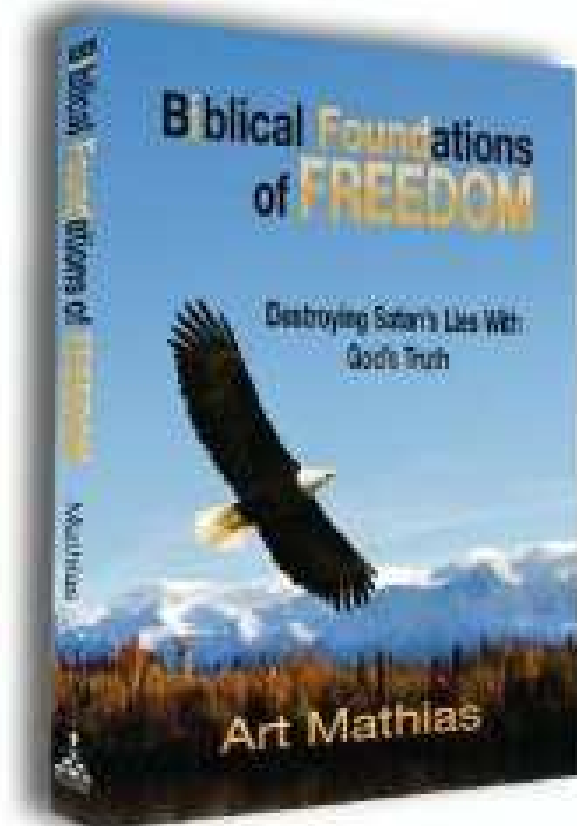


Book's Author: Dr. Art Mathias

Biblical Foundations of Freedom Program & Study Guide

Destroying Satan's Lies With God's Truth



Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks, PsyD
Senior Lecturer

“Biblical Foundations of Freedom Destroying Satan’s Lies With God’s Truth” was written by Dr. Art Mathias:

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About the Authors:

Dr. Mathias has lived in Alaska for more than twenty five years. He is a businessman, bush pilot, outdoorsman, and has authored several books and booklets. He and his wife Patti, of 38 years have two grown sons. Patti is an accomplished teacher and along with her husband are founders of Wellspring Ministries. Dr. Mathias has earned his master and doctorate degrees in counseling. Both Patti and Dr. Mathias travel extensively teaching about and demonstrating a powerful God that has answers.

I had the opportunity to attend one of Dr. Mathias’ “Biblical Foundations of Freedom” seminars around the end of January this year and it was a life changing event for me. I saw firsthand what God was doing at his seminars; I witnessed how powerful forgiveness is – people were getting set free because they decided to forgive – some had been holding onto unforgiveness for years - and that is why I decided to adapt his book into my Recovery program. Forgiveness is powerful because when we decide to forgive, we are obeying God’s Word and when we obey God, we will be blessed and set free.

I am using these materials from Dr. Mathias’ book and other training aids by permission from him and his wife Patti.

Welcome to the journey that is going to change your life!

God bless,
Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks, PsyD

Table of Contents

Notebook Cover -----	4
What Is Sin? Class Syllabus -----	5
Chapter One: What Is Sin? -----	6
Defining Terms -----	6
The Second Heaven -----	10
How Did Sin Enter Into This World? -----	11
What Is Sin? -----	12
Perfect Hatred -----	14
Why Does Sin Exist In The World? -----	16
What Is Sin? Study Guide -----	19



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Class Dates & Topics:

February 21st, 2010 – June 6th, 2010 - all classes will be held online:

- Preface & Introduction (2 hour) – February 21st – 27th.
- What Is Sin – Chapter One (2½ hours) – February 28th – March 6th.
- Discernment – Chapter Two (2½ hours) – March 7th – March 13th.
- Accusing Spirits – Chapter Three (2½ hours) – March 14th – March 20th.
- The Major Strongholds, or Principalities, of Satan – Chapter Four (1½ hours) – March 21st – 27th.
- Principality of Bitterness – Chapter Five (2½ hours) – March 28th – April 3rd.
- Principality of Self-Bitterness, Unloving Spirits – Chapter Six (3½ hours) – April 4th – April 10th.
- Forgiveness – Chapter Seven (2 hours) – April 11th – 17th.
- Principality of Jealousy & Envy – Chapter Eight (2½ hours) – April 18th – April 24th.
- Principality of Rejection – Chapter Nine (3½ hours) – April 25th – May 1st.
- Principality of Fear – Chapter Ten (2½ hours) – May 2nd – May 8th.
- Principality of Occultism, Pharmakia & Sorcery – Chapter Eleven (2½ hours) – May 9th – May 15th.
- The Kinsman Redeemer – Chapter Twelve (1½ hours) – May 16th – May 22nd.
- The Armor of God – Chapter Thirteen (5½ hours) – May 23rd – May 29th.
- Our Power and Authority in Christ – Chapter Fourteen (3 hours) - May 30th – June 5th.

