

BORN AGAIN!

I hear a lot of Christian's using the term "Born Again."
What they generally mean by the term is; "When I die, I will go to heaven!"
Going to heaven is a true thought, however there is much more to
being "born again" than just "going to heaven."
Being "born again" is "a life in Christ" through the in-filling of the Holy Spirit, which starts now
and then continues into heaven!

So what does it mean to be "Born Again?"

Let's first look at what it does not mean: John 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" *It is not a natural birth as Nicodemus had considered but a spiritual birth.*

Scripture gives a clear explanation of the term "Born Again"! It is a spiritual happening!

John 3:1-2 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

John 3:3-8 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot **see** the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit** he cannot **enter** into the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the **flesh is flesh**, and that which is born of the **Spirit is spirit**. "Do not be amazed that I said to you, "You must be born again.' "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Vs 1 *"Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."*

Nicodemus = Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin and was counted one of the three richest men of Jerusalem.[Unger]

Vs 3 *"Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot **see** the kingdom of God."*

born again = God conferring upon men the nature and disposition of his sons, imparting to them Spiritual life (See Romans 6:1-18 and **1Peter 1:1-24.**)

see = to partake of salvation in the kingdom of God

kingdom of God = kingdom of God or of heaven to indicate that perfect order of things which he was about to establish, in which all those of every nation who should believe in Him were to be gathered together into one society, dedicated and intimately united to God, and made partakers of eternal salvation.

This kingdom is spoken of as now begun and actually present inasmuch as its foundations have already been laid by Christ and its benefits realized among men that believe in him.

Vs 4 *"He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"*

Nicodemus uses his worldly logic here as Abraham did in Genesis 17:17. As a ruler of the Jews he should have known about God's plan? To see and understand the plan of God we need to have "ears to hear" the Holy Spirit along with the "mind of Christ" to reveal Spiritual things! (See 1Corinthians 2:16 and Revelation 2:17.)

Vs 5 *"Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of **water and the Spirit** he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

born = of God conferring upon men the nature and disposition of his sons, imparting to them spiritual life, i.e. by His own holy power prompting and persuading souls to put faith in Christ and live a new life consecrated to himself.

born of water = Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness of God our Savior and {His} love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to {the} hope of eternal life.

water = baptism = Ephesians 5:26: "That He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word."

washing of regeneration = a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better, through the Holy Spirit renewing by the Holy Spirit. Hence: renovation, regeneration, the production of a new life consecrated to God, a radical change of mind for the better. The word is often used to denote the restoration of a thing to its pristine state, its renovation, as a renewal or restoration of life after death.

Spirit = indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

enter = participation in the kingdom.

Vs 6 *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

flesh = that which has been born of the natural man is a natural man (opposed to one who has been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit).

born of the Spirit = born again by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Vs 7 *"Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

You must be "born again" because the flesh will not enter His heavenly kingdom only the soul will.

1Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Vs 8 *"The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

wind = [spoken of a spirit], i.e. the Holy Spirit. (See Acts 2:2.)

The question arises: Why do we need to be “Born Again”?

The sin of unbelief:

As recorded in Genesis, the sin of “unbelief” started when Eve did not believe God but instead partook of “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” and Adam joined her (Genesis 2:16-17, 3:2-3, 6.) God however, had a plan! In Genesis 3:21-22 21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

So what was the purpose of God making garments of skin for Adam and Eve? Here we have the first shedding of blood, of the innocent one, to cover the guilty ones. This is the promise of the shedding of Christ’s blood for us, so we would not live in a sinful condition because of Adam and Eve’s sin.

Again we see the unbelief with Abraham:

Genesis 17:16-18 ‘I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.’

*Then Abraham fell on his face **and laughed**, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”*

Here again we see human logic [we are too old] even thinking that Ishmael [produced through Sarah’s handmaiden] is who God was talking about:

And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You! But God chose Isaac!

We see this unbelief again in Numbers 13:31-33. There are many other accounts in the Bible where men, who should have believed, did not believe what the Lord said. There are many others accounts where men did believe God and great things happened. Those who believed were never disappointed!

In Nicodemus’ time they thought that they were saved based on their bloodline and works - (Romans 10:1-4).

The status we are born into.

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:16-19 “Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, ***either of sin resulting in death***, or of ***obedience resulting in righteousness***? But thanks be to God that though you ***were slaves of sin***, you became obedient ***from the heart*** to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ***and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness***. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.

What is the sin we have been freed from?

