

SIN'S EFFECT ON BELIEVERS
PSALM 51:1-15; 32:3-4; 2 SAMUEL 12:1-6

Introduction

SALVATION is ETERNAL—Once a person is **TRULY BORN AGAIN** they can **NEVER BE LOST AGAIN! AMEN!** All praise be to the name of **JESUS!** The **LORD KEEPS** those that **HE SAVES!** That is **HIS PROMISE** to us and we have **HIS WORD** on it!

We never have to worry about our **ETERNAL SECURITY**, because the **LORD** has made it clear enough for a child to understand.

John 10:27-28—"27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

Philippians 1:6—"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

However, because we choose to the **BELIEVE THE BIBLE** in that regard, some people think that we are claiming for ourselves a **license to SIN**. But the **GRACE OF GOD is not a license** for us to live any way we please. Just because a **CHILD OF GOD can't lose his or her salvation by sinning**, that doesn't mean that they have nothing to lose.

If a **CHILD OF GOD** sins, there are always **CONSEQUENCES** for **SIN!** A **CHILD OF GOD MAY SIN**, but **NO CHILD OF GOD CAN SIN WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES** and **NO CHILD OF GOD gets to CHOOSE** what the **CONSEQUENCES WILL BE!**

Our preconceived notions about this subject are really irrelevant! What counts is **WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS AND SHOWS!** So, let's set aside what we might think and allow the **SCRIPTURE** do the talking!

After all, the **WORD OF GOD** is our **FINAL AUTHORITY**, so then let's go to the **WORD** and consider **SIN'S EFFECT ON BELIEVERS!** (*Read Scripture*)

SIN'S EFFECT ON BELIEVERS
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I. SIN HAS AN EFFECT ON A CHILD OF GOD'S SPIRITUAL LIFE! (*Vs 1-2*) (*i.e. Our FELLOWSHIP with GOD!*)
Why did **David** need to be **washed and cleansed at this point in his life?** **David had sinned greatly before both GOD and man—ADULTERY** with **BATHSHEBA** and **MURDER** of **URIAH!**

David's SIN created a barrier between him and **GOD... HIS FELLOWSHIP with GOD was broken BY SIN!**

David's SIN had SOILED HIS SOUL and SPIRIT! He was **SOILED BEFORE BOTH GOD AND MAN** and he was at that point feeling his **UNCLEANNES**s deep within him! He **KNEW** he was **DIRTY** and **UNCLEAN**. We call that **GUILT!**

David, who was a man after GOD'S own heart! *1 Samuel 13:14*

David, who was a humble shepherd boy when anointed by the LORD to be ISRAEL'S king! *1 Samuel 16:13—"The Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward."*

David, who had defeated the mighty Philistine, Goliath, with the LORD guiding a stone from his sling! *1 Samuel 17*

David, who had shown himself to be a better man and king than Saul and refused to slay Saul though he had multiple opportunities to do so! *1 Samuel 24 and 26*

David, whom the LORD had said these words:
2 Samuel 7:16—"And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before the: thy throne shall be established for ever."

David, who subdued Israel's enemies in 2 Samuel 8 where twice we find this statement:
"And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went."

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David, who showed great kindness to Mephibosheth after Saul's death! 2 Samuel 9

Just because one has been right with the LORD in the past and done great things with the LORD's help, doesn't mean that they can SIN without it having an EFFECT in their life!

There is a distinct difference between **hogs** and **sheep**!
A **sheep** may fall into a **mud puddle** but it will get out ASAP because it is not in a sheep's nature to wallow in mud!
Hogs will seek out mud and wallow in the mud and love it and because it is in their nature to wallow in mud!

So also, there is a difference between a **CHILD OF GOD** and a **CHILD OF THE DEVIL**!

1. A **CHILD OF GOD** may lapse into **SIN**, but he will loathe it because he has been made a **new creature in CHRIST**!
(The **GUILT** of his **SIN** makes him uncomfortable!)
2. A **CHILD OF THE DEVIL** seeks to **SIN**, leaps into **SIN** and loves **SIN** because he is controlled by **SIN**!

