

## The Facts of Spiritual Life – Part 4 Beneath the Surface

Therefore, since we are surrounded by **such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up.** And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. **Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)**

**“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23 (NIV)**

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. **Colossians 3:1-5 (NLT)**

The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust. Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer.

**James 1:15 (MSG)**

Blessed are those who endure when they are tested. When they pass the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. When someone is tempted, he shouldn’t say that God is tempting him. God can’t be tempted by evil, and God doesn’t tempt anyone. **Everyone is tempted by his own desires as they lure him away and trap him. Then desire becomes pregnant and gives birth to sin. When sin grows up, it gives birth to death.**

**James 1:12-15 (GW)**

**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Romans 6:23 (NLT)**

**Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us! So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us.**

**Hebrews 12:1 (CEV)**

**Let us examine our ways and test them and let us return to the Lord.**

**Lamentations 3:40 (NIV)**

God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, “if you want to boast, boast *only* about the Lord.” **1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NLT)**

That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets. No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit. And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit’s words to explain spiritual truths. **But people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.** Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. **For, “Who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?” But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.** **1 Corinthians 2:9-16 (NLT)**

**Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in.** Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. **When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!** **Hebrews 12:2-3 (MSG)**

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. **So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.** Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. **Colossians 3:1-5 (NLT)**

**So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives.** Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. **Galatians 5:16 (NLT)**

He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross **so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right.** By his wounds you are healed. **1 Peter 2:24 (NLT)**

*For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*      **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)**

*To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*      **Colossians 1:27 (NIV)**