Class Location: www.abusedwoman.ning.com – Main Web Site



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Winter Semester 2010

BFOF Class Syllabus

February 28st – March 6th

Instructor: Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks, PsyD
Campus: www.abusedwoman.ning.com
E-mail: www.awmsoh@yahoo.com

Topic & Goals:

- **Chapter One: What Is Sin? – Goal: for you to understand clearly what sin is and its origin. To accomplish this goal, we will:**
 - ✓ Define Terms so You Can Understand Who You Are
 - ✓ Discuss The Second Heaven
 - ✓ Explain How Sin Got Into This World
 - ✓ Define What Is Sin
 - ✓ Discuss Perfect Hatred
 - ✓ Explain Why Sin Exist In The World



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Chapter One: What Is Sin?

We are to adjust our personal theology to match the teachings of the Bible; not try to make the Bible match our theology because the Bible is what instructs us to make adjustments in our lives.

This study will require you to search the Bible, and you need to be willing to examine some of your long-held personal beliefs. God reveals Himself to us progressively, as we are able to understand more and more. As we learn more we gain a deeper understanding of His Word.

As humans, we all see things through a dark glass (I Corinthians 13:12). There is much that we don't yet understand. Satan loves to sow seeds of doubt and unbelief, to steal God's Word from us; we need to be fully convinced ourselves from the Word of God (I Thessalonians 5:21) so he cannot tell us any lies.

The intent of this study is to openly expose the devil so that his ways will be perfectly visible. With the eyes of the Spirit, we need to see so clearly that we will be changed forever. In some cultures the devil is out in the open and easily discerned; but in other cultures, like ours, he is more hidden. This means we need to dig deeper to discern how he has deceived us. We pray that everything that is hidden will come to light; then we can deal with it, restore a right relationship with God, and gain freedom in Christ. The very sin that we will not deal with today is the very sin that will destroy us tomorrow; "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Defining Terms

Before we begin, we need to define some spiritual concepts about who we really are. Do you realize that you are a spirit? And that you have a soul? Do you know that your soul and spirit are two different entities? They are. And we also have a body. We are body, soul, and spirit.

Our body is the visible flesh and all its parts. We need to understand that the word "flesh" is used two different ways in Scripture. Many people think, "Well, that's just my old flesh. I've got to get my flesh under control. I'm going to crucify my flesh." Do they mean they're going to kill themselves? Are they going to kill their body? Of course not.

To crucify the flesh has nothing to do with the physical body. It has to do with the "body of sin" (Romans 6:6). Therefore, when the word "flesh" is used from now on, I mean the concept of the body of sin, our old man, the old nature, or the Adamic nature. A study of the nature of Satan, our old man, the old nature, the flesh, or the Adamic nature reveals that they all share the same characteristics. In reality they are synonyms. When I mean the physical body, I'm going to call it the "body."

I Thessalonians 5:23 say that we are to be sanctified wholly in our spirit, soul, and body. The Bible doesn't call the body the "flesh;" it calls it the "body." The word "flesh" almost always has a spiritual meaning.

Romans 6:6 says, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." We are to crucify our old man, the old nature, the flesh or the Adamic nature; thereby destroying the "body of sin," that "we should not serve sin (Satan)," but God.



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What Is Sin? Continued:

Defining Terms

This verse equates the old man, the body of sin, and sin. It teaches that we are to crucify or destroy the body of sin, so that we will not serve sin. In His death, Jesus enabled us, through the power of the new nature, to crucify and destroy the works of the devil in our lives.

The body of sin (Romans 6:6) is Satan and his demons, which manifest in our lives through the old nature, the flesh, or the Adamic nature, which we are to destroy. The body of Christ is the Church, and is made up of all believers.

Scripture tells us to be "in this world, but not of it" (John 15:19, 17:14-16, 18:36). Here, "world" is not the planet Earth. Strong's Greek Dictionary defines *kosmos* as an "orderly arrangement ... by implication the world (in a wide or narrow sense, including its inhabitants, literal or figurative ...)." The Greek word *kosmos* translated as "world" refers to humans, to all of mankind. Scripture calls the physical earth as "earth." People are called "the world." Thus it makes sense to say that we are to be "in this world but not of it."

We are in a world that is ruled by Satan. II Corinthians 4:4 names Satan as the god of this world, meaning he is the god of mankind. Out of this world that is subject to Satan's ruler ship, God has chosen for Himself a people that He calls the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:27). By default, we are either a member of the body of Christ or a member of the body of Satan (Matthew 6:24, 12:30; Romans 6:16).

The body of Christ is each and every believer. We became members of the body of Christ when we became born again (John 3:3) and received the new nature or the nature of Christ. In the born-again experience we became the Temple of God. I Corinthians 3:16 say: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

Under the New Covenant the Holy Spirit dwells in each believer giving us the power and authority to crucify the flesh and thus have victory over Satan and sin in this life. We no longer have to be slaves to sin, but we can be holy as He is holy. God has commanded us to be holy as He is in many verses (Leviticus 11:44). He has also commanded us to go on to perfection (Hebrews 6:1). Would He command us to do something that was not possible? Has He laid a trap for us? Of course not!

The New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant because the Holy Spirit lives in us and we then can have power over sin and Satan in this life. Both the Old and New Covenants are conditional. Obedience has always been required.

James 2:17

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

James 2:20

"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

James 2:26

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." True faith is never alone. There will always be a change in heart and behavior if there is salvation. Obedience is always required. We cannot just be hearers of the Word.

Romans 2:13

"For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified."



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What Is Sin? Continued:

Defining Terms

Understanding the concept that we have a spirit, soul, and a body is vital. I pray that you will pay close attention, and accept the Holy Spirit's teaching to achieve a clear understanding of God's truth in this matter.

I Thessalonians 5:23 say, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul is teaching that we are to be sanctified in our whole spirit, soul and body.

As we have discussed, the body is our physical being. It is the home for our spirit and soul. It is appointed once to die. At the resurrection we will receive a new, glorified body (I Corinthians 15:35-58).

By definition, we have a body, a soul and a spirit. Our physical body is home to our soul and spirit while we live in the physical world. Our soul consists of our intellect, mind, emotions, memory and will. Our spirit consists of our conscience and intuition — intuition facilitates tapping into spiritual things. Our conscience tells us whether things are from God: good; or not from God: evil.

When God created Adam he did not have an "old nature" or the "flesh." God called, and therefore created mankind from before time began (II Timothy 1:9). The Greek word translated "world" in II Timothy 1:9 is *aionios* which means "eternal, forever, perpetual, or before time began." In our original creation we did not have a sin nature. The sin nature entered into this world (kosmos), or mankind, when Adam sinned.

This is why Paul said in Romans 7:17 and 20, "it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me."

In Romans 7:18 Paul says, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing" Paul is separating himself from his sin. We may do evil, but we are not evil. The "sin that dwelleth in me" is the flesh or the old nature. It was not part of our original creation. We are created in the image of God and God does not have a sin nature.

When Adam sinned, the spirit of man died to God. This is why we must be born again to be saved or justified. In the born-again experience our spirit is re-born to God. The law of God was given to show us our sins. It was never intended as a means of justification. We could never be justified by the law even if it were kept perfectly. It was intended as a means to sanctification.

When we became born again we received the new nature, the new man or "inward man," which is the nature of God (Romans 7:22). It is His Holy Spirit that lives in each and every believer. Therefore, the spirit of every believer is owned by God. He has declared us righteous (justification) and set us apart (Rom. 4:25). But at this point a war began in each of us: a war between the old nature, or flesh, and the new nature.

This begins the second part of justification we call sanctification. Leviticus 11:44 says, "For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy...." As believers we are required to set ourselves apart to God. We are to crucify the flesh. We are to purge ourselves of all iniquity. II Timothy 2:21 says, "If a man therefore purge himself from these [iniquities], he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."



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What Is Sin? Continued:

Defining Terms

Romans 9:8 says, "They, which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed." The "children of the flesh" are the children of Satan. Galatians 3:29 says, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

This war is fought in our soul. Our soul consists of our intellect, mind, emotions, memory, thoughts and will. It is in this area of our existence that we fight against Satan. It is in this part of us that Satan tempts, entices and sometimes controls believers. As we cleanse ourselves of all sin and iniquity, we gain victory, and destroy the works of the devil. We accomplish this one sin and one iniquity at a time. This is why II Corinthians teaches us to cast "down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

I Timothy 4:1-2 says, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, [lying] and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." Many people have consciences that are seared, rendering them ineffective, leaving them unable to discern between good and evil.

