



YOU ASKED FOR IT!

The Story of My Life

#npyouasked

Week 4

4 of 4

July 23, 2017

Bottom Line: When you placed your faith in Christ, you became a brand new person. Sin no longer has to control how you live.

Icebreaker: If you suddenly got a 14-day, all-expenses-paid vacation to anywhere for you and one other person, who would you take and where would you go?

Key Verse: “. . . count yourselves dead to sin, but alive in God in Christ Jesus.” Romans 6:11

Too many times our lives are stuck in the “wash, rinse, sin, repeat” cycle. While it is true that God is always willing to hear and forgive us, living like hamsters on a neverending wheel of sin is not what Jesus died to make possible for us. In order to live in the victory Christ has for us, we have to come to a new perspective. We quit asking, “How much can I sin and still be OK?” and begin to think, “How free from sin can I be?”

I count myself dead to sin and alive to this new way of life when I . . .

- 1) Make a declaration. Sin is not my master.
- 2) Make a decision. Sin will not longer rule over me.
- 3) Make a dedication. I will give my body and my will to God.

When I do this, I can live in a new way. I don't have to keep confessing the same sin over and over again because I will become stronger than what is tempting me.

The Christian life isn't simply about doing the best you can, knowing that you are disappointing God on an hourly basis, and then getting all your sins forgiven again, and finally going to heaven when you die. Sin doesn't control where you go when you die, and it doesn't have to control what you do while you live. You can actually live free from the power of sin. When the old is gone and the new has come, you are not the same person you used to be. Why would you continue to live the way you used to live?

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

Paul said, *“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. . . . I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing”* (Romans 7:15,18,19).

Can you identify with Paul? When and how have you felt that something wrong controlled you?

Paul says when we can't seem to control it, it's not our DNA, the stress, being overtired, etc., but “the sin living in me” (Romans 7:20). Why is it so hard to acknowledge our failures as sin?

“When we are sinners, what was true of Adam is true of us. When we are born again and placed into Christ, what is true of Him is true of us.” What does that mean?
Agree/Disagree

LOOK IT OVER <<<

“When Jesus died and rose again, He not only died physically—He died to the power of sin. When He came back to life, sin no longer had a hold on Him. He broