no self to improve. For a "dead man" can't be improved. "You are dead, and Christ is your life..." (Col. 3:3-4). God doesn't want improved nor recommitted people. He wants dead people. Why? You can't be raised with Christ if you are not dead.

The way for the Spirit's transforming power to be activated in us is by simply believing what God says instead of striving to become who we already are. Once we lay hold of the truth, the Truth (Jesus) will lay hold of us and by His Holy Spirit transform us into the new persons we already are, thereby causing us to spontaneously manifest righteousness.

We need a change of minds renewed to the sanctifying truths of the Gospel. Our carnal minds are polluted with lies from the Fall. Deep in our consciousness, redeemed man is still wearing the grave clothes from his former owner. We are like Lazarus coming alive out of the tomb. He was alive, but after four days, Lazarus's grave clothes stunk with death. As long as we live from these lies, we too are living with the stench of dead grave clothes. Take off your stinking grave clothes and put on Christ, who is your sanctification, your righteousness, and your glory.

Are you trying to add Jesus Christ to your life? Are you trying to apply His teachings to your life?

This is NOT TRUE CHRISTIANITY!

You do not apply Him or His teachings to your life at all. You have died and you have His LIFE.

He applies HIS Life to you and in you - it was an total exchange. You died - He lives. You no longer have a life - He is your LIFE!

Gal 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Now look at this part, "yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." the I was replaced with the person of Christ.

If you are involved with any self effort He can show exactly what it is,

It is simple - just ask God to show you the reason and He will!

Re: Why does a Christian sin? - posted by Pnatty (), on: 2016/5/17 8:02

Thank you for this good writing Tuc.

What you have written I learned from Joseph Prince. And the more I read my Bible the more it becomes my own and I see it.

I try not to try which is still trying. Then Spirit brings to mind Faith in the finished work. I died. I am the righteousness of God in Christ.

A desire for holiness is far different from a trying to keep holiness.

Trying shows your continuing unholy ugly parts.
Desire activates faith for God to finish the work once begun.

Trying to be holy bad
Desiring to be holy good.

Maybe I'm off here and what you wrote.

Re: Why does a Christian sin? - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/5/17 8:05

100% of the time a Christian sins because they want to do so. Not that in their heart of hearts they would rather not sin, but for whatever reason they choose to sin over not sinning. My point is that there is not accidental sinning.

Your post explains why there is a battle. But bottom line we do have the power to choose not to sin. The question is whether we are willing to walk in the Spirit or step off that path.

there is no such thing as accidental sin, on: 2016/5/17 8:22

Sin is rebellion - defiant acts, an attitude not subject to God. So, there is no such thing as an ignorant, nonwillful, or an accidental sin (hamartia) under grace.

When we turn away from Christ as our true source of Life to self effort we will sin.

many try to adjust their behavior through discipline and behavior., on: 2016/5/17 9:17

Because you believed Christ came into your life to fix and improve it, you take on the task yourself and try to adjust your behavior through discipline and behavior changes to live a more Christ like life.

You cannot make your life more like Christ. You only need to take His life as your own and you and all around you will see the difference. It is the gift of God lest any man boast. We can't fix ourselves. Ourselves will not cooperate! We have to reckon ourselves dead and we are now experience his life of resurrection and power.

Re: many try to adjust their behavior through discipline and behavior. - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2016/5/17 13:17

James left us a very simple answer for why someone sins."they are drawn away of their own lusts and when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin."

If we will simply abide in Christ, we will be kept safe and the evil one will not touch us. So Paul writes "walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

We will suffer being tempted, just like Jesus, but He was perfected through the things He suffered and once made perfect became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey Him.

Those who obey Him abide in His love, just as He obeyed the Father and abode in the Father's love.

This is the obedience of faith, the faith that is the victory that overcomes the world.

No one abiding in Him sins. In other words, abiding in Him never results in sin. Sin happens by being drawn away and fulfilling our own lusts.

Mak

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2016/5/17 14:24

Do Nothing Christianity is absolute lie of a Devil. Jesus clearly said in Matthew 11:28:-

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

There is a yoke that every Christian should take. No one will put a yoke on top of another and ask him to do nothing.

The people who preach such do nothing Christianity also believe that Sermon on the mount and all teachings of Jesus are Old Covenant, not applicable for us. Such a big lie.

The proof should be in life, I am sure people who preach such do nothing Christianity will themselves live in open sin. They will have ugly married life, cannot have fellowship with anyone and hence not part of a Church at all.