What does it mean to have a seared conscience? It means that the spirit — for conscience is a part of the spirit — has been tarnished or perverted. It is being led by flesh, or Adamic nature, instead of being God-led through the Holy Spirit. A person a seared conscience cannot tell the difference between right and wrong from God's perspective. If a person's conscience is seared, their spirit is dead to God. Understanding the seared conscience concept allows us to see more clearly the meaning of Proverbs 16:25: "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Hebrews 4:12 let us know: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." God's Word is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. The heart is often used as a synonym for the soul or inner most part of us. I am grateful that the Word of is able to separate the soul from the spirit (Prov. 4:23; Matt. 15:17-20). He and gives us time to repent. To be complete persons, we need to have head knowledge, but this knowledge must become part of our heart so that we might experience the truth. Once we move head knowledge to our heart we will be set free from Satan's power and achieve total victory over him (John 8:31-32).

The spirit and soul will live forever. The body will return to dust at death, but all will receive a new, glorified body like the one that Jesus had after In His new body, He ate, walked through walls, and traveled instantly from one place to another.



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What Is Sin? Continued:

The Second Heaven

Scripture doesn't speak specifically to the existence of a second heaven, but Paul was caught up into the third heaven (II Corinthians 12:2), the realm where God resides. Jesus referred to it in Luke 10:18: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." If there is a third heaven, it follows that there must be a first and a second. The physical world, planet Earth, is the first heaven. Ephesians 2:2-3 say: "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

Satan is called the "prince and the power of the air." He is a fallen archangel that seeks to do evil in the hearts of the "sons of disobedience." Satan rules this world and the earth from an invisible plane called the second heaven — not located in the physical world. Scripture clearly shows that there is a physical and a spiritual world. The spiritual world is invisible, and home to the fallen angels (demons).

Satan and his demons usurped the God-given rights of man when Adam sinned. Satan became the holder of the title deed to the earth and became the god of the world or mankind. He began to rule in the earth through the men he manipulated or influenced through his demons. If these demons don't already control someone, they seek to influence or tempt them through spiritual attacks.

Ezekiel 28:13 says that Lucifer was a created being. Colossians 1:16 says, "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him." John 1:1-4 said God created all things by Jesus (v3) and the redemption of creation is by Him (v4). As all creation comes by the Son through the Holy Spirit, all redemption comes the same way. It is what Jesus did on the cross that made it possible for God to redeem through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-5) (Dake Annotated Bible). God the Father created all things through the Word, Who is Jesus. Jesus is the spoken Word and He is also God.

Revelation 12 describes the battle in heaven when one-third of the angels followed Lucifer, declared war on God, and were cast out of heaven. In Luke 10:18 Jesus said, "I saw Satan" He didn't say Lucifer, but rather, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." This verse is in the past tense. Satan has fallen from heaven; it is no longer his home. Lucifer is now called Satan, and the angels that were cast out with him are called demons. Satan wanted to be like God and one-third of the angels joined him in his rebellion. It is the same lie that is at the root of all false beliefs and false religions.

We have learned that Satan is a created being; that God created all things by Jesus (spoken Word); that Satan and his demons exist in an invisible realm called the second heaven; that sin first existed in heaven in the person of Lucifer; and that Lucifer's name was changed to Satan when he rebelled and was cast out of heaven to the earth. The third heaven is no longer Satan's home but he still has access to the third heaven and God to accuse us (Revelation 12:10).



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What Is Sin? Continued:

How Did Sin Enter Into This World?

Romans 5.12 said that by one man sin entered into this world. The one man is Adam. Since sin entered into this world, it had to have come from somewhere. Jesus said that He saw Satan fall like lightening to the earth, and in Genesis 3 Satan takes the form of a serpent when he tempted Eve.

The story begins in Genesis 2:16-17 where "the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.'"

But in Genesis 3:3, Eve says to Satan, "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." Eve added the words, "neither shall you touch it." It is possible for us to be around evil and yet not sin. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan and He did not sin. Temptation is not sin; it becomes sin when you yield to it. But many times, Satan tricks us into believing that we have already sinned when we haven't, so that he can provoke us to go ahead and actually do so.

In Genesis 3:4-5 Satan continues, "And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.'"

Satan asserts that God is a liar and that He is withholding something good from us. If we can access that which was withheld, we can be like God. Here the father of lies is calling the Father of Truth a liar. Satan always attempts to blame God for what he (Satan) has done.

Verse 6 says that Eve yielded to temptation, ate the fruit and gave some to Adam; he also ate. That act of disobedience to God was the event that allowed Satan and sin to enter into this world. Through Adam, sin entered into the world. Adam, as the spiritual head of the home, had the responsibility before God to set aside or correct Eve's sin (Numbers 30:6-8). He did not fulfill his duty, and additionally, he partook of the fruit (sin) himself.