SIN HAS AN EFFECT ON A CHILD OF GOD'S SPIRITUAL LIFE!

II. SIN HAS AN EFFECT ON A CHILD OF GOD'S MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL LIFE! (Vs 3-4)

When a **CHILD OF GOD** knows that they've **SINNED AGAINST GOD**, it **FILLS** their **MIND** and **STINGS** their **CONSCIENCE**!

A **CHILD OF GOD** cannot **KNOWINGLY SIN** and then just **FORGET ABOUT IT**! Our **MINDS** become **SATURATED** by the **SIN** we've committed! We're **NOT ABLE TO PUT IT ASIDE** until we **DEAL WITH IT**, because both our **MIND** and our **CONSCIENCE** have **BECOME DEFILED**!

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When we were **UNSAVED** we could and did **SIN**. Often we might have even **SINNED** without ever even giving it much thought. That was our **NATURE before** we were saved, but not after!

David had sinned and said, "*My sin is ever before me.*" He couldn't get away from having **SINNED**!

UNRESOLVED SIN in a **BELIEVER'S life** can cause them to begin to have **MENTAL and/or EMOTIONAL** problems where the only kind of **PEACE** they can experience is a temporary escape **with DRUGS or ALCOHOL**! In the end that just makes it worse!

When **GOD SAVED US HE** didn't make it so we could never **SIN** but, **HE** did make it so we could never **KNOWINGLY SIN** and fully enjoy it! I have witnessed that **CHILDREN OF GOD** who are living with **UNCONFESSSED SIN** in their lives are some of the most miserable people on earth!

We see **David's CONSCIENCE** was stricken by his **SIN**. Now we know that **his sin was not just against himself, his kingdom, his family, Bathsheba, and Uriah**. All of that was bad enough, but **his sin was primarily against GOD**! When we **SIN** against anyone we also sin against **GOD**!

David wasn't just focusing on the **CHASTISEMENT FROM GOD** here. He realized that he had **hurt GOD**! When we **SIN** as **CHILDREN OF GOD**, we not only **BREAK GOD'S LAW**, but we also **BREAK GOD'S HEART**!

David realized that his SIN was in full view of the sight of **GOD**! When we come to terms with the fact that **GOD sees all that we do**, it should have an effect on us!

Hebrews 4:13—“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

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David had committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed, but his CONSCIENCE bothered him because he realized that this took place in GOD'S FULL VIEW!

We only fool ourselves if we think our **SINS** are hidden and unknown to **GOD!**

SIN HAS AN EFFECT ON A CHILD OF GOD'S SPIRITUAL LIFE ...MENTALLY AND EMOTIONAL LIFE! (Mind & Conscience)

III. SIN HAS AN EFFECT ON THE CHILD OF GOD'S HEART!
(Vs 8, 12)

After he sinned, David was an unhappy man. He couldn't lose his salvation but, he could and did lose the JOY of his salvation!

There are many **BELIEVERS** today who **have no JOY** in their lives because **they have hearts that have been saddened and depressed by SIN in their lives.**

There is a story told of a Christian who was placed in prison and the king wanted to punish him, so he called for advice.

Someone suggested that the king confiscate his goods, but the man had so few material possessions and all he ever spoke about was his riches in Christ and they realized they couldn't get ahold of them. Someone else suggested solitary confinement. But another said, "No, he claims he has a friend that sticketh closer than a brother who will go with him even in the dungeons."

Another said, well you could behead him! But someone else said, "No, he says for him to live is Christ and to die is gain - he says he would go straight to heaven."

"So, how can we make him suffer?, the King asked. Then one proclaimed, get him to sin then he will suffer greatly!