Apostle Paul struggled with his flesh in Romans 7 because he did not have power of the Holy Spirit. He was given the power in Romans 8 life. That is why Romans 8 is life lead by Spirit.

Only person who is dead is the Old Man who lived however he wanted. The new man is born of God's word. He wants to please God by keeping every word of God. But the new man will be weak without the power of God. The habits of Old Man can easily overpower the New Man if he is devoid of Power of God. That is why we need God's Holy Spirit to face everyday.

Everyday we have to abide in the death of Christ, take up our cross. Otherwise we can fall into sin anytime.

“the desire of the righteous man is always good.” , on: 2016/5/17 15:35

Temptation is being drawn away by evil lust that we falsely think is our lust. Sin occurs when we believe it and take it. Jesus said to the unsaved, “You are of your father the devil, AND THE LUST OF YOUR FATHER YOU DO.” Unsaved people don’t have their own evil lust, and neither do Christians. We humans are three levels of desire, body, soul and spirit. Without desire in body we wouldn’t desire to take care of ourselves nor eat, without desire in our soul we wouldn’t want friendship and fellowship, and without desire in spirit we wouldn’t want God. In the Christian it is not evil desire, Proverbs says “the desire of the righteous man is always good.” Satan projects his evil lust on us and entices us to believe it is our own evil and strong desire. When we believe the lie, then we take it and it takes us. Thus birthing sin.

We are not independent evil lustful persons, but we can act like it, if we go for the enticement, but it is not who we are.

Re: “the desire of the righteous man is always good.” - posted by Sree (), on: 2016/5/17 15:56

As Brother Alan Martin pointed out from James 1-16:-

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by HIS OWN LUST. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

There is no deception here. The Scripture is very clear here. It is our own Lust that tempts us. Let God alone be true and every man a liar.

We all have a flesh that we inherited from Adam. This flesh does not die at all. As long as we live on this earth we will be tempted by this Flesh. When we are born again, we receive a new Man who still lives inside the old Flesh. Flesh does not change. It will always like things that are against God's word. We have to resist the flesh and put to death on the Cross each and everyday.

It is spiritual immaturity to put all our sins on Satan. Satan is not responsible for all our temptations. He can create an environment to tempt us, but he has no authority inside us to put anything inside us.

Re: “the desire of the righteous man is always good.” - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2016/5/17 16:22

Dear Tuc,

Here is an opportunity to test your own words with the specific grammar of the text we believe is inspired.

Please look again at the Greek grammar used for "his own lusts" and you will see that James chose this very specific wording.

The question then is why have your own thoughts led you to an expression that is not supported by the New Testament. I appreciate your earnest desire to lead believers to experience Union Life in Christ.

However, I hope that you will see that by making statements like the one you have set forth, you have not worked out all the intricacies of your belief in a way that fully harmonizes with the writers of the New Testament.

By the way, neither have I, so I can appreciate those parts of what you share that are sound. Please be careful about statements like this that are not fully developed.

Mak

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2016/5/17 16:41

Quote:

By the way, neither have I, so I can appreciate those parts of what you share that are sound. Please be careful about statements like this that are not fully developed.

Brother Alan Martin, what do you believe deception is? Or lie of Satan is? Do you think it will be completely against scripture or will it have some lie silently mixed with sound truth?

When we believe there is a small drop of poison in a very taste dish, we are not going to eat it. Same is a doctrine that has a small lie mixed with Sound scripture. Ignore it completely as a lie of Devil, instead of pick and choose using Scripture as light.

Many things that Tuc writes here have some sound truth but in them are lies mixed that are clearly against scripture. There will be some addition to God's promises, which to an untrained mind will appear awesome. But the scripture says that any addition to God's word deserves to be cursed.

Re: - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2016/5/17 16:55

Dear Sree,

I understand your concern, but "error" can be accomplished through sincere brothers as much as "lies" can do through insincere.

I share your concerns about errors that involve expressions that undermine believers' responsibility to consciously obey and abide. However, I count TUC a brother and seek to build upon what we agree on while we discuss the areas we understand differently.

Mak

Re: , on: 2016/5/17 17:14

Brother Sree

That's good stuff you are proclaiming. The devil is in the details.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/5/17 18:42

I have always felt something "off" about what brother Tuc is proclaiming. Perhaps not a red flag- but perhaps an orange one.

It's very hard to exactly state what the problem is. Sree has hit on at least part of it.

It seems very pipe-dreamy to me. There are too many "dos and don'ts" in the NT to be ignored.

The bible writers clearly seem the idea that we have the power to obey or not obey. No one said it was easy- that's why there is much talk of suffering and cross bearing.