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What Is Sin? Continued:

What Is Sin?

We can explore what changed in Adam and Eve's lives for clues. When Adam and Eve sinned, they became double-minded, developing a sort of split personality (James 1:8). They were still drawn to God, but something was wrong; something separated them from Him that had not been present before eating the fruit. What entered into Adam and Eve that had not been there before they sinned? What entered into their lives that God did not create in them?

They showed doubt, doubting God's Word; unbelief, not believing God's Word; and disobeying or rebelling against God's Word. Satan lied to Eve telling her that she would not die, but rather she would be a god like her Father, able to discern both good and evil. This new mindset created double-mindedness, sometimes believing God and other times believing Satan. What was the first thing Adam and Eve did after they sinned? They discovered their nakedness and became ashamed, so they took leaves and covered themselves; then they hid from God. Satan wins a victory when we become afraid of God then hide from Him.

We see that through Adam's sin, Satan and his demons "entered into this world" (Romans 5:12). Satan and his demons gained the title deed to this earth and became the god of this world or mankind. They brought their natures of unbelief, rebellion, lying, fear of man, unforgiveness, resentment, anger, hatred, violence, murder, and bitterness with them. Satan uses these to influence us to become afraid of God. Fear is Satan's number one tool to destroy our relationship with God. Fear is the opposite of faith.

In this study, we name each demon with the attribute its nature represents, i.e. fear, anger, hatred, etc. Each demon falls under a ruling demon, or principality, that forms part of Satan's hierarchy (Ephesians 6:12; Luke 11:26). As rulers of our own free will, when we choose to sin we open the door for Satan's demons to manifest their nature through us. Wow! That is a scary thought! Consider this carefully.

Ephesians 6:12 says that we wrestle against powers and principalities, and spiritual wickedness in high places. The sins that entered this world with Satan form his powers and principalities. With what do we wrestle? Unbelief, doubt, rebellion, unforgiveness, resentment, anger, hatred, violence, murder, bitterness, rejection, jealousy, envy and the like; these are the sins that entered into this world with Satan through Adam's sin, and we continue to wrestle with them today.

These sins are called "spirits," "entities," or "beings," because the Bible uses these words to describe them. These sins are the character and manifestation of his spirits. Let me explain.

Numbers 5:14 says, "And the spirit of jealousy come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife." The Hebrew word used for "spirit" is *ruwach* (Strong's 6307). It is the same word that is used for the Spirit of God.

A lying spirit is seen in I Kings 22:23: "Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee."

A spirit of whoredoms or idolatry is found in Hosea 4:12: "My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God."



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What Is Sin? Continued:

What Is Sin?

Isaiah 61:3 speaks of a spirit of heaviness or depression. "To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified."

Acts 16:16 speaks of a spirit of divination. "And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying."

The Greek word used in the New Testament for "spirit" is *pneuma* (Strong's 4151). It is used both in conjunction with defining evil spirits and the Holy Spirit, just as the Old Testament used the same word for both.

In Mark 5:8, Jesus commanded an unclean spirit to come out of a man, "For He said unto him, 'Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.'" Jesus asked this spirit its name, and the spirit's audible answer is recorded in verse 9. It claims the name, "legion, for we are many." The word "legion" was used for a Roman legion of six thousand men. This man had thousands of demons in him that drove him to insanity; this shows how demons can affect mental health.

Mark 9:25 shows Jesus casting out a deaf and dumb spirit. "When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, 'Thou deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.'" The boy received the ability to speak and hear; this shows how demons can affect physical health.

In Luke 13:11-13, Jesus casts out a spirit of infirmity and heals a crooked back. "And, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him, and said unto her, 'Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.' And He laid hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God." This oppressive spirit actually affected the woman's posture and appearance.

Timothy 1:7 says, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Fear forms the basis for many mental health problems. Fear is a sin. We will deal with this in greater detail in a later chapter. Fear is another spirit that God did not give us.

There are many other Scriptural references to evil spirits negatively influencing our lives. These few examples I have provided should help you understand that Scripture repeatedly refers to various sins, diseases and infirmities as "a spirit." These evil spirits are real beings, just as is the Holy Spirit (though they are not equal in power since they are created beings and the Holy Spirit is God's Spirit). These evil spirits brought sin into this world, but they also brought mental and physical illness and death with them. If we allow them dominion in our souls, then they will manifest their natures in our character and in our bodies.

