

Am I Sinning When I...?

# What Is The Difference Between A Sin Of Thought And Temptation?

- The man who endures temptation will be blessed
  - James 1:12 - “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”
- Jesus was tempted by the Adversary
  - Matt. 4:1-11

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- Temptation need not lead to sin
  - Heb. 4:15 - “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
  - James 1:14-15 - “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”
  - Desire plus opportunity equals temptation
  - Temptation plus action equals sin

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- Evil thoughts (dialogismoï ponhroi) are wicked dialogues, for in all evil surmising the heart holds a conversation or dialogue with itself.
  - Matt. 5:27-28 - “You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
  - James 2:4 - “Have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?”

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- Sins involve deeds, words, and thoughts
  - Eph. 5:3-5 - “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

# What Is The Difference Between A Sin Of Thought And Temptation?

- Temptation involves one resisting and overcoming his desires in the face of opportunity
- Sins of thought involves one entertaining and feeding his desires to the point that they become inordinate

# What Is Meant By Hebrews 10:26 And Willful Sin?

- Heb. 10:26 - “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins”
- Willful sin is:
  - Deliberate
  - With full consciousness of the deed and its consequences
  - With a purposeful disregard of its cost to God and Christ
  - With a lack of concern for its impact on himself and others
  - Often accompanied by the belief that he will be saved in spite of his sin and apart from the new covenant of Christ

# What Is Meant By Hebrews 10:26 And Willful Sin?

- Heb. 10:27-29 - “But a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”
- 2Peter 2:20-22 - “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to his own vomit, and, a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

## Can One Be Lost Without Hope Of Repentance If He Sins Willfully After Baptism?

- Yes, if he persists to the point of becoming reprobate or debased
  - Rom. 1:19-31

# How Perfect Can One Be, And How Much Imperfection Can He Tolerate In His Life?

- Teleios - “complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); completeness: of full age, maturity, perfect.”  
(Strong's) Completeness and maturity, not sinlessness by personal works and merit
  - Col. 1:28 - “Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”
  - Heb. 12:23 - “To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect”

# How Perfect Can One Be, And How Much Imperfection Can He Tolerate In His Life?

- One should not tolerate weakness and sin in his life, but labor incessantly to live without sin
  - Acts 24:16 - “This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.”
  - Phil. 3:12-14 - “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

# How Do I Implement A Plan Toward Perfection?

- Realize that it is a process that will require the rest of your life to complete, and that it will not be apart from the grace and mercy of God and the power of the blood of Christ
- Resolve to act and follow through. Regardless of what you may want to believe, good intentions are not a substitute for good deeds
- Run the race every day, all day
- Refuse to make excuses for yourself
- Repentance and restoration when you fall
- Reject self recrimination