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A mature member is aware of their continued imperfection.

WHY? WHY? WHY?

Q. Have you ever asked yourself 'If I'm saved from sin and death, why do I keep sinning?' At this moment, what do you think the reason is?

1 John 1:5-10 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

We have been brought out of darkness and recreated (born again) for the light. But there is a problem. We are not yet fully redeemed.

Upon surrender of our lives to the lordship of Jesus, we became God's sons and daughters ([Ephesians 1:5](#); [Romans 8:15](#)). But just as children sometimes disobey their parents as they grow, God's children sometimes disobey Him.

We rebel, get angry, or doubt for a while; the difference is, we can no longer live lifestyles of sin because our nature has changed ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [1 John 3:4–10](#)). A fish may long to live on the beach, but once it has flipped itself onto the sand, it wants nothing but to return to the water because its nature is not designed for dry land. A fish was created for the water. So it is with us. The nature of those indwelt by the Holy Spirit is to live in righteousness. We may flip ourselves into sin at times, but we can't survive there. The new nature thrives in righteousness and obedience to God. The degree to which we allow the Holy Spirit access to every area of our lives is the degree to which we live as God intended us to live. ([Got Questions.org](#))

Even though we have been saved and brought into God's marvelous light, we still have this "body of flesh" to contend with. We want to live in the light but falter at times. God has already taken care of that as well.

To the praise of God's glory, after we are saved, God deals with our sin differently than He did before we were saved. [First John 1:9](#) tells us that we can confess our sin and be forgiven. Confession means we humbly agree with God about how bad sin is. We admit we were wrong and ask His forgiveness. The awareness of our sin and the confession of it should be a regular practice. The first of Martin Luther's 95 Theses says, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said 'Repent,' he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance." God can pardon us and maintain His justice because our sin was already paid for by Jesus. There is no need to punish us because He has already punished His Son ([Colossians 2:14](#)). ([Got Questions.org](#))


WE CAN WALK IN THE LIGHT

Confess your sin and repent (turn around) and we are forgiven. But, don't have to keep sinning. Jesus empowers us through His Holy Spirit to move away from sin and toward righteousness. We can mature in our faith. If we stumble, though, Jesus is now our advocate at the right hand of God. He is our High Priest.

As we "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" ([2 Peter 3:18](#)), we overcome besetting sins ([Hebrews 12:1](#)). Peter lists steps we can take in developing our new nature and ends with the promise that, if we do these things, we "will never stumble" ([2 Peter 1:3–10](#)). Our holiness is the goal, but John acknowledges that we still sin: "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One" ([1 John 2:1](#)).

God's desire for us is that we not sin, and one day our sanctification will be complete ([1 John 3:2](#)). But, until that time, we still inhabit fallen bodies in a fallen world, and we struggle with the flesh and sometimes lose the battle. But we will not be lost; Jesus Himself intercedes for us as our High Priest ([Romans 8:34](#)). ([Got Questions.org](#))

Jesus is not only your savior, but He is also your High Priest. He is still there in the throne room of God on your behalf.



Q. Take this opportunity to write your confession here. What do you need forgiveness for today? Ask His forgiveness and He will be faithful to forgive.

Q. As you confess, the Holy Spirit is faithful to lead us in repentance, that is, how to turn away from our sin and toward living for Him. What do you need to change?

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION QUESTION

Q. The temptations and sins you are working through may cause you to stumble at times. How might this look in your business and how might you “right the ship” when it does?

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- **KMI Lesson 1.3**
- **Bible Reading**
God's way of strengthening us against sin:
[2 Peter 1:3-10](#)
- **RightNow Media @WorkStudy**
Renew Your Hearts: A Study Through the Book of Joel
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/721058>