Revelation 21:4 said: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." The "former things" consist of the evil that entered this world through sin. At the end, when God binds Satan and casts him into hell forever, his curse on this world and on us is broken. Sorrow, pain, and crying will be banished as will be disease, illness and death in God's new heaven and earth. These negative circumstances will all perish forever with Satan, showing once again that he is the author of evil.



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What Is Sin? Continued:

Perfect Hatred

Sin has done much damage to God's creation, so we must have a perfect hatred for sin and Satan's lies. Genesis 3:15 says, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Enmity is the strongest word in Hebrew for hatred. God created this kind of hatred, not Satan. Satan has twisted this so that we hate one another, ourselves, or God. But God put hatred between Satan and us. We need to learn to direct this God-given hatred at Satan, where it belongs. We need to hate what God hates: evil and sin.

When we choose to sin we are allowing a demon to manifest his nature through us. As people understand this truth, they are set free from the evil influence of Satan. Realizing this truth is so repulsive to a believer that it generates a powerful God-given hatred for sin and Satan. It creates a very strong determination to stop sinning. Hatred is redirected to its proper target: the devil. Rightfully so because Ephesians 4:27 says, "Give not the devil a place." The word "place" in Greek means a right or a room. If demons occupy a person and they have a right to indwell the person, they will refuse to leave. Sin justifies their right to refuse to leave.

I want to review a few facts before moving ahead. In Ezekiel 28, we saw a picture of Lucifer as an archangel of God. And Lucifer rebelled because iniquity was found in his heart (Ezekiel 18:15). The heart refers to the spirit. Vine's Dictionary refers to the heart as "the sphere of Divine influence; the center of man's inward life; hidden springs of personal life; the seat of spiritual life."

We are created as triune beings; we have a spirit, and a soul, and we live in a body. We are created in God's image. This is an important distinction. Some teach that the soul and spirit are the same, and this is not so. If you died today, your body would return to dust and your soul and spirit would go in one of two different directions.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and are spiritually re-born as taught in the Bible, your spirit and your soul would return unto the Lord to await the redemption of your body at the "first resurrection." The Bible says the dead in Christ shall rise first, and then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air (I Thessalonians 4:16).

If you have not accepted Christ, a different eternity awaits you. There is life after death for the sinner. Some think that when a sinner dies, they drift off into an eternal oblivion. The Bible teaches that sinners are sent to a place called "the lake of fire." It is a place totally and permanently separated from God. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).

The Bible teaches that there is a resurrection of those who died without accepting Christ, called the damned. It says that their body, soul and spirit will be reunited and they will stand before God the Father at the great white throne judgment (Revelation 20:11).

If you're a believer, Scripture says the dead in Christ shall rise first; they will receive a glorified body. If you are still alive on the earth when Christ returns, you will be caught up to be with Christ. All believers will stand before Jesus in heaven at the seat of Christ to answer for every idle word (II Corinthians 5:10).



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What Is Sin? Continued:

Perfect Hatred

We are a spirit, we have a soul, and we live in a body. Lucifer is a spirit and he had a body when he was in heaven. The Bible says that within him were the tabrets of music and the ability to make music, and that every precious stone was his covering. He was the "anointed cherub" (Ezekiel 28:13-14). In Colossians 1:15-16, we read that Jesus Christ created all things, visible and invisible: ¹⁵"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him;" Lucifer is also a created being. As a created being, the Holy Spirit anointed Lucifer to fulfill the will of God. The Bible says that iniquity was found in his heart and he rebelled; sin existed in his spirit, in his very nature (Isaiah 14:12-15).

The sin of Adam and Eve allowed Satan into this world and he brought spiritual and physical death with him. Sin has its origin in our heart, in our spirit, and in our very essence as humans. Lucifer's sin and rebellion resulted in his being thrown out of heaven, and he died to God spiritually. When Adam and Eve sinned, they died to God spiritually and were thrown out of the Garden. To be spiritually alive again we must first be born again which makes our spirit alive to God again. Then, with our new natures, we gain the power and authority to crucify the flesh, which is the works of the devil in our lives.

There are some people who actually believe there is a doctrine of eternal security that implies that if we are born again we can "live like the devil" and still go to heaven; that is a lie from Satan. Scripture requires obedience to be God's disciples. We have a responsibility to live Godly and Holy lives. We have the responsibility to conquer or crucify the flesh and become holy, as He is holy. We can accomplish this under the New Covenant because the Holy Spirit now lives in us, giving us His power and authority. We can accomplish this, both logically and experientially. We are holy, as He is holy when His nature of love, joy, peace, longsuffering gentleness, etc. is manifesting through us.





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What Is Sin? Continued:

Why Does Sin Exist In The World?

