

# **Pressing On**

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Not once does the Bible condone sin, nor whitewash its earthly or eternal consequences. Paul asks in Rom. 6:1-2, “*Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*” The smooth and clear answer is, “*God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*” The Bible always pictures sin for what it is, and for what it does to those who participate in it.

Sin is transgression of God’s law (1 John 3:4). It is missing the mark, or going beyond what God authorized (1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9). Sin robs man of innocence and leads to great misery (Prov. 13:15). Sin destroys man’s fellowship with God (1 John 1), erecting a wall of enmity between man and God. “*Behold the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and you God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*” (Isa. 59:1-2). Willful sin, if continued in after learning the truth, make the sacrifice of Jesus Christ nothing, and will condemn your soul at Judgment, “*For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said Vengeance belongs unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again the Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*” Ultimately, sin’s price is death, “*...for the wages of sin is death...*” Rom. 6:23ff).

However, thanks be to God, He has not left us hopelessly lost in our sins! Though the wages of sin is death, the good news is that, “*the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” (Rom. 6:23). Yes, we have all failed the Lord miserably, but He wants us to get up, and learn from our mistakes and go on paying the price of serving Him.

Occasionally, we make terrible choices in life because of ignorance or immaturity, and sometimes because we are just plain rebellious. When we do we buy for ourselves lots of trouble, wishing we had not sinned, will not make the guilt or the consequences go away. Ignoring our sins, or trying to hide them it will only add to our pain and increase our guilt. Don’t compound the problem by denying your sin, or by letting it defeat or destroy you. Rather, deal

with the reality of your sin as you seek God's help for overcoming it, and His strength for living with its earthly consequences. Repenting of our sins, confessing them to God, and others if necessary, and asking for forgiveness is the only way to be freed from sin's eternal stain, by Christ's grace.

Sin's unpleasant consequences must always be dealt with in this earthly vale, but the eternal consequences can be avoided. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9). *"...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* (Phil. 3:13-14). We must press on and seek for the reward that the Lord has prepared for us, but this needs us to be pure and purge the leaven within us. *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."* (1 Pet. 5:6-7). Paul, Peter, and John knew, therefore they wrote. They all failed the Lord miserably at times, but they all kept pressing on. They knew that the race will be won not by the perfect, but by the patient, persevering souls who will not let sin destroy them.

Yes, brethren, when sin knocks you down, don't let it keep you down. Don't wallow in sin's mire! Most people and even preachers don't want sin to be mentioned in their lives. Get up, change up, fess up, pray up, and PRESS ON!

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