Re: MAK - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/5/17 22:40

RE: ///Here is an opportunity to test your own words with the specific grammar of the text we believe is inspired. Please look again at the Greek grammar used for "his own lusts" and you will see that James chose this very specific wording.///

I am not convinced that the James verse quoted negates Tucs logic.

RE: ".. we will suffer being tempted, just like Jesus.."

How was Jesus tempted ?

edit : remove quote to ask a question

Re: - posted by TrueWitness, on: 2016/5/18 1:29

When I first came into contact with the teaching that tuc has been sharing, I also was wary of it and thought it was too passive. It is the default setting of all humans to put the emphasis on *doing*, *action*. In fact, most people have a hard time believing in God's free grace apart from our earning it. They feel much more comfortable in doing something good to point at for God to have a reason to be good to us. And even good Christians who do believe in the unconditional love of God that provides salvation often believe that it is their good works that causes God to continue to enjoy them.

Don't worry, I'm not going to promote greasy grace that says it doesn't matter how you live before God. But God is more interested in your motive for doing what you do than the doing itself. The Pharisees did some good works that seemed very commendable by the entire religious community. But they were trying to obtain *self-righteousness* almost as a way to keep God at bay and make themselves irreproachable which naturally led to pride and judgementalism of others who couldn't measure up. The law of Moses was intended to cause Israel to despair of their sin and throw themselves at God's mercy with extreme humility. The Pharisees, because they looked at the law as external acts apart from heart values and inner motives went in the exact opposite direction. Jesus' harshest criticism was directed at the Pharisees and Scribes because of their lack of humility mostly.

What helped me see the truth of what I call the *inner life* or *surrendered life* is found in the difference between willfulness and willingness. The young Christian who has a besetting sin that is defeating him day-in and day-out vows to try harder and make a more dedicated resolution to not fail next time. This is willfulness that is not centered on the spirit but is the *arm of the flesh*, religious flesh to be sure but still *flesh*. This is precisely what you read about in Romans 7. Only after repeated failures even when trying with the utmost determination can God break such a soul of such willfulness. Think about it, if you could live a life totally pleasing to God just by sheer human willpower, you wouldn't need the Holy Spirit.

But God gives grace to the humble soul who after painful failures turns to God with in meekness with a hungry heart for a righteousness that originates from one's inner man. This is where godly willingness comes in. And the willingness I am talking about also carries with it a hunger, thirst and enthusiasm that the God who indwells me is able to transform me starting from the inside and working itself out into demonstrable works. And don't misunderstand me here, I am not saying to wait for a *feeling* to overwhelm you. But it is critical to bow your head and in humility say to God, *Lord, I cannot live the Christian life but God, I am looking to you in faith to work through me your imparted righteousness as I willingly surrender myself to you.* And then when a testing, trial or temptation comes your way, say to God, *Lord, you are my patience, Lord, you are my purity, etc.* In other words, *Lord* you indwell me to be that holy resource within that will meet the challenge. And if you are sincerely willing to allow God to work and you truly believe, you will see results. Major Ian Thomas and others have written extensively on depending on the Christ life within.

We as Christians do have a responsibility to be on the lookout for the stirrings of the flesh and reckon ourselves dead to it. And it is critical to see yourself in Christ as a saint (in the process of still having the mind renewed) instead of a wretched sinner by nature (even though it is true we still do sin). Putting on the new man and putting off the old man is very much our responsibility. Notice in Galatians Paul says, *Walk in the spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.* I think too many Christians put the heavy emphasis on suppressing the flesh by means of fleshly effort and never get anywhere with that. I have found that when I see my identity as a new creature (in my spirit man, the real me) which is holy and wants to please God, the struggle with the flesh is less problematic. A person will only consistently behave in a manner that corresponds to how he sees himself to be. It is not impossible to act out of character to the way you see yourself but it is the exception and not the rule.

There is a divine balance in just how much of the Christian walk is God's part and how much of it is our part. God is a work in you both to will and to do His good pleasure. We need to cultivate an inner life with the indwelling Lord so that we remain humble, knowing that apart from Him we can do nothing (good). Also, we need to be hungry and thirsty for righteousness that originates from within from the Spirit for He satisfies and fills the hungry and thirsty with good things. And surely we need to believe in the power of the indwelling Christ to come to our aid as we look to Him for the power to live the Christian life knowing that we can't (and are never expected to) do it all by ourselves. The Christian life is not a self-improvement program.