The Bible shows clearly in John 1:29 that Jesus came to earth to take away the sin of the world. Since Jesus came to take away the sin of the world, why is sin still here? Some Christians are snared by a theological trap that claims, "I'm born again, I'm spirit filled, Jesus paid the price, it is finished, and I'm immune to the devil." "All past, present and future sins are automatically forgiven." If so, why are they oppressed, depressed, filled with diseases, and have all types of evil operating in their lives? Why do they constantly repeat the same old lies, even when they know the truth?

Let's wake up, acknowledge and learn about our enemy, and then defeat him. We have the power and ability to do this because the provision has been made, and the debt has been paid. Under the New Covenant we have the Holy Spirit living in us. But the work of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection must be appropriated in our lives each day. We must forgive others or God does not forgive us (Matthew 6:14-15). If we confess our sins He will cleanse us (I John 1:9). What happens if we do not forgive others or do not confess our sins? We must become doers of His word and not hearers only (Romans 2:13; James 1:23-25).

Being born again doesn't make us immune to evil. It means we have the power to overcome evil. Jesus died for sin as the ultimate sacrifice and rose again to give us power to defeat Satan (I John 2:14, 4:4). The Old Testament animal sacrifices provided a covering for sins, but not forgiveness. Jesus' blood provides total forgiveness of sins, if we forgive others and ask God to forgive us. His resurrected life gives us access to the victorious power of the Holy Spirit. While the cross brought forgiveness, the power of Christian faith comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In this way we have all three members of the Godhead Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — living in and through us.

Jesus said if you have seen Me, you have seen the Father (John 14:9); this should be true in our lives. We should be manifesting the nature of God, as Jesus did, so that people see God's nature in our actions, hear Him in our speech, and understand Him in our attitudes. This can happen only through the power of the Holy Spirit acting in and through us. The Holy Spirit will convict us of our sins and help us to defeat Satan's lies in our lives.

Sometimes we think that if others around us would only get their act together, we could live more holy and peaceful lives. But holiness doesn't depend on somebody else's life; it starts in our own life. We are told not to judge others. We're told to look first in our own spirit. Matthew 7:5 teaches us not to worry about the little speck in somebody else's eye, but to get the beam (log) out of our own eye.

Jesus came to take away the sin of the world, and He came that we might have life and freedom, and have it more abundantly. His gift of life means that we can triumph over Satan's warfare against us as he tries to steal our peace and health. Satan can only steal our peace if we choose to let him.

1 John 3:8 says, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." For this purpose the Son of God came, to destroy the works of the devil. This is an awesome truth! And because He lives in us we can do the same thing in our lives. We do not have to commit sin! Some teach that we will never be able to accomplish this until we are in heaven. Where is your faith? Is it in the delivering power of Jesus or in the grave?



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What Is Sin? Continued:

Why Does Sin Exist In The World?

John 8:34 says that we're not to be "the servant of sin." The nature of Satan represents sin, and he uses his evil power to sway us toward him. When we yield to him and his evil nature so that it shows in our actions, it becomes our sin. Then we become sinful beings who need to repent and be cleansed by God. The Bible says if we ask God to forgive us, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Matthew 6:14-15 says that if we don't forgive others, God will not forgive us, thus emphasizing our responsibility to be part of the process. God does His work through us.

God wants us to confess when we have yielded to Satan and his kingdom. True repentance is a Godly sorrow for our sins against God and the evidence is a complete turning away from the sin. Then we will receive God's cleansing and blessings. It is also our responsibility to resist the devil. Once we have repented, the devil will come and tempt us to return to the sin. We must learn to say "no" to the devil (James 4:7). Before, and after the act of repentance, is a time of spiritual warfare within us that is addressed in Romans 7:22-23: "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

Some people serve sin in many ways; they serve many unclean spirits. The Bible says that if you continually commit sin, you become its slave (John 8:34). The Greek word for "servant" is *doúlos*; and it means a voluntary or involuntary slave, and is frequently used for someone in subjection, i.e. a servant.

A person who is bound by alcohol or drug addiction has become a slave to sin. This positions them as a slave to one or more evil spirits who control their actions and attitudes. If it were not so, they would have the freedom to resist the sin in their lives that such addiction inevitably creates.

Some struggle with more common problems such as hatred, anger, or bitterness. If a person can't stop hating, they have become a slave to the demon of hate, and hate becomes their master. A person who is filled with criticism has become a slave to a spirit of criticism. It becomes natural for them to criticize because a critical spirit has become their master.

