

## HOW DO BELIEVERS IN JESUS CONTROL SIN?

### Cain's Impossible Duty

Genesis 4:6-7

6God said to Cain, 7“Do what is right – and I will accept you. But, if you do wrong, sin is crouching at your door – sin wants to have you. But you must rule over sin – you must control sin.”

This is Option #1:

Do Good, Rule Over Sin & Live Forever

What does Sin want to do to us? (verse 7)

*Jesus said, “Do you sin? Then you are Sin’s slave.”*

John 8:34

*If we say: “I have never sinned” – we are saying: “God is a liar.”*

1 John 1:10

How serious is this problem? How serious is it to be Sin’s slave?

*Jesus said, “Are you Sin’s slave? Then you are not part of God’s family forever – because a slave is not part of a family forever – a slave is only a worker in the family. But a son is part of God’s family forever!”*

John 8:34-35

*Jesus said, “I am God’s Son [so I have God’s power]. So I can free you from being Sin’s slave. If I make you free, you will really be free!”*

John 8:35-36

Who can make us free from being sin’s slave?

Who can make us a son in God’s family?

This is Option #2:

Believe in Jesus & Live Forever

### How Did Jesus Make Us Free?

*Our Old Self\* was a slave to Sin – but our Old Self was put on the cross with Christ. So, now, we are not Sins’s slaves. Why? Because we have died (our Old Self\* has died) – so we are free from Sin. ...Sin is not our slave master.*

Romans 6:6-7, 14

(A dead slave doesn’t have to obey the slave master anymore!

Romans 6:7, 14 & 7:1-4)

***Are you in Christ – do you believe in Christ? Then you are brand new! The original you has gone. Look! You have become new!*** 1 Corinthians 5:17

We have a New Self!

***Obedying God comes from faith.***

Romans 1:5

Believe in Jesus (faith) —> Get a New Self/Live Forever —> Do good

We must believe in Jesus first. Then we do good.

But, we don't automatically control sin and do good.  
Until we leave this body and see Jesus face-to-face,  
we have to fight against Sin and our Old Self\*.

So, we can go back to our sins if we want to – because ...

***The Old Self\* wants the opposite of what the Holy Spirit wants – and the Holy Spirit wants the opposite of what the Old Self\* wants. They are fighting each other. That is why you don't do what you want to do.*** Galatians 5:17

***Our Old Self\* hates God. It does not obey God's Law – in fact, our Old Self\* cannot obey God's Law. If your Old Self\* controls you, you cannot please God.*** Romans 8:7-8

If you don't believe in Jesus, you are controlled by your Old Self\*.  
You cannot make God happy.

But there is good news! Now we can please God!

***3We meet the expectations of God's Law, if we follow the Holy Spirit – and don't follow the Old Self\*.*** Romans 8:4

So every day we must choose:  
Do I want to follow God's Holy Spirit today?  
Or do I want to follow my Old Self\* today?

What does God's Law expect?

***37Jesus said, “Love your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, ... [30]and with all your strength...” 38This is the first command. 39The second command is like the first command: ‘Love other people like you love yourself.’”***

Matthew 22:35-40 [Mark 12:30]

We can only love God and love people with the Holy Spirit's help.

## So, How Can We Control Sin? How Can We Do Good?

### 1. Follow the Holy Spirit:

***Live every day by the Holy Spirit's power – then you won't satisfy the evil desires of your Old Self\*.***

Galatians 5:16

### 2. Think Right:

***Don't copy the world – don't think and do what the world does. But be changed – be changed by thinking new thoughts – by cleaning up your mind.***

Romans 12:2

***Focus your minds on things above – on things in heaven where Christ is. Don't focus your minds on things of this world.***

Colossians 3:1-2

***Think about yourselves this way: You are dead to sin – but you are alive to God!***

Romans 6:11

### 3. Follow God's Word – the Bible:

***11God, I keep your Word (the Bible) in my heart, so I won't sin against you. 15 I think deeply about what you want me to do – and I think deeply about what you do. 105Your Word is a light for my path.***

Psalms 119:11, 15, 105

### 4. Give Your Body to God:

***19God gave you his Holy Spirit – and the Holy Spirit lives in your body – your body is the Holy Spirit's temple. You do not own your body – your body does not belong to you. 20Why? Because Jesus bought you with his blood – with his life. So use your body to honor God.***

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

***Give your bodies to God – give your bodies as living sacrifices to God – and keep your bodies pure. This makes God happy – this is how to serve and worship him. Please do this, because God loves you so much.***

Romans 12:1

***Don't let Sin be the boss in your body – don't obey Sin's evil desires.***

Romans 6:12

***The many parts of your body are "tools." Don't give them to Sin – don't use them as tools to do bad things. But give the parts of your body to God – use them as tools to do good.***

Romans 6:13

\* "Old Self" is used here because it is easier to understand. In Greek (the New Testament's language) the word is: "flesh" – which does not mean our physical bodies, but (apparently) is everything in us and about us that opposes God, and cannot, and will not please him.