So I totally get how some of you who read these teachings about the "inner life", "exchanged life", etc. are thinking it is so passive because the primary focus is not on works per se but on the Christ life within that must be made room for and allowed to be expressed. It is not difficult but it is very nuanced. Almost all of Christ's spiritual teaching was done with parables because it cannot be spoken about directly because the mind cannot comprehend the spirit directly. It is far easier to try to explain the Christian life as all about doing and not doing and willfulness because anything else seems like "do nothing-ism." But if you don't first focus on the origin of the what and the why you do what you do, you are pursuing self-righteousness and will probably get many pats on the back by your church brethren because it looks so good on the outside. Focus on getting the inside of the cup right and the outside (works) will take care of itself.

Re: - posted by Pnutty (), on: 2016/5/18 7:19

Amen TrueWitness! If you were to write a book I would buy it and read it.

Alan -Deception can have a role in our sinning, on: 2016/5/18 7:34

You wrote

"The question then is why have your own thoughts led you to an expression that is not supported by the New Testament . I appreciate your earnest desire to lead believers to experience Union Life in Christ."

Does James 1:14-15 negate the teaching that a person can be deceived into sinning?

Eve was beguiled - deceived by the serpent.

2 Cor. 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

1 Tim. 2:14, "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

Paul was deceived by sin taking occasion by the commandment

Rom 7:11, "For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me."

Before we embraced Christ many of us were deceived.

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

So it is impossible to rule deception completely out as a possibility for sin as the New Testament states.

Re: , on: 2016/5/18 7:37

Brothers I went back and read Tuc's OP and see nothing that raises a red flag. Those of you who accuse the brother of promoting do nothing Christianity need to be more specific. Because frankly I don't see that in Tuc's piece. If anything I see more of an encouragement to be holy because the Holy One is living in the us.

The issue seems to boil down to "being" verses "doing". That is the doing on our part which will be the arm of the flesh. Rather as opposed to the being in Christ which is the work of "Him" in us.

Consider 1 Cor.1:30

... But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."...

God has already done the work in bringing us to Christ. He has done the work by causing us to be born again. He has already done the work by giving us His Holy Spirit by which we grow and walk out His life in us.

But there is a choice on our part. And that is the choice to walk out the life of the Spirit in our lives. We are not robots. God has redeemed our wills to choose they either walk in the flesh or to walk in the spirit. This is what the last part of Galatians 5 brings to our attention. There is a choice. The choice of the flesh or the choice of the Spirit.

Brothers for right now simply my thoughts.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/5/18 7:55

Bear I agree with you. What I disagree with is the idea that we are powerless to avoid sinning. I see two sources of power to live a holy life- primarily the power of the HS in us, and MY power to choose to obey or quench the Holy Spirit.

I don't think we can simply lay back and float down the lazy river of grace. Sometimes we have to paddle a bit to avoid rocks and waterfalls.

Re: , on: 2016/5/18 8:01

Amen TrueWitness

The issue is, do we really believe that we have been delivered from the power of sin, by the Blood of Christ, and stand on that, refusing to have doubts over our ability to stand against all sin today, not gaining victory over one by one of gradual sanctification.

It is by faith in what Christ gained for us on the Cross and it requires us to do something and that is to have faith in it and refuse the lies of Satan who says that God still has to deal with certain issues.

Wrong! They have all been dealt with. Any remaining sin shows we do not stand in Romans 6 and say we have died to sin.

Re: , on: 2016/5/18 8:08

The OP is asking "why do we sin". Why? Then this statement was made:

"Satan projects HIS evil lust on us and entices us to believe it is OUR own evil and strong desire. When we believe the lie, then we take it and it takes us. Thus birthing sin."

Perhaps it was not Tuc's intention but it sure sounds like Tuc is saying that we no longer have a "flesh" as reborn saints and that the evil and strong desires are Satan's evil and strong desires projected onto us.

I don't agree with that not according to my understanding of the bible.

We see in Romans 7 where the Apostle Paul explains that there are two "natures" at work within him and us if we are truly born again.

1) The "nature" of our flesh. This is the natural and instinctive nature inherent in our flesh. It craves and desires evil things

s, whether or not we have the Holy Spirit. And this is a huge problem if we do not renew our mind on a continual basis. If someone strikes me I indistinctly WANT to strike them back. That evil desire is present in my flesh and an unrenewed mind agrees with the desire and this eventually gives birth to sin. When I am tired and frustrated and someone says something that grates on me, my flesh rises up in response to put them in their place. Just last night this exact thing happened, I responded from my flesh towards my wife and immediately had to repent to her for my words. These were not satan's evil desires projected onto me. There was no demon lurking in the bedroom, it was purely and simply me...and I took full responsibility for it and apologized. She forgave me and thus, "when we walk in the Light as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin".

