

Be Ye Perfect!

If you and I do the following will we be in God's Kingdom?

1. If we never sin *willfully*—that's deliberately, spitefully.
2. If, when we sin, we *repent* before God on our knees, telling Him that we're sorry and that we want the shed blood of Christ to cover our sins.
3. If we *endure* until the end—in other words—we *never* give up trying to overcome.

If we do these three things will we qualify to be in God's Kingdom? Will God apply His *free gift* of eternal life to us? Will we be guaranteed membership in God's Family?

Once again, #1-if we don't sin willfully; #2-if, when we sin, we ask God for forgiveness and tell Him we're sorry; #3-if we endure until the end, never giving up in trying to overcome. So how about it? Will we enter God's Kingdom as long as we do these 3 things?

Are you ready for the answer? Do you know the answer? Well, let me state very emphatically that the answer is NO, NO, NO! There is more to it than just these three things. Do you know what is missing in this formula? What else must we do in order for God to freely apply the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to our sins so that we do not come under the death penalty, but instead are granted eternal life? What else must we do in order to become a member of God's Family?

The one thing that is missing in this formula is OVERCOME—we must overcome sin! We must stop sinning! We are told over and over again in the book of Revelation that we must overcome. Let's go to

one such Scripture: **Rev. 3:12**—“He who *overcomes*, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God...”

Please note that this Scripture does NOT say, “He who *tries* to overcome...” And if you check all the other Scriptures in the Bible that deal with this very subject you will notice that they ALL say the same thing—“He who overcomes,” NOT “He who *tries* to overcome”!

We must overcome if we want God to apply the shed blood of Jesus Christ to our sins. In other words—if we want to receive God’s free gift of eternal life we must stop sinning—plain and simple!

So how can we accomplish this task? How can we make sure that we overcome? How can we stop sinning?

FIRST, we must have FAITH! We must first believe that it is possible to overcome! We must first believe that we can indeed stop sinning! If you don’t believe it is possible to stop sinning then *it will be impossible* to stop sinning. But if you believe that you can overcome then you are well on your way to accomplishing this task!

Please notice this Scripture: **Matthew 21:21-22**. In verse 22 Christ says, “And all things, whatever you ask in prayer, *believing*, you will receive.” Of course elsewhere in the Bible God tells us that we must also ask according to His will. Well, do you think it is God’s will that we overcome, that we stop sinning? Of course it is! God most certainly wants us to stop sinning. The whole Bible from Genesis through Revelation is replete with admonishments telling us to do exactly that—to stop sinning. But we **FIRST** must BELIEVE that it is possible—that we can indeed overcome sin.

SECOND, as Jesus pointed out in Matthew 21:22, we must go to God in PRAYER, asking Him to give us the help we so desperately need.

We must pray to God fervently, wholeheartedly, zealously! We must cry out to God with all our heart, with all our might, with all our soul. We must beg God to please give us the power and strength to overcome—to please let His Son, Jesus Christ, live in us—totally and completely!

If we pour out our heart to God—telling Him just how much we want to conquer sin; just how badly we want to stop sinning for once and for all, we can do it. But we must really, *really* mean it, and as discussed already you must *believe* that it is possible—with NO doubting whatsoever!

With that in mind let's look at this Scripture: **James 1:6-8**. Here it states:

“But let him ask in faith, with NO DOUBTING, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

So, when we go to God in heart-felt prayer, crying out to Him for the help we need, we must believe—with NO doubting—that it is absolutely, positively possible! We must believe that we can conquer sin for once and for all! But we must first believe that it is possible, and secondly, we must then go to God in heartfelt, fervent prayer, asking Him to help us achieve this goal.

For the **THIRD** thing we must do to overcome sin let's turn to **1 Thessalonians 5:17**—Here we are told to “Pray without ceasing!”

Besides praying on our knees everyday to our Father in Heaven we must also pray to Him all day long, constantly, continually. We must be **instant** in prayer (as we are told in **Rom. 12:12** (KJV) (or as the RSV states it—“We must be **constant** in prayer.”).

This does NOT mean that we should be praying 24 hours a day — every second of the day. But it *does mean* that we should be praying to God all day long — instantly — constantly — throughout the day. During just about every spare moment that we have!

This is what God means when He tells us we are to *walk* with Him. We are to continually communicate with Him all day long as we go about our daily chores. Thanking Him for all of His great blessings. Thanking Him for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Thanking Him for the incredible opportunity to be part of His Family. Asking Him to spend the day with us. Asking Him to lead us and guide us and direct us. Asking Him to fill us up with His Holy Spirit. Asking Him to allow His Son Jesus Christ to live in us — totally and completely — so that we can live a sinless life, a giving life, a loving life. Asking Him to help and bless others. Asking Him to help us be a blessing to others. Etc. Etc. Etc.

For the **FOURTH** and final thing we must do to conquer sin let's turn to **2 Corinthians 10:5** — Here we are told that we are to “BRING EVERY THOUGHT INTO THE CAPTIVITY TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST!”

If we are continually walking with God, if we are being instant in prayer with Him, if we are constantly talking to Him throughout the day, if we are allowing Christ to live His life completely in us as the apostle Paul speaks about in *Galatians 2:20* — “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...” — then the second a wrong thought begins to take place in our mind — we can put it out of our mind immediately — before we ever harbor the thought — before it ever turns to sin.

So, if we practice these four things in our life: If we first BELIEVE that it is possible to cease from sinning. Then second, we sincerely and wholeheartedly cry out to God in PRAYER, asking Him for the help we need to overcome sin. Then third, we walk with God throughout the day—being INSTANT IN PRAYER. And then fourth, we BRING EVERY THOUGHT INTO THE CAPTIVITY OF CHRIST by allowing Christ to live completely and totally in us—by immediately rejecting wrong thoughts, then we can—absolutely, positively, no doubt about it—overcome sin! We can cease from sinning! We really can—but we first must BELIEVE that it is possible!

STILL DOUBTFUL? If you still have doubts, then please consider the following: Did Jesus Christ sin when He was here on earth almost 2,000 years ago? I'm sure you realize the answer is a resounding NO—Christ did NOT sin—not even one single time! And I'm also sure that you realize that Jesus was a flesh and blood human being just like us—that He was *tempted* in all points just as we are—as is mentioned in Hebrews 4:15. O'K then. If Christ did NOT sin as a human being and we allow Him to live in us today—will He sin in us today? No, no, no, a thousand times no! Did Christ live a sinless life? Yes! So, is it possible for us to live a sinless life? Yes! Yes! Yes! As long as we allow Christ to live in us today it is definitely possible!

But we must **First** BELIEVE that it is possible—without doubting! **Second**, we must pour out our heart to God in FERVENT HEARTFELT PRAYER—pleading with Him to give us the power and strength that we will need to overcome. **Third**, we must be CONSTANT IN PRAYER—talking to God all day long. And **Fourth**, the second a wrong thought enters our mind we must remove it immediately—BRINGING EVERY THOUGHT INTO THE CAPTIVITY OF CHRIST.

If you and I can do all four of these things we can be assured of entering God's Kingdom—for we will surely overcome sin in our lives. But let's not just talk about it—let's **DO** it! Let's put sin out of our lives—for good! As Jesus Christ exhorts us in **Matthew 5:48** (KJV)— “Be ye therefore **PERFECT**, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect!”

So, let's make this coming week—a perfect week—spiritually speaking. Let's not sin—not even once! You *can* do it. I *can* do it. And if we will just apply these four principles we **will** do it!