



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

#### P.U.S.H Series – Part 10

Sis. Techie "Soar" M. Rodriguez, Elder-Founder, TLF  
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As humans, sin is a part of our life. It is something that everyone struggles with every day. The Bible tells us that all have sinned (Rom. 3:23). In order to avoid sin, it is important to know exactly what the Bible says about sin and how bad sin is. While there are many different manifestations that sin can take, they are all rooted in the initial disobedience of Adam and Eve. Despite our sinful nature, however, we need not be discouraged because we can be victorious over sin.

#### A. Iniquity and Sin Defined

Iniquity is defined as being wicked or immoral in nature or character, lacking in conformity to the character of God. Iniquity can be described as the essence of wrongdoing or evil.

Sin is defined as a violation of the law (1 Jn. 3:4). From this definition, we learn that:

1. Sin is an act of breaking of the law or commandment.
2. Sin is a state of being. It stems from the fallen state of man.
3. Sin is a nature of man. (Rom. 7:18)

#### B. The Origin of Sin indicates that Satan sinned when, in his pride, he coveted God's throne (Isa. 14:12) and was cast down to earth. Thus, sin entered the world through Adam (Rom. 5:12). He sinned because of his disobedience and this transgression spiraled mankind into sin. Thus, death through sin came to all men, because all sinned. The following are the violations of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3: 1-6):

1. They listened to the slander of the serpent against God.
2. They doubted God's love and His Word.
3. They lusted for what God had forbidden.
4. They disobeyed God's command.

#### C. The Manifestations of Sin

1. Transgression is the overstepping of the law.
2. Iniquity is an act inherently wrong or forbidden, as breaking a command.
3. Error is departure from what is right.

4. Missing the Mark is the failure to meet the divine standard.

5. Trespass is the intrusion of self-will into the sphere of God's authority.

6. Lawlessness is spiritual anarchy.

7. Debt is failure in duty; the sin of omission is the things we leave undone.

**D. Why is sin so bad?** It is bad since our Savior received the punishment meant for us. Our Lord was pierced, crushed and suffered for our iniquities; hence by his wounds, we were healed (Isa. 53:5). If we continue to sin, we turn our backs on Jesus.

**E. We can be victorious over sin.** To live in victory over sin is to live in accordance with the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8: 5–11). Forgiveness is part of God's loving nature. Even King David tried to hide his sin (adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah), but he became deeply remorseful. As a result, he confessed and repented (2 Sam. 12: 1 - 13; Ps. 32).

**CONCLUSION:** Although we struggle with sin due to our sinful nature, we are also assured that we can win over temptations with the help of the Holy Spirit. Whenever we fall, repent! Ask for God's mercy and forgiveness; confess our sin, and make the necessary restitution. In so doing, Jesus' sacrifice becomes fully effective in our lives, and He forgives our sins. St. John tells us, "If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing" (1 Jn. 1:9).

#### REFLECTION:

1. Do you usually ponder on the sins/omissions you have committed? Or do you justify such acts?
2. What do you think will be the outcome if you accept your iniquities?

**Transcriber/Writer:** Sis. Te Florentino

**Editor:** Sis Vera I. Tuplano

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