2) But I also have the new nature, the nature of the indwelling Christ. The very Holy Spirit is now in me. As I continually live yielded to Him I make the choice to live by faith in allowing Him to respond to all of life's situations rather than going along with the instinctive reactions of my flesh. For me it helps if I describe living by faith as dependency.

Living by faith in Christ to respond/react on a moment by moment basis is called walking in the Spirit. This life is not passive though, I must choose to follow the narrow path of surrender, which is the inner discipline of taking up my cross and mortifying/crucifying my flesh.

This is an inner thing. It is saying "no" to the flesh. It is taking every thought captive and bringing them like a prisoner to the Lord Jesus and allowing Him to shut them away in a prison where they will not be allowed to give birth to sinful actions.

So we see that the inner life is a life of faith - OF COMPLETE DEPENDENCY on Christ. It is just as Paul said, "I find the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Paul had found the secret of the Christian life...FAITH IN CHRIST. It is not in trying harder to overcome the flesh as so many of you concur. But to say we no longer have a flesh with its evil desires is to not understand the Word of God properly.

Re: - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2016/5/18 8:14

TUC,

Please re-read my posts and see if I ever indicated deception is not involved. Of course temptation involves deception, but it is OUR OWN lusts that Satan exploits.

Mak

Re: Todd, on: 2016/5/18 8:47

Todd I believe the truth of God's work and our responsibility is best summed up in Philippians 2:13-14 which says,

... So then, my beloved, just as you have obeyed not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure...

Jesus did tell us in John 15:5 that apart from Me you can do nothing. But then in Philippians 4:13 Paul says I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

My understanding is that it is God who is working in us and then through Him we are working out His salvation. Rather perhaps I should say we are walking out His salvation by faith.

As usual my thoughts.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/5/18 9:12

RE: ///but it is OUR OWN lusts that Satan exploits.///

Did Jesus have His own Lusts by which He was tempted ?

edit add : "The James verse does not so much tell us how temptation is born, but how it obtains its purpose (sin),..."

Re: Alan, on: 2016/5/18 9:13

Desires have no will of their own. They are built into all men in greater or lesser degree. DESIRES are NEVER wrong IN THEMSELVES. They are neither IMMORAL (bad, wrong) or MORAL (good, right) but AMORAL (having no morality or deliberate rule of right and wrong in themselves). Desires are God-given; used rightly, to ENJOY life; used wrongly, to DESTROY ourselves. The tug of desire is not sin in itself; but a natural feeling produced by stimulation and without direct control by the person.

Question: Can a desire ever produce good or righteousness?

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2016/5/18 9:41

We have a fantastic opportunity here to dig into the Scripture and see what it says.

2 Corinthians 5:12-21

12 For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

What is great is that I am righteous. I am righteous because of what Jesus has done for me.

Look at Titus 3

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. 3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

I understand what TUC is saying. I have had the opportunity to discuss this with him. Here is saying nothing short of

what we find in John 15

â€œI am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 â€œI am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will **ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.** 8 **By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.**

Apart from Jesus Christ, we can do nothing. All our fruit is a result of being rooted in the vine.

Look at this promise regarding temptation:

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

God has promised a way of escape from EVERY temptation.

If we trust Him and follow after Him (walking in the Spirit), then we aren't going to sin. When we do sin, it is ALWAYS because we are not trusting for God to fulfill THIS promise and numerous others.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2016/5/18 9:42

Quote:

Bear I agree with you. What I disagree with is the idea that we are powerless to avoid sinning. I see two sources of power to live a holy life- primarily the power of the HS in us, and MY power to choose to obey or quench the Holy Spirit.

I agree completely with you. Lets keep Christianity practical. This is exactly my experience as well. We still have our own will we cannot deny it at all.

As a person who has received the baptism of Holy Spirit, I can testify that we receive power to obey Holy Spirit as well. Still it is possible to sin.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2016/5/18 10:13

Quote:

RE: ///but it is OUR OWN lusts that Satan exploits.///

Did Jesus have His own Lusts by which He was tempted ?

edit add : "The James verse does not so much tell us how temptation is born, but how it obtains its purpose (sin),..."

Bible only says that in Hebrews 4:15:-

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all these things

ings as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

I just noticed that the phrase 'As WE Are' is not originally in the Bible. May be someone who has researched this in original script can shed light on it.

