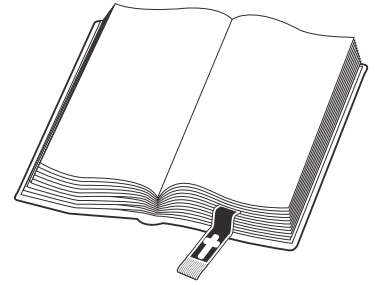


God's Power Over Sin

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You."

Psalm 119:11



Number 5 in the series "The Joy of Obeying God's Word"

As a new believer in 1976, my life was *full* of sin. I could see the truth of Romans 7:18 that told me in *my* flesh dwells *no* good thing. I remember crying out to the Lord to help me get free from sinful habits and sinful thoughts, and God in His faithfulness led me to Psalm 119:11. It revealed to me that I daily needed to read the Bible and to fill my heart and mind with the truths of His Word as the only way to have power over the sin in my life.

I prayed Psalm 51:10 to the Lord, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me."* Again, I saw the Lord's faithfulness. As I daily spent time with Him, reading the Bible and praying, the Holy Spirit started to cleanse my heart and mind. In times of temptation, the Holy Spirit would bring to my mind the scriptures I had filled my heart with, and as I chose to obey, He would give me His power to resist temptation. I also saw that each time I resisted the Holy Spirit and chose to obey the desires of my flesh, I gave in to the sin.

Many times I fell in temptations until the Lord led me to James 4:6-7, which reads, *"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.' Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* I want to repeat what I said earlier. I saw that the times I humbled myself and submitted my will to obey God, the Holy Spirit gave me His power to resist the temptations of the devil. However, the times I was proud and thought that I could handle the temptations in my own strength, God's grace and the Holy Spirit's power were not there, and *I always fell into sin.*

Beloved, are you wondering why you have no victory over sin in your life or why you don't have power to resist the devil? You must first humble yourself, and then submit to God and His Word. Then the Holy Spirit will give you the power to resist the devil, and you will see him flee. James 4:8-10 reads, *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."*

Beloved, I have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit transform my life and marriage as I have obeyed James 4:6-10. For years I thought that all the problems in my marriage were my husband's and that he needed to change. However, as I drew closer to the Lord and daily read the Bible, the Lord was faithful to show me the areas where I was proud, selfish, rebellious, ungrateful, and unsupportive to my husband. God's amazing grace has helped me to humble myself and repent, and then I did three things: (1) I praised Richard for all the good that was in his life; (2) I prayed for the Lord to change both of us (yes, both of us); and (3) I left Richard in the Lord's hands. I praise Jesus. We now have a good marriage of over 35 years. Again, it starts with humbling ourselves and drawing close to the Lord, and He will give us the power to resist the devil.

— *Janice McBride*

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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