

How (and How Not) to Fight Sin

Fighting sin is spiritual warfare, and warfare requires a battle _____. If left to our own devices, we would have little success against our _____ enemy. Thankfully, God's word supplies wisdom to assist us in eluding the evil one's snares. We'll begin by briefly considering how _____ to engage in the battle, followed by practical tactics to flee sin and follow God.

I. How **not** to fight sin

A. Don't fight sin by _____ it

1. Don't _____ what you are doing isn't sin
 - a. The Scripture is clear about the matter of sin
 - b. If you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit will _____ tell you when sin is present in your life.
2. When conviction comes, don't _____ your sin away.
3. An unwillingness to admit sin _____ you from repenting of it.

B. Don't fight sin by _____ it

1. Giving sin a life _____ (social media, the internet, movies, or books, etc.)
2. Entertaining temptation enables sin to stay alive and _____
3. When we entertain our sin, our flesh grows stronger, and our resistance grows weaker.
4. You can't entertain sin; you must _____ it.

C. Don't fight sin by _____ it

1. Sin wants us to think that if we will indulge in it, it will be satisfied and go _____.
2. The fact is, _____ our sin only strengthens it. **2 Samuel 13:1-17** Amnon and Tamar
3. Do not be deceived: _____ sin what it wants only empowers it to want more.

D. Don't fight sin by _____ it

1. Don't just exchange one sin for another _____
2. Eliminate it and _____ it with a greater affection for Christ

II. How to fight sin and temptation

A. _____ God for deliverance from the temptation **Matt 6:13**- *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*

1. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he told them to pray for protection against _____.
2. Our single greatest weapon against sin and temptation is _____.
3. Prayer is an _____ of total dependence on God.
4. Prayer lifts our eyes _____ from sin and places them on Jesus.
5. Through prayer, we confess our desire to sin and _____ for forgiveness and help to resist.

B. _____ God's Grace

1. There is an old saying: "We are what you eat."
2. This adage proves true not only for our physical health but also for the _____ of our souls.
3. If we fill our spare time consuming nothing but sports, or TV, or social media, or daydreaming about a different lifestyle, our affections for God will become _____ and half-hearted.
4. On the other hand, if you consume _____ from God's Word, we will cultivate heavenly affections.
5. Strong affection for God _____ obedience to God.
6. Jesus promised, *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.* **Matt 5:6**
7. God _____ us to be satisfied in him rather than seek after sin.

- C. Cultivate holy _____
1. Fighting the temptation against sin requires we pursue _____ friendships.
 2. Develop friendships with people who will help build up your _____ in Christ.
 3. Find Christian friends with whom you can be _____ about where you are in your relationship with Christ. **Heb 3:12-13**
 - a. People who will _____ you in your walk with Christ
 - b. People who will give you godly _____ counsel
 - c. People who will challenge you when you are " _____ " with sin
 - d. These people do not have to be just people your own **age**
 3. The community found within the _____ can and should be a large part of your developing holy companionship **Heb 10:24-25**
- D. Create intentional _____
1. How would you respond if you learned that a lion had escaped from the local zoo and was spotted in your neighborhood? You'd be on high alert. You'd shut gates and lock doors. Why? Because a lion will devour you.
 2. There is a _____ lion on the loose *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* **1 Pet 5:8**
 - a. Believers are to _____ the influence of the devil **Rom 13:13-14**
 - b. Make it as _____ as possible for you to access something that is sin or might lead you to sin.
 3. Be _____ of what is going on in your family and your children, especially in this present age of technology.
 - a. Set up _____ safeguards
 - b. Have your children be _____ for their phones, tablets, computers, etc.
 - c. As adults, make sure your _____ has access to your passwords on your electronic equipment and _____ to check them as they choose.
 - d. Jesus's sobering words: *If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.* **Matt 5:29-30**
 4. Temptation and sin make their way into our hearts and lives _____, be on guard.
- E. _____ Sin's Consequences
1. Sin always _____ its price tag. Sin will cost you _____ than you wanted to pay, take your _____ than you ever wanted to go, and bring lifelong results that you _____ wanted to deal with.
 2. A helpful way to fight sin's deception is to think about its end result _____ you agree to commit the sin.
 3. Think about the damage to testimonies, _____, churches that sin has caused before your commit to the sin that is tempting you.
- F. _____ sinful compromise
1. Fighting sin and temptation requires us to confess sinful compromise.
 - a. Confession to _____
 - b. Confession to _____ we have sinned against
 2. Ask _____ from God and those you have sinned against. **Matt 5:23-24**
 3. Never try _____ your sin...remember Adam and Eve; remember David and Bathsheba

Sin is a wrongdoing against God, and against other people. The Bible gives us the understanding as to what sin is. The 10 commandments give us the guidelines as to what sin looks like. Sin, undealt with will _____ us!