The scripture says Jesus was tempted as us, not that we are tempted like Jesus. Jesus came to earth in the likeness of our flesh(not in exact flesh like us). To understand whether Jesus had a flesh like us or not, we do not have enough evidence. When the scripture is silent, it means we need to believe in faith.

I believe that when the scripture says I have a sinful flesh in me that tempts me, James 1 and Romans 7 and Galatians 5. I also experience this flesh working in me always setting its desires against the Will of God, his Holy Spirit.

I believe that JEsus was sinless and prefect sacrifice.

I also believe that Jesus came in the likeness of me.

I also believe that Jesus was tempted like me in all things, else he cannot sympathize with me.

All these things are sound scripture. We do not need to look too deep into the flesh of Jesus to have faith in all these. Faith is to believe even without seeing.

I have tried it in the past to understand the Flesh of Jesus but it was not fruitful. I finally conquered to what the scripture says. We will get all the light we need on how Jesus's flesh was when we see him face to face, if we remain faithful till the end. Till then it is not at all wise to discuss on the unknown details.

No matter what answer I give you will not be convinced.

Learn to just accept and believe scripture. When it says each one is tempted by his own lusts, then it means we have lust.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/5/18 10:53

RE: ///Learn to just accept and believe scripture. When it says each one is tempted by his own lusts, then it means we have lust. ///

If the Lord gives you a burden to do something (His desire) It would not be a contradiction to say that you have a desire or a burden to do that something.

Yes in one since it can be said to be your own desire but that is not to say that the desire originated from yourself.

add: Likewise to say that we have Lust does not negate that those Lust originated from the enemy, they become ours when we have excepted them as ours

Do you see how, the James verse does not negate Tucs logic ? Lets be careful with proof text

edit: clarity

Re: - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2016/5/18 10:55

Why do some wrestle with such simple truths as "our own desires?"

These bodies have not been redeemed and thus we have desires that "war in our members".

Christ in Paul led Paul to instruct those believers he wrote to - "to mortify your members upon the earth." Paul's words called for the believers to act NOT apart from Christ in them but through His Christ within them. The call for believers to act is a call to CO-OPERATE. This is very similar to Israel being told to enter and possess the Promise Land. God would go before them just as Christ has gone before us and rendered the body of sin powerless. Nevertheless, the Israelites were to put the Giants to death as God handed them over into their hands.

Christ in Paul also said that we had "practices" that our "bodies" learned when we were in the flesh. Yes, the spirit at work in the sons of disobedience caused us to develop these "practices of the body", but now Christ in Paul instructed the Romans to "put these practices of the body to death BY THE SPIRIT." Again! We CO-OPERATE with the Spirit.

Christ in ALL of the New Testament writers called the believers to ACT using Aorist Middle Imperatives. All the commands (imperatives) regarding putting off the old man and putting on the new man are expressed in the MIDDLE VOICE, a grammatical means that emphasizes the subject's role in the action of the main verb.

Christ in Paul, Christ in Peter, Christ in James and in John, never hesitated to call for believer to act and work. We know this is never APART from Him, but always through and in Him. Nevertheless, our response is not only to be active, it is to be diligent.

Those who wrestle with Christ Jesus calling His disciples to become active, awake, repent, to pray and endure puzzle me.

Something is wrong when even the simplest expression such as "our own desire" that war within our members causes such a stir.

Mak

Re: The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating - posted by yuehan, on: 2016/5/18 11:01

Well, similar topics have been debated with some frequency on this forum.

When it comes to doctrinal views, I believe that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating". Right believing leads to right outcomes, and vice versa.

1. Is Christ and His resurrection life real to you?
2. Are you experiencing freedom from sin and lust daily?
3. Do you have testimonies which substantiate your doctrinal views (so that they aren't just fanciful theories)?

These questions we have to answer individually. There is no shame in being honest with God, because "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6).

Some years ago, when I finally admitted that my "Christian" life was not working... that was the beginning of my journey to truth and freedom in Christ. Life has been different since, very much happier.

THIS IS NOT a passive life, on: 2016/5/18 11:19

THIS IS NOT a passive life, but a life of far more vibrant activity than the former one of self-effort. Galatians 2:20 gives us our key. We start by moving by faith into the marvel of the "replaced life," where the "I", who was formerly expressing the Spirit of error, is crucified with Christ, the expressor of the Spirit of truth. "Nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." But then we move on by the Spirit into the restored, liberated "I"-which is really, of course, He in me as me-as Paul says, "the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God." Here we are back again in full self-acting self, yet inwardly fixed and knowing it is not really we, but He! The eternal paradox! Or put it, if you like, by combining Paul's word in Philippians 2:13 with his previous statement of 2:12!

