

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Carswell, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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# Is Sin Necessary?

By Derek Long

Sin is a violation of God's law (1 John 3:4). Sin is either doing something God says not to do or failing to do something God tells us to do (James 4:17). The Bible makes it clear sin is a universal problem (Romans 3:10-12, 23). All accountable human beings sin. Since everyone sins, it is tempting to think sin is somehow necessary. People will say things like, "To err is human." Even Christians seem to think sin is inevitable in their lives at times. Does a person have to sin? Is sin a necessary part of the life of a human?

The Bible seems to refer to two extremes we can take regarding this question. One extreme and wrong answer is to claim to be without sin and thus lie and make the word of God false (1 John 1:8, 10). Another extreme and wrong answer is to claim a person must sin or has no ability to not sin for the word of God instructs us not to sin (John 5:14; 8:11). Sin is something we all engage in at points in our life but sin is never something we must engage in at any point in life.

God's word teaches us every temptation can be resisted. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "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” (NKJV). If sin is necessary, one would have to claim there is a temptation where it was impossible for a person to escape from. God provides us a way to resist whatever temptation we are faced with. If resisting temptation is always an option, it means sin is never something we had to do but rather it is something we choose to do. James 4:7 says, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (NKJV). The devil can be resisted according to this passage and he flees when we resist him. Jesus demonstrates how it is possible for us with the resources at our disposal to resist the devil and avoid sin (Luke 4:1-13). If sin is necessary, there would be some time where it would be impossible for us to “resist the devil.” Ephesians 6:10-17 describes the armor of God. The armor of God makes it possible for us, “to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11, NKJV), “to withstand in the evil day” (Ephesians 6:13, NKJV), and “to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one” (Ephesians 6:16, NKJV). God has provided us with the tools necessary to withstand whatever temptation to sin which comes our way.

God’s word teaches us to die to sin. Romans 6:1-2 asks the following questions, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” (NKJV). Dying to sin means a person should not continue on living in it. The Bible teaches us to die to sin (Galatians 5:24; Colossians 3:5). A person does not die to something and continue to live in it. Later, Romans 6:12-13 will say, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do

not present your members as instruments of righteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments or righteousness to God” (NKJV). God expects us to not use our bodies to commit acts of sin but rather to engage in righteousness. If sin is necessary, how can a person die to sin? If a person can die to sin, then sin is not something necessary.

God’s word teaches a child of God does not live a life of sinning. 1 John 2:1 says, “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (NKJV). It is possible for a person not to sin based upon this passage. The passage also indicates there is a way to obtain forgiveness if we sin. 1 John 3:6, 9 point out the person who abides in Christ or has been born of God does not continue on sinning. These verses do not teach a person who is a child of God can never commit a sin at all but does teach children of God do not make it their manner of life to go on sinning.

Let’s not fall into the trap of thinking sin is something we have to do. Whenever temptation comes our way let’s remember we can always find an escape and way to resist it. Let’s remember we have died to sin and thus should not live in it any longer. When we sin, let’s be sure to take advantage of God’s offer of salvation. If one is not a child of God forgiveness can be obtained by hearing the word of God, believing in Jesus, repenting of sin, confessing one’s faith in Christ, and being baptized for the remission of sins (Romans 10:17; Mark 16:16; Acts 17:30; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:38). If one is a child of God forgiveness can be obtained by repentance, confession, and prayer (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).