Loss of self-control over any aspect of our life indicates that sin has made us unable to exercise our free will under God's control; sin becomes our master and we are enslaved. The sooner we recognize this truth and deal honestly with ourselves and God, the quicker we'll be set free. Romans 7:15-16 says, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good."

Jesus is our deliverer from the body of death. He is our deliverer from sin and disease. He came to heal the broken hearted and to set the captives free (Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:18-19). Much of our "captivity" to sin begins while we are little children resulting from misunderstanding of events or because of "lies" told to us by adults. Satan often uses adults to place within children doubt, fear, lack of self-confidence, self-hatred and any number of negative influences. Working thusly, it makes his warfare less difficult than trying to attack adults who have well-grounded faith systems.



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What Is Sin? Continued:

Why Does Sin Exist In The World?

Adults commonly tell children that their predicament happened to them because "you are shameful," "you are dirty," "it was your fault," "you are nothing but a liar," "you're selfish," and "I can never trust you." These lies result in children who believe "I am not loved," "I can never be safe," or "I've gotta stick up for myself."

These lies establish a life pattern that becomes our master. We self-destruct by constantly repeating the lies, each time reinforcing them. Long after the original event, the resulting shame and self-condemnation destroy our peace. Though the original event may have required correction, or the original abuse was terrible, it is not the most serious problem. It is the constant repeating and reapplying of the negative lessons learned from the event that is the most serious issue. How we interpret and react to the original event deeply affects our lives.

Only the truth of God will destroy the works of Satan. Victory comes not from changing our environment to avoid negative events, but from interpreting events through the prism of God's truth; this requires discernment.

Satan's first line of attack is in our thought life. Can you tell the difference between the truth and a lie? When your emotions well up within you, do they flow from truth or are they based on a lie? The next chapter (chapter 2, which begins on March 7th) will guide us in learning to examine our thoughts and emotions, testing them to see if they are God's truth or Satan's lies.





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BFOF Study Guide

Topic: What Is Sin?

February 28th – March 6th

Goals:

- To understand terminology used concerning sin and where sin came from, so we can make a choice to obey God or make a choice to obey Satan
- To recognize personal sins in our own lives
- To accept God's provisions and conditions for forgiveness

To Think About:

This chapter will challenge your thinking. Please do not throw out the baby with the bath water. Test everything we teach to the written Word and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher.

Write a brief explanation of your current definition of sin.

Define these terms:

Flesh:

World:

Who rules this "world"? Write II Corinthians 4:4.

Earth:

Body of Sin:

Body of Christ:



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BFOF Study Guide

Topic: What Is Sin?

February 28th – March 6th

Who is the temple of the Lord?

Why is the New Covenant better than the Old?

What does James 2:24 say about true Faith?

Body:

Soul:

Spirit:

What are the two parts of justification?

What is a seared conscience?

Explain the first, second and third heavens:

First heaven:

Second heaven:

Third heaven:



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BFOF Study Guide

Topic: What Is Sin?

February 28th – March 6th

Who is the prince and power of the air?

Where did Satan come from?

Where was iniquity found in Satan?

What was his sin? Also see Is. 14:12-14.

What does Ez. 28:13 teach us about Satan?

How did Satan get access to mankind? Romans 5:12

What changed in this world and in the lives of Adam and Eve after they believed Satan? Gen. 2-3

What is sin?

How has your definition of sin changed as a result of this study?

Name some of these "sins" you can now identify in your life.

How does Scripture identify demons?

When we choose to disobey God, which is sin, whom or what is manifesting through us?



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BFOF Study Guide

Topic: What Is Sin?

February 28th – March 6th

If we choose to obey God who is manifesting through us?

What does Rev. 12:11 say about overcoming Satan?

As Christians are we to hate? _____

If so, what or whom? _____ (Gen. 3:15)

Ephesians 4:27 says "give not the devil a place." What does the word place mean?

Who defeated sin? _____. If Jesus defeated sin, why is sin still in this world?

How do we become servants and or slaves to sin? John 8:34, Romans 6:16

How do we get power over past sins?

How do we get power over the devil and sin in the future?

What are the two conditions for receiving forgiveness? (Mat. 6:14-15 and I John 1:9)

What is the first word in I John 1:9?



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BFOF Study Guide

Topic: What Is Sin?

February 28th – March 6th

Are all of our past, present, and future sins automatically forgiven? Why or why not?

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

As Christians what are we required to do to be forgiven?

1. _____ (Mat. 6:14-15)
2. _____ (I John 1:9)

APPLICATION:

Write a prayer to covenant with God concerning anything which His Holy Spirit has spoken to you about sin or forgiveness.