

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

DESIRE GIVES BIRTH TO SIN

James 1:15 “Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

We sinful human beings love to play games with sin. We “fudge,” tell “white lies,” bend or stretch the truth, commit little sins but never big ones, etc. The devil instructs us to compare our moral, upstanding life with the lives of those who commit the big and horrendous sins. His goal is that we believe we are pretty good people.

In God’s sight, sin is sin. How is it then, that though you want to obey God, please Him and do His will, you sin? James’ answer continues in chapter 1, verse 15 “. . . after desire has conceived” (The Devil was successful in leading Eve to look at the fruit, see it was ripe and looked delicious to eat) it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” Here James uses the word “conceive” to help you understand how it is you sin. Like a sperm must unite with an egg for a child to be conceived and born, so “desire” unites with all of your five senses to convince you that what you are about to do is good. If something looks good, feels good, tastes good, smells good or sounds good then you rationalize it must be good.

Is a good life good enough in God’s sight? James’ answer is, “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.” (James 2:10) All sins, big or small, blurring the lines or boldly breaking His laws are sins in God’s sight. Romans 6:23 says “the wages of sin is death.” Ezekiel 18:20 “The soul who sins shall die.”

Though you cannot keep God’s law perfectly, Jesus has kept it perfectly for you. He kept God’s law when tempted and tested by Satan (see Luke 4:1-10.) Romans 5:19 says He did this in your behalf, “Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.” Not only did He keep God’s law perfectly in your behalf but he also redeemed you, bought you back from sin and the Devil’s grasp and returned you into God’s family, “you are justified (declared no longer

by God a sinner) freely (no cost to you) by His grace (God's undeserved love) through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:22-34)

Prayer: Chief of sinners though I be, You dear Jesus gave your life for me that through Your death you paid the terrible price for my sins so that now because of God's love for me and Your saving work I am a saint (holy one – one without sin) in God's sight. Thank you!

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heavn's above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, lasting to eternity!
Love that found me-wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own,
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.
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