



Liberation From Sin

“We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not” (I John 5:18).

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“If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. 17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death. 18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. 19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” (I John 5:16-19).

We are our brother's keeper. This scripture highlights the intercessory responsibility we all have to deliver others to be free from sins.

All sin has the potential to damn the soul if not repented of. We must avoid the tendency of some who categorise sin into small and big, or good and bad, etc. “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10). However, we also need to note the following points:

- 1) A person can take sin for granted and unknowingly crosses the line of no return “He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy” (Proverbs 29:1). There was a time God told Prophet Jeremiah not to pray for the people (Jeremiah 7:16; 11:14; 14:11), further adding that even if Moses or Elijah or any of the mighty prophets were to intercede for them He would not hear - they had crossed the line of God's mercy. We need to be so sensitive to the Spirit of God that we never cross such lines.
- 2) When Moses struck the rock a second time against God's instruction to speak to the rock (Numbers 20:10-24), a divine principle was broken that made God decide that Moses will not cross into The Promised Land. Moses attempted to pray, but God simply told Him that the chapter had been closed. We must not presume on the mercies or grace of God, but retain a reverential fear that keeps us

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humble and away from presumptuous sins, while we work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12).

- 3) Jesus taught that any sin can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit has no forgiveness (Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:10).
- 4) Paul warned believers of the danger of apostasy pointing out that “.... it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:4-6).
- 5) The above and other scriptures remind us of the scriptural admonition - “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (I Corinthians 10:12). The responsibility of the believer is to preach to everyone. We do not know who has crossed God's line of mercy and who has not, only God knows. Therefore, do your bit and leave the rest to God. Prayerfully watch over your souls to ensure that you are not taken over by a Spirit of error. And if you fall into sin, do not just remain in it, but immediately repent and return to a Godly life (I John 2:1-2).

Finally we notice that freedom from sin is made possible through (1) the new birth experience and (2) our personal responsibility to keep ourselves from being touched by the wicked one. The whole world may lie in wickedness, but if we do not have the wicked one in us, we can live righteous lives that satisfies God's standards. It is possible to live like Jesus who said “... the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me” (John 14:30).