



Principle #7:

Your only hope is in God!

- Only GOD can keep you from falling to your destruction.

OUR ETERNAL HOPE!

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, ...

Jude 1:24-25a (NIV)

Our hope begins NOW!

- This Scripture passage focuses on what God does: his **SOVEREIGN** rule over our lives, to protect and keep us.

To him who is able to keep you from falling ...

Jude 1:24a (NIV)

But there is also a **RESPONSIBILITY part that **WE** must do.**

Principle #8:

Hope in God does NOT excuse us from our responsibility!

It affirms our responsibility.

> (...since sovereignty and responsibility ALWAYS work together.) <

Scripture tells us that the "Solid Foundation" of salvation includes **BOTH...**

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription:

"The Lord knows those who are his," and,

"Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

2 Tim. 2:19 (NIV)

SOVEREIGNTY

AND

RESPONSIBILITY

The HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY part:

We must be WILLING:

- **TO GROW*** in our salvation.
- **TO CHANGE*** the way we live our lives, in order to make GROWTH possible.

THOSE WHO LOVE THEIR OLD WAYS **WON'T** DO IT

DO I HAVE TO?

YES! YES! YES! YES! YES!


* [GOD gives us the strength to do this!]

Scripture shows us how to respond to EACH type of sin.


- The responsibility is OURS to find out how* and to respond* in obedience.
 - We can't blame sovereignty for OUR choice!

If we are unwilling or lazy, sovereignty guarantees that "we will reap what we sow."

I have a great wheat harvest!




Why does my harvest look so dead?



*[God gives us the power to do these things!]

It's NOT that difficult to know what to do.

It doesn't require a high level of intelligence to figure it out!



We need to: *


- Open the Bible.
- Find out what it says.
- Do it!

[My intelligence level when I first wake up in the morning.]

* { With God's power! }

It's a matter of CHOICE:

"I WILL DO IT" or "I WON'T DO IT."




We need to: *

- Open the Bible. = READ IT [OR LISTEN TO IT BEING READ]
- Find out what it says. = PAY ATTENTION TO IT
- Do it! = ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT (NOT PASSIVE LAZINESS)

* { With God's power! }

Someday...




Obedience does NOT require super-human strength! *

It DOES require a willingness to start and to grow!

* (It just requires GOD's strength, which he has already offered to us.)

To develop any skill or ability, it takes growth – focused attention, practice, effort, etc.



IT'S THE SAME FOR FOLLOWING JESUS! *

* He's already offered you the power. You must be willing to use it.

3



Have you noticed all the footnotes, reminding us that...

"God offers us POWER to do it."

"I can't do it" is a LIE or a HALF-TRUTH.*
It's a cover-up for: "I am unwilling to do it."

* "I can't do it" may be a truthful statement for those who are not following Jesus. But that's because of their unwillingness to follow.

THE ONLY ISSUE that remains:
How willing are YOU to do the growing?

Your actions and choices (not your words and claims) will demonstrate the answer to this question.

YES	NO	YES	NO
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NO IF you are unwilling to deal with sin:

- It's because the Spirit of God is not in you.
- If this characterizes your life, you are not saved.

YES IF you are willing to deal with sin:

- It's because the Spirit of God is in you.
- If this characterizes your life, you are saved.

Principle #9:

Don't use "growth" as an excuse for willful sin!

- The devil always tries to distort truth!
- A spiritually-alive person cannot want to live a spiritually-dead person!

I did better last month!

Now I can relax and enjoy sin for a while!

MEOW!

I'VE DONE A GOOD JOB BEING A CAT.

NOW I'M GOING TO...

WOOF!

• THIS attitude toward sin shows that your heart has not changed.

• Such an attitude cannot exist* any more than THIS does:

* (Unless you're a fake.)

There are:

TWO PRINCIPLES

found in Scripture, regarding OUR response to sin:

1. Some Scripture passages teach us:
Certain things cannot happen.
2. Other Scripture passages teach us:
Growth and maturity will occur.

PRINCIPLE #1:

Certain things cannot happen.

(If you have chosen to follow Jesus.)

- A person cannot deliberately choose to sin, unless he first rejects the Spirit of God (= the Spirit who lives in all of God's people).

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.

1 John 3:9 (NIV)

Deliberate, ongoing, willful sin cannot happen.

This principle applies to all sins, but it seems to have a greater focus on the "bigger" sins...

Now that I'm saved,
I only murder two
people a month!

I'm saved, so I only
commit sodomy
twice a week!

DON'T MAKE EXCUSES

by claiming that you "just haven't yet grown enough" to stop sinning.

This isn't "growth." It is "slavery to sin." (Romans 6)

PRINCIPLE #2:

The focus on growth.

- This focus tends to be on things like:
 - Accidental sins that creep up unexpectedly...
... even though we don't want to do them.
 - Conduct that we don't realize is sin...
... but God will use his Word to open our eyes.
 - Habits that grew for many years before salvation...
... and may take time to completely break.
- It also includes a willingness to admit that those things are sin and to reject them.

GROWTH

Yesterday,
I accidentally
cursed
someone.

Once I realized
what I had done, I
confessed it as sin,
and asked for his
forgiveness...

... and God's
forgiveness.

I was with my friends,
and accidentally said,
"Oh my God," without
the proper attitude of
honor and respect.

Once I realized what I
had done, I told my
friends that I had
sinned by taking
God's name in vain...

... and asked for
God's forgiveness.

YOUR MISSION: PLUG INTO THE POWER!

If you have chosen to follow Jesus,
God has given you the power to resist sin.

HAVE YOU FAILED
TO USE
HIS POWER?



YOUR MISSION: PLUG INTO THE POWER!

If you have NOT used his power to resist sin:

- Your claim to "salvation" is in danger of being proved **FALSE**.

I don't care
what you say...

MY LIGHT IS
SHINING!

FALSE!!



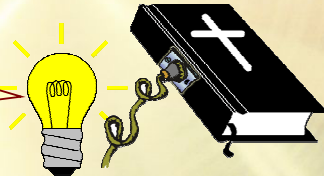
YOUR MISSION: PLUG INTO THE POWER!

Rather than focusing your supposed past "salvation," focus on now:

- **START NOW** to use God's power.

NOW IT'S
SHINING
FOR REAL!

TRUE!!



YOUR MISSION: PLUG INTO THE POWER!

Begin **NOW**, and don't look back!

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind
and straining toward what is ahead,
I press on toward the goal to win the prize for
which God has called me heavenward in
Christ Jesus.

Philip. 3:13b-14 (NIV)

Credits (1)

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