

FULL LIFE ESSENTIALS

Growth's Greatest Hindrance

Sin is the **greatest hindrance** to spiritual growth.

- **Sin** blocks or restricts the flow of God's **grace** (favor) and **power** into our lives and hinders our spiritual growth.

WHAT IS SIN?

- **Sin** is any form of **disobedience** to God's revealed will (sins of commission, omission; in the heart; with our mouth, etc.).

SIN FACILITATORS:

We Have three enemies that try to make sinning easy in our lives:

1. The **World** (an evil system) - 1 John 5:19
2. The **Flesh** (our sinful desires) - Romans 8:8
3. The **Devil** (an evil person) - Revelation 12:9

These three enemies join forces to use sin to **block** our spiritual growth.

SIN'S CONSEQUENCE:

- Sin's greatest consequence is that it **separates** us from God.
 - God cannot **tolerate sin**.

1 John 1:5 (NLT)

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: **God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all**

Since no sin can exist in God's presence, we must realize that our sin, even as Christians, creates a **wall** between us and God who is absolutely **pure**.

- Sin cuts us off from God's **friendship**.

1 John 1:6 (NIV)

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

- Living in sin cuts us off from fellowship with other **Christians**.

1 John 1:7 (NIV)

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

GOOD NEWS!

God has given us **victory** over the world, the flesh and the devil through Jesus Christ!
We do not have to let sin separate us from **God!**

- We can consistently continue in fellowship with God and His children by hanging out where they hang out – in the **light**.

- Walking in the light does **not** mean we **never** sin.

1 John 1:8 (NIV)

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

When we walk in the light, we are able to see our sin as God sees it, and we can do something about it.

- The closer we walk with God, the more aware of sin we become. We see every blemish of our life in the intense light of God's holy presence.

Isaiah 6:1-5 (NLT)

It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. 2 Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 They were calling out to each other,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies!
The whole earth is filled with his glory!"

4 Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.

5 Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

- When we walk in the light, we allow God to point out our sins; He makes us feel bad about them. This is called **conviction**.

- Conviction may feel **bad**, but in reality, it is **good**. It's God's way of shining His light on what is not right in your life in order to make it right.

When God points out our sins, we have two choices:

- **Cover it**

Or

- **Confess it**

When we are walking in the light and see our sin, we are able to **confess** it and **claim** God's **promise**.

1 John 1:9, 7 (NIV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 7...and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

- Confession allows Jesus' blood to cleanse us and deliver us from sin's **power** (allowing you to grow and fellowship) and from sin's **penalty** (getting us into heaven).

Conviction is the Holy Spirit warning you to **respond** to your sin before all kind of havoc breaks out in your life.

- The **time** to confess and be cleansed of that sin is the moment you become **aware** of it. When we confess, the blood of Jesus is applied to that sin, and friendship with God is maintained.