In this new inner union relationship, all those "commands" and "exhortations" are spontaneously fulfilled by us, for it is the Spirit who "causes" us to walk in His ways. (Ezek. 36:27). Just as once you went through the chore of learning to drive you now spontaneously keep all the laws of the road!

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2016/5/18 11:21

Quote:

add: Likewise to say that we have Lust does not negate that those Lust originated from the enemy, they become ours when we have excepted them as ours

Do you see how, the James verse does not negate Tucs logic ? Lets be careful with proof text

Wow, saying that the lust originated from enemy is an added word. You are adding something to what James has said. None of us have authority to add or remove anything from scripture.

Anyone can add to anything to any scripture and then say that there is nothing to negate in the scripture to prove that the addition is wrong.

If you understand the spirit behind the scripture you will never even try to argue against it. The spirit is simple, God does not tempt anyone, it is their own lust that tempts them. You do not call something that is put inside your house as your own property. If Satan has put the lust inside us then it is not our OWN, period.

Frankly to any Christian to believe that Satan has authority over them to put any lust inside them should scare them more than to say they already have lust inside them. Imagine if your enemy has access to open your house and put any harmful thing inside your house like an explosive, then it should scare you to hell. Rather than to believe that you have an explosive in your house but you have full power to control it. Our lusts are like that, though it is present inside us, the Holy Spirit can empower us to over power the lusts. But for this the new man should be strengthened. Else the lust can explode any day. That is why it is said that he who thinks he stand should take heed else he may fall anytime.

Do you think God will make us born again and give all authority to Satan to put anything inside us?

Even to Jesus Satan could only tempt him from outside. He had no authority to do anything inside him. That is why Jesus said clearly in John 13 - "Price of this world is coming but he has nothing in me".

If Satan has no control inside Jesus, then how can we believe that he has control to put lusts inside us? Can we also boldly resist him saying he has no hold inside me? I can but you cannot because you believe that Satan has access into you. Think hard in what you believe. Do not believe anything just plainly.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/5/18 11:57

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Why does Paul say this?

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2016/5/18 12:27

Brothers and Sisters,

TUC is simply saying that the activities we DO as Christians are a result of resting in Christ. Did you read the entire post ? If I am seeking Jesus and putting my hope and trust in Him, whether temptation comes or not, then I am going to be doing the things that He leads me to do.

If temptation comes and I take my eyes off of Jesus, then of course I am going to sin. But if temptation comes and I look to Him and trust Him to do what He has already promised, then of course He is faithful! He will do what He promised.

I am not perfect. I am not sinless. But I can tell you this much, experientially, whenever I turn to Christ and cast myself upon Him, the enemy flees. When I don't, I fall.

Jesus Christ has already given us everything we need for life and godliness according to 2 Peter. I lack nothing.

Re: , on: 2016/5/18 12:42

I agree with Havok. As I stated in an earlier post I see nothing wrong in the OP that raises a red flag. If anything it is an exhortation and encouragement to walk in Holiness as unto Christ.

I believe everybody in the thread is in agreement that we are to be holy. We are to live a godly life. But the question is how do we do this? Has God given us the resources by which we can live a life of victory over sin? I think our brother TUC is simply pointing us to the One that gives us the victory. And that person is Jesus Christ. Will anybody dispute this?

The first half of chapter 1 of 2nd Peter tells us that God's divine power has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Jesus Christ. God has given us the resources by which we may live a godly and holy life as unto Him.

John writes that the one who has his hope fixed on Jesus purifies Himself just as He is pure. The exhortation is to run the race with our eyes fixed on Jesus. None other than Jesus Himself.

If we look to our own self effort and self-discipline then we take her eyes off Jesus. If we take her eyes off Jesus then we will stumble in our sin.

Simply my thoughts.

Re: brother Blaine, on: 2016/5/18 13:31

"...purifies Himself just as He is pure".

Did you mean to capitalize the Himself here brother Blaine? I have always understood this scripture to mean that WE purify OURselves (judge ourselves) and choose to no longer to walk after the flesh but the Spirit.

Re: THIS IS NOT a passive life - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2016/5/18 15:36

"Spontaneously filled by us". - thank you TUC

This is what I understood you to be setting forth and this will allow me to open my heart about what I currently see as contradictions to this idea.

Perhaps you will have already dealt with and resolved these "apparent" contradictions in a way that will help me understand and accept much of the other wonderful aspects of what you share.

