

Seven Sins

That must be repented of before revival can come

1. Sins of Thought

Sin starts in the heart and mind (Matt 15:19) Satan frequently targets our minds with inappropriate, sinful thoughts. (Proverbs 23:7)

- A. Doubt your salvation** Matt 7:22-23, John 17:3, Rom 8:16 Revival begins with the certainty of your salvation. On the day of judgment, many who think they are saved will discover they do not know God.
- B. What kind of thoughts occupy your mind?** (2 Cor. 10:5)
 - 1. Do you think more about work or recreation than about spiritual things?
 - 2. Unclean thoughts (Matt 5:28)
- C. Our First Thoughts of the day should be about Jesus.** Colossians 3:1-3, Matt 22:37, Psalms 1:2, Psalms 119:15-16
 - 1. meditate on Godly things
 - 2. you cannot love God if you do not love His Word
- D. Our prayer life is affected by our thoughts** James 4:3
- E. Insincere Worship and empty ritual** Matt 15:8-9a, Amos 5:21-24, 1 Cor 11:28-30

2. Sins of Attitude

God not only sees our outward actions, He sees the attitude behind them.

- A. Attitude (or Spirit) of luke-warmness** Rev. 3:15-16
- B. Self-centeredness** Philippians 2:3-4
- C. Pride** 1 Peter 5:5
- D. Prejudice** James 2:1,4
- E. Unbelief** Hebrews 11:6
- F. Heart-attitude** The mark of a Spirit-filled believer is a kind, loving spirit. The primary mark of a carnal believer is a critical, angry spirit. Eph. 4:2, 1 Cor. 13:4a, 7; Matt 5:44
- G. Materialism and worldliness** 1 Tim 6:6; 1 John 2:15-17

3. Sins of Speech

God places enormous importance on our speech. Ask God for discernment as you prayerfully consider your words. **Matt 12:36**

- A. Slang Words** Eph. 4:29; 5:4 off-color jokes. Has the filthiness of our society crept into your speech?
- B. Do you ever lie? Exaggerate?** Do you follow through with your vows and promises? Colossians 3:9
- C. Murmur or complain?** 1 Cor. 10:10; 1 Thess. 5:18 The Children of Israel continually complained about God's provision. A life-style of praise is essential to pleasing God.
- D. Anger, bitterness, and bickering** Eph. 4:31 The world's pattern has infiltrated the church. Do you argue and fight with other believers. Do you

speaking unkindly to your family? Are you guilty of gossip or slander? A sign of sin and immaturity is a divisive, contentious spirit. 1 Cor. 1:10

E. Respecting and honoring those who lead the church 1 Tim. 5:17

4. Sins of Relationships

The most common place we lose God's fullness is in our relationships. Relationship sins usually fall into five major areas.

- A. Hurting or offending others** Matt. 5:23-24 *When God reveals people you have hurt or offended or slighted resolve to go to them and ask their forgiveness. Little rifts between Christians can easily quench God's Spirit for the whole church.*
- B. Holding grudges against people who have hurt or offended you.** Matt. 6:14-15 Many people hold grudges against church, family members. We can develop bitterness against godless politicians. It is possible to hold secret bitterness against God.
- C. Improper Relationships** *Improper relationships involve many things besides physical immorality*
- D. Neglecting regular fellowship and meaningful service through your church.** Hebrews 10:25 1 Cor. 12-14 The question should not be *What can my church do for me?* but *What can I do for my church?*
- E. Family Relationships**
 - 1. **A word to husbands and fathers** Eph. 5:23,25; 1 Peter 3:7; Eph 6:4
 - 2. **A word to the Wives** Eph. 5:24,33; 1 Peter 3:3
 - 3. **A special word to parents** Matt 18:6
 - 4. **A word to children and youth** Eph. 6:1-3

5. Sins of Commission Transgression is any act of breaking God's law or doing something God forbids. Eph. 5:5; 5:12

- A. Moral sins** sexual immorality, uncleanness, or perversion. What we watch, look at, or read. The way we dress.
- B. Defiling your body** 1 Cor. 3:16-17 anything one does that abuses the body, the Temple of the Holy Spirit
- C. Idolatry** Exodus 20:2-3; Matt. 7:24 An idol is *anything* we place ahead of God and His service. Anything that "crowds" God out of our life. Who or what is *really* number one in your life?
- D. Robbing God** Malachi 3:8-10; Proverbs 13:11 We are commanded to tithe, but God owns it all. The misuse of our money is also a sin.
 - 1. **gambling**
 - 2. **materialism**
- F. Witchcraft, astrology, spiritual mediums (psychics)** Leviticus 19:31
- G. Compromising our beliefs** Rev. 2:14-15 We will increasingly face pressure to "get along" with the world system, do the *Politically Correct* thing
- H. Doing anything without a firm conviction of God's will** is sin. Rom. 14:23 The context of the above passage had to do with eating meat offered to idols.

The principle is: *Don't do anything if there is a nagging lack of peace about it.* A crucial phrase of the Welsh revival was, "Brother or sister, are there any *controversies* between you and God?"

6. Sins of Omission James 4:17

- A. Abiding** It is impossible to live in the true fullness and power of the Holy Spirit without daily prayer and close connection to God's Word. Are you too busy to give God significant time each day? (30-45 minutes each day)
- B. Witnessing, Sharing your faith** Acts 1:8
- C. Using your Spiritual Gift** Eph. 4:8
- D. Continually living in Spiritual Bondage** Rom 6:14; Hebrews 4:1
- E. Remaining faithful to your calling** James 3:1; Luke 12:48
- F. Prayer and Fasting** Jeremiah 29:13; James 5:16
- G. Immediate obedience when God speaks** James 1:23-24

7. Sins of Self-rule and Self-reliance

- A. The Flesh** Our human actions and thoughts operating apart from the direct control of Christ. Galatians 5:17-20
- B. Dying to Self** Matt 16:24-25 One must be willing to choose to deny (or die) to his own wishes and completely surrender to Christ. Choosing God's will and way over our own way. ***Rom. 6:6; Isaiah 55:8***