Oh how we need to see that **sin will take the JOY out of our life!**

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IV. SIN HAS AN EFFECT ON THE CHILD OF GOD'S PHYSICAL LIFE! (Vs 8; Psalms 32:3-4)

The **SPIRITUAL** and **MENTAL ANGUISH** of **David's SIN** began to take a **PHYSICAL TOLL ON HIS BODY. GOD'S CHASTENING HAND** was so heavy upon **David** that he felt crushed.

Doctors tell us that **psychological problems**, if not properly dealt with, **will carry over to the physical realm and begin to cause real physical problems.** They call it **psychosomatic illness.**

And, no doubt, there are many, **BELIEVERS** and **UNBELIEVERS** alike who have **SUFFERED PHYSICALLY** because of **SIN.**

With reference to **LORD'S TABLE**, in *1 Corinthians 11:30*, Paul said, *"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."* Referring to those who took of the **LORD'S TABLE** in an *unworthy manner.*

SIN not immediately dealt with can cause one to begin to **SUFFER PHYSICALLY. Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine but a broken spirit drieth the bones"**

That's **NOT** to say that all **PHYSICAL SUFFERING** is a result of personal **SIN**, because it is not! (*e.g. Job*)

But we do need to realize that **UNCONFESSED SIN can and often does result in PHYSICAL SUFFERING.**

SIN HAS AN EFFECT ON THE CHILD OF GOD'S SPIRITUAL LIFE, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL LIFE, HEART, AND THEIR PHYSICAL LIFE...

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V. SIN HAS AN EFFECT ON THE CHILD OF GOD'S SPIRIT!
(Vs 10)

When a person is **NOT RIGHT with GOD** they will often exhibit a **WRONG SPIRIT**. Walking in power of their **HUMAN SPIRIT** associated with the **WORKS OF THE FLESH** rather than in the **POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** manifesting the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!** *(Galatians 5)*

When one is **NOT RIGHT with the LORD**, they often wind up with a **HARSH, CRITICAL, FAULT FINDING SPIRIT!**

Have you ever had a sour stomach? There is no dish on the table that looks good when you have a sour stomach!

A person who is **NOT RIGHT with GOD** and harbor's **SIN** in their lives will often be one of the most **CRITICAL** individuals around! (e.g. David in *2 Samuel 12:1-6*)

We see that **David was quick to criticize SIN** in the lives of others. **He was quick to JUDGE**. But, this was from the **SIN problem that he was harboring in his own heart!**

SIN sours one's spirit!

VI. SIN HAS AN EFFECT ON THE CHILD OF GOD'S LIPS!
(Vs. 12-15)

David lost his SONG! David lost his TESTIMONY/WITNESS!

SIN will seal the lips of anything good! **It will dry up one's PRAISE!** Could that be why so many who claim to know the **LORD** will not **WITNESS** or even **TESTIFY FOR GOD?**

Conclusion

Has **GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT** caused you to find yourself anywhere in these verses?

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Sin has an effect on the CHILD OF GOD in all these ways that we've spoken of and even more. But there is hope...if you have a right response! People react to **SIN** in different ways:

1. **Some try to RUN or HIDE from GOD!** (Adam and Eve/Jonah)
Psalms 139:7—“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?”
2. **Some try to COVER their SIN!** (Adam and Eve/David)
Proverbs 28:13—“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper:”
3. **Some try to DENY their SIN!** (King Saul before Samuel)
Proverbs 29:11—“He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”
4. **But the only remedy is CONFESSION and REPENTANCE!**
Proverbs 28:13—“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

1 John 1:9—“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

This comes from being broken and contrite over sin! *(Vs 16-17)*

If you harbor sin in your life, I can assure you that it is going to affect you if you don't take care of it—The longer you hang on to sin, the more it affects! **Sin** will affect you **spiritually, and mentally/emotionally**, it will affect **your heart, your physical body, your spirit, and your lips.**

If the **HOLY SPIRIT** has pointed to something in your life, why not come clean with the **LORD** so you can have the **JOY RESTORED!**

Perhaps you have never placed your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary. You can trust Him today! Right now, you can come to Christ by faith. *Acts 16:31*—“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...”