It is the **sin of unbelief** - the sin of rejecting Jesus. The sin of unbelief is rejecting the calling of the Holy Spirit, who calls us to make Jesus Lord of our life. This is the “**eternal sin.**”

Mark 3:28-29 "Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; **but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.**"

The word blasphemes means to speak against or reject! When we reject the Holy Spirit's call to make Jesus Lord of our life, we commit the unforgivable sin - the **eternal spiritual sin** that keeps us from entering into Christ's kingdom.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

believes = the opposite of unbelief = it means in faith to give oneself up to Jesus.

Just acknowledging that Jesus existed and/or exists does not make a person a believer!

What about the other sins of Mark 3:28? Who are the “sons of men?” They are all the “human beings” that have ever been born. These sins are of the “flesh.” “Flesh” [our mortal body] is that part of us that has not been redeemed and physically dies and will be left on earth.

“Flesh” is better identified as “our mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God.”

This sin, the Apostle Paul deals with in Romans 7:20-25. “But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.”

Here the Apostle identifies his issues: He finds that he is unable to do what he wants to do, which is to overcome the sin nature in the members of his body. Thus after giving himself over to the Lord Jesus Christ, he wants to get free from this “body of death” [fleshly sin], but can't, and is unable to overcome it himself? It will not end until he physically dies! He looks to get set free in his mind [peace with God] and concludes that in Jesus Christ is his release! He finds in his heart and mind that Jesus will set him free [give him peace] from this “body of death.” The question arises; what is the outcome of the “sin nature” that God is willing to forgive? While the Lord is willing to forgive these “fleshly” sins, which means he will not hold them against us in our relationship with Him, they can effect our lives and those of the unbelievers while here on earth. These “fleshly sins” may keep us from having the Lord's perfect relationship with us because of what we are doing. He is still faithful and loving, we just have an issue in our hearts and minds that keep us from His full blessings. When “fleshly sin” occurs, in believers, He may give grace and at other times we get the rod of correction. All are done in love, just like our earthly father's discipline us while we are here on earth.

In verse 25 Paul now concludes that he can serve the Lord in peace of mind, while his flesh serves sin!

Please read my book *"What_Every_Believer_Needs_to_Know"* for more insight on this subject.

Now let us look at what happens in the Spiritual realm when we give ourselves over to Jesus!

This text is written to the Spiritual man: Romans 6:1-11

Vs 1 *"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?"*

in sin = in the power of sin

grace = the divine influence upon the heart

Knowing that grace overcomes sin, shall we continue in sin? No!

Why not? verse 2

Vs 2 *"May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?"*

may it never be = God forbid [Greek] = God has prevented this:

Romans 6:7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

Sin against God is prevented under God's plan, i.e. it can't happen because we are being led of the Holy Spirit. **Verse 16 explains.**

1John 3:9 "Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God."

(NKJV)

die = are dead [Greek] to become wholly alienated from a thing and freed from all connection with it. He who has died is free from sin. **See verse 7**

What sin are we freed from? The sin of "unbelief" when we reject the call of the Holy Spirit to make Jesus Lord of our lives. Mark 3:28!

Read Romans 7:14-25

live in it = to devote life to sin

The Jews at the time of this writing believed that they were God's people because of their blood line and their keeping of the Mosaic Law.

Romans 10:3-4 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own [the Jews}, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. [Salvation has always been about "faith" - not about keeping the Law].

Vs 3 *"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?"*

baptized = to bring by baptism into fellowship with Christ, into fellowship in his death, by which fellowship we have died to sin.

into His death = as He died to sin, so we die to sin, just as if we were literally members of His body.

Vs 4 *"Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."*

have been = were, **past tense, has happened**

buried through baptism = 1Peter 3:21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you - not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:22-24 22 “That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

We can't put it on, if we do not believe we have it!

1Corinthians 2:16, 1Timothy 1:5-9

into death = as Christ sacrificed His flesh [blood] for our sin, we are to sacrifice our flesh so as to not live for the lust of the flesh. **1Peter 4:1-2** “Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”

2Corinthians 5:15-19, Romans 4:17

walk = implies habitual conduct

newness of life = what it is not: Grace under the Mosaic Law.

Galatians 2:20-21; 3:1-13, Romans 5:12-14

It is Grace in the Spirit = Liberty. James 1:25

2Corinthians 3:17 - “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, {there} is liberty.”

liberty = freedom from the domain of corrupt desires, so that we do by the free impulse of the soul, what the will of God requires.

Romans 6:14

We must be born again! John 3:3-7 We must be born of the Spirit of God!

1Peter 1:3-5, 23

We had to be released from the Law, which is the driving force behind sin

Romans 7:5-6, 8, 10:4, Luke 1:5-6,

We had to be freed from sin [judgment].

