

light & dark

the struggle

If I'm a new creation, why do I still sin?

three aspects of sin

PENALTY

POWER

PRESENCE

struggle on the journey

disentangle through intentionality

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1

focus on the example of author and perfecter

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2-3

get perspective for your struggle

In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. Hebrews 12:4

see discipline as encouragement and love

And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?⁸ If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!¹⁰ Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

Hebrews 12:5-11

remember the harvest of righteousness

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11

renew or discover when you're disabled

Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³ "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. Hebrews 12:12-13

A Confession of Surrender & Declaration of Forgiveness

(Answer yes to all these questions)

Do you confess you have sinned?

Do you reject the darkness of sin and turn to the light of God?

Do you believe Jesus is Lord and God made man?

***Do you believe that His suffering, death on the cross
and burial provide forgiveness for your sins?***

Do you receive this forgiveness?

Do you forgive those who have harmed you?

Do you believe Jesus rose from the dead?

Is it your desire to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

Is it your desire to follow Him as your Lord and Savior?

Do you believe Jesus will return as Judge and King?

***Will you strive to obey His teaching,
and live with Jesus as your example and ultimate Judge?***

Will you seek to love God and love your neighbor as yourself?

Have you or will you declare this commitment through baptism?

Based on the authority of Scripture and the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, I declare that your sins are forgiven.

You are a child of God given power through the Spirit to walk in newness of life.

next steps

For further study:

- **The Life You've Always Wanted** – John Ortberg
- **The Case for Faith** – Lee Strobel
- **Godforsaken** – Denesh D'Souza
- **Reason for God** – Timothy Keller
- **The Weight of Glory** – C.S. Lewis
- **The Great Divorce** – C.S. Lewis

April 28/29, 2012