Please know that I present these questions as "apparent" contradictions because that is honestly how I wrestle with them in regards to the idea that all those in Christ will spontaneously fulfill all God's will.

Please consider these "apparent" contradictions and respond whenever you have time: thank you for your participation in these discussions.

Were the believers at Corinth spontaneously carnal and infantile?

Were the believers in Laodicea spontaneously lukewarm?

Were the believers in Hebrews 5 spontaneously in need of milk and much delayed in their spiritual development?

Did Hymanaeus and Alexander spontaneously shipwreck their faith?

I could go on and on, but these examples serve the purpose to explain why I do not fully grasp what you seem to be saying about spontaneous life in Christ.

I trust you have worked through this in some way and it may help me to see how you have resolved these "apparent" contradictions to spontaneous life in Christ ensuring that God's will is going to be done spontaneously.

A point of clarity may be helpful here. I believe we agree that a healthy state of abiding in Christ will produce the spontaneous life He generates. My question is related to is that very state of healthy abiding a spontaneously generated state from new birth on, or are there steps and stages that must take place before that healthy state of abiding is well rooted and established?

If we agree on Christ's spontaneous life generation His righteousness once we are abiding, can that state of abiding be hindered or does it become reality spontaneously also?

Mak

Re:Mark , on: 2016/5/18 16:27

Brother did not mean to capitalize "himself as referring to us. My mistake.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/5/18 20:39

RE: ///If Satan has no control inside Jesus, then how can we believe that he has control to put lusts inside us? Can we all so boldly resist him saying he has no hold inside me? I can but you cannot because you believe that Satan has access into you. Think hard in what you believe. Do not believe anything just plainly.///

That was my understanding of the purpose of Tucs writings.

To encourage us to put on the shield of faith,wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

I find many of tucs writings an encouragement to me.

All of the Preachers that I am aware of on SI are in agreement with me that the devil is able to inject thoughts or feelings into us. Charles Spurgeon ,David Wilkerson ,Jim Cymbala Zac Poonen etc. They are honest with there own struggles and past struggles and because they are there writings and sermons are a great blessing and encouragement to me.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2016/5/19 6:56

Let's look at the scriptures regarding this, brothers and sisters, so that we are not of our own opinion on the matter:

1 Chronicles 21:1-3 - Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel. So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know it." And Joab answered, "May the Lord make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?"

2 Samuel 24:1-3 - Again the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah." So the king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him, "Now go throughout all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and count the people, that I may know the number of the people." And Joab said to the king, "Now may the Lord your God add to the people a hundred times more than there are, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?"

Note: This has an interesting dynamic. The Lord was angry with Israel and He caused David to number the people in 2 Samuel 24, but 1 Chronicles 21 makes it clear that the agent used to incite David in this manner was Satan. Of course, God does not tempt anyone, because David already had this weakness within.

Job 2:1-10 - Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8 And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Acts 5:1-4 - But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

Re: , on: 2016/5/19 8:09

Seems the Lord was giving Satan (as His agent) permission to attack David with this temptation.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2016/5/19 9:15

Yes, very similarly to Job.

But either way, Satan was the one "pushing buttons" in David, in Job's Wife, in Ananias.

I definitely don't think that satan MADE these people sin. Also, God holds them responsible for their actions. From what I conclude based on these verses and the rest of the testimony of Scripture is that satan can indeed inject thoughts about things into people. But if that fiery dart does not hit its target, then the believer comes away unscathed. If it hits its target, then the believer falls.

That's why we have the shield of faith, to quench ALL the fiery darts of the wicked one.

From personal experience, I have been tempted, albeit briefly, to do things that are not within areas in which I struggle. Satan fires a dart, I am looking to Jesus, it does not hit its target. I don't fall.

A good example of the counter in my own life is this: I grew up in Deep East Texas. Most men here dip or chew. I didn't. I thought it was gross. However, when I was 23 (which was not that long ago), I had friends constantly telling me that I was grumpy all the time and that I was not pleasant to be around because of how aggressive my attitude was. I also n

noticed that the moods of my friends who dipped improved greatly when they dipped. Satan lobbed a dart, and because the desire was already within me to not be unpleasant, it hit its target and I took up dipping.

Then came all kinds of discipline from the Lord. It was miserable. By His grace, I overcame that (after several years).

So why did I sin? 1) My eyes were off of Jesus. 2) Satan fired a dart and filled my heart with evil ideas. 3) My own evil desires presented an easy target for the enemy.

Had my eyes been fixed upon Jesus and had I been walking in the Spirit, it would not have happened that way.