Romans 6:22, 8:1, 1John 3:5-9, Mark 3:28, Revelation 1:5

How did this happen? verses 5-7,

Galatians 5:24-25, Ephesians 1:1-14, 17, Hebrews 10:1-25

Vs 5 “For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.”

likeness of His death = here it denotes that Christians and Christ have been united intimately in regard to death; as He died and was laid in the grave, so we have by profession died to sin.

likeness of His resurrection = as He rose from the grave, so shall we rise from sin.
Hebrews 10:2

Vs 6 “Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.”

old self = man = as we were before our mode of thought, feeling, action, had been changed

crucified = destroyed its power **Galatians 2:20-21, 5:24-25**

body of sin = body that is subject to the bondage of sin

body = incitement = urge on, arouse

In Colossians 2:9-14 the removal of “the body of flesh” = signifies the entire nature of man, sense and reason, without the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:6-14, 1Peter 4:1-2, Galatians 5:24, 1John 2:16

done away with = made powerless by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit **1John 3:9**

slaves of sin = Romans 7:14; we overcome through Christ; verses 17-23

What is the slavery that sin brings?

Fear of separation from God. Genesis 3:10, 21

fear, naked = covering of guilt.

Romans 7:4, 6, 12:2, 2Corinthians 5:15-19, Philippians 2:13, Colossians 2:11-14, Hebrews 7:18-19

Vs 7 ***“For he who has died is freed from sin.”***

died = are dead [Greek] to become wholly alienated from a thing and freed from all connection with it.

freed = **acquitted** = to be declared innocent and therefore to be absolved from the charge of sins. Verses 11, 17-18, **1John 3:6-9**, Acts 13:39, Hebrews 9:27, John 3:18-19, Colossians 2:11-14.

Vs 8 ***“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.”***

Either we have died or we have not, if we have, we need to believe it! 1Peter 3:18 shall live with Him = to live a new life in union with the risen Christ, i. e. a life dedicated to God.

Vs 9 ***“Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.”***

master = to exercise influence upon, to have power over

Vs 10 ***“For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.”***

died to sin = that He might not have to busy Himself anymore with the sin of men
Hebrews 10:10, 12, 14, 12:22-24

lives to God = so to live that life results in benefit to someone or to His cause

We now do the same thing; - 1Peter 4:1-2.

Vs 11 ***“Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”***

consider = to pass to one's account, to impute - Colossians 3:5-7

1John 3:4 ***“Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.”***

practices = **commits** = to follow some method in expressing by deeds [to do] the feelings and thoughts of the mind - **Romans 6:16-18**

sin = that which is done wrong, sin, an offence, a violation of the divine law in thought or in act

lawlessness = contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness
Mark 3:28, John 3:18-21

1John3:5 ***“ And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.”***

appeared = show oneself

take away sins = is to cause our sins to cease, i.e., that we no longer sin, while we enter into fellowship with Christ, who is free from sin, and abide in that fellowship - **1Corinthians 15:3, Hebrews 10:1-2, 10-18**

Sinful nature i.e. the flesh Romans 7:14-25, 8:5-10

SPIRITUAL SIN

1John 3:6 *"No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him."*

abides = to be rooted as it were in Him, knit to Him by the Spirit they have received from Him

sins = the life of sin and the life of God exclude one another, as darkness and light.

Acts 13:38-39, 1John 5:16,

Sin unto death - Mark 3:28, Matthew 12:30-32

seen Him = He revealed Himself to us

knows Him = His sinless holiness

To see and know Him we must be born again into the kingdom of God in order to have our spiritual sin of unbelief forgiven.

John 3:3-7, 16, Romans 6:1-11, Galatians 2:19-20, Romans 7:14-25, 8:5-10 Galatians 5:24 – "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

flesh = note that "flesh" signifies the entire nature of man, sense and reason, without the Holy Spirit.

Romans 4:3 "For what does the Scripture say? - "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS **RIGHTEOUSNESS**."

Once we are born again the sin of unbelief is forgiven and we come into right standing with God = righteousness!

1John 3:7 *"Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous!"*

practices = doeth = commits

This Scripture is about - being in right standing with God = righteousness.

