

Does Man Have To Sin?

by Johnnie Edwards

It is often wondered if man **has** to sin. The discussion comes about when one looks at the temptation of Jesus. It is reasoned that Jesus was *"in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"* (**Hebrews 4:15**). A reading of the temptation of Jesus in **Matthew 4:1-11** will show that He was tempted through the same three avenues as we are today: *"the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life"* (**1 John 2:16**). Jesus did not give in to the temptations of the devil. He called Scripture to mind as he said, *"It is written."* He resisted the devil and the devil fled from him (**James 4:7-8**). There was nothing miraculous about Jesus not sinning on this occasion; He just did not give in to the devil's temptations.

What about us? Do **we** have to sin? The answer is no. We don't have to sin. We can resist the devil (**James 4:7-8**), just as Jesus did. There is a way of escape. *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"* (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). Often we are not willing to take the way of escape!

It is not a question of "Do we **have** to sin?" but "**Do** we sin?" How do we answer this question?

1. **All have sinned.** Every person who reaches the age of accountability before God is said to be a sinner. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (**Romans 3:23**). Sin comes about when one commits sin and transgresses the law of God (**1 John 3:4**).
2. **Sin has pleasure.** Moses chose rather *"to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season"* (**Hebrews 11:25**). Man likes sins and the evil things a person wants becomes the problem. James said, *"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away from his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death"* (**James 1:14-15**).
3. **Sinners by choice.** We are free moral agents and can obey God or disobey. We are not born a sinner but become sinners by omitting doing what God says or committing acts of unrighteousness (**1 John 3:4; 5:17**). We make the choice. Who is there among us that would say, "I have never sinned" or "I cannot sin"? John said, *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us . . . If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us"* (**1 Jn. 1:8-10**).

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