1John 3:8 *"The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil."*

practices sin = to commit Mark 3:28, John 3:19

works of the devil = see verse 10, John 8:44

HOW DOES GOD SEE US IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

1John 3:9 *"No one who is born of God [practices] sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."*

[practices] = [added word] doth not sin

seed = used of divine energy of the Holy Spirit operating within the soul by which we are regenerated - Galatians 3:16

abides = something has established itself permanently within my soul, and always exerts its power in me - **1John 5:18**

Various translations of 1John 3:9 -

"Whoever has been born of God **does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God." (NKJ)

"Whosoever is begotten of God **doeth no sin**, because his seed abideth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is begotten of God." (ASV)

“Whosoever is born of God **doth not commit sin**; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” (KJV)
“No one born of God commits sin; for God's nature abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God.” (RSV)

Because the Holy Spirit lives in us and controls our lives, we cannot sin against God i.e. have unbelief!

1Peter 1:2 “According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.”
Romans 6:22, 2Thessalonians 2:13

2Corinthians 3:17-18 “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, {there} is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord.”

[being] = added word (See KJV below)

2Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (KJV)

We are not “being” transformed, but we are transformed when we first believe!

transformed = we are transformed into the same image.

Galatians 2:4 “But {it was} because of the false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.”

James 1:25 “But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the {law} of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.”

James 2:12 “So speak and so act, as those who are to be judged by {the} law of liberty. liberty = freedom from the dominion of corrupt desires, so that we do by the free impulse of the soul does what the will of God requires.”

Why did God do this? **1John 2:12 “I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.”**

References: **1John 5:1-4, 18, 1Peter 1:23; 4:1-2, John 14:10,17, Romans 6:1-11, 8:9-11, 9:16, 2Corinthians 3:5-6, 14, Galatians 2:20, 1Corinthians 15:10, 1Thessalonians 3:13, 2:10, 2Peter 1:4**

Read: John 8:34-36, Ephesians 1:1-14, 17, 2Timothy 2:13, Philippians 2:13, Hebrews 9:28, 10:1-27; 12:22-24.

1John 3:10 “*By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*”

practice = does not

Romans 4:3 “For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.”

love = to love, to be full of good-will and exhibit the same
Luke 7:47; **1John 4:7-11**

Hebrews 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.”

Conclusion: WE MUST BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS as Abraham did, [it is called faith] not looking at circumstances, but what God has established, i.e., that when He established us, as dead from sin, this is who we really are! We are not to focus on sin: Hebrews 10:2-3 – “Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.” Rather we are to focus on who we are in Christ Jesus and the love and grace He has given us!

THIS ALL HAS TO DO WITH MINDSET! BELIEVING WHAT THE LORD HAS SAID! IT IS CALLED FAITH! LET US FOCUS ON WHO GOD SAYS WE ARE INSTEAD OF OUR OLD SIN NATURE! WE ARE TO SET OUR MINDS ON THE THINGS OF THE HEAVENLIES WHERE CHRIST IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER! Colossians 3:2-5, Romans 4:5, 5:10-11, Hebrews 10:16-17

ANOTHER QUESTION ARISES: HOW DO WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN “BORN AGAIN”?

Romans 8:16-17 “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”

suffer = of God's possessions

How do we suffer with Him? **1Peter 4:1-2 = to live our lives for the will of God rather than for the desires of the flesh, which opposes the will of God.** John 4:34

WHAT DO WE DO WITH ROMANS 6:12-13 AND OTHERS VERSES WHICH ADDRESS THE SIN OF THE MORTAL BODY?

Romans 6:12-13 “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

HERE IS THE ANSWER:

Romans 8:13 “For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

Zechariah 4:6 “Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” - says the LORD of hosts.”

It is good and proper to seek to end the sin in our mortal bodies, however we are stuck with this sin nature until we get a new body, after we die. My experience has been that when I try to overcome sin myself, I fail and have even gotten myself into guilt and condemnation, which the Lord had to deliver me from. My experience has also taught me that the Lord intends to leave some of the fleshy stuff in us to keep us weak and dependent upon Him, as He did with the Apostle Paul.

2Corinthians 12:7-9 "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me -- to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. His grace is sufficient!"

So, where does this leave us?

I have included some of my favorite verses, that remind me daily of who the Lord says, I am, in Christ and what my thoughts and attitudes should be:

1John 3:1 "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
We must have the Holy Spirit to be able to worship God!

Philippians 2:13-14 "For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing."

Relax, the Lord does not need our help, just our cooperation!

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

If He says it, I believe it!

2Corinthians 12:9 "And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

His grace is more than sufficient! However, if we sin in the flesh, sometimes we get the stick and other times He gives us His grace. The Lord disciplines those He loves, just as our earthly father's have done, but it is all done in love.

Hebrews 10:2 "Otherwise, would they (the Old Testament type of offerings) not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins."

When we focus on sin, the Devil has an opportunity against us and we have a hard time staying in the Lord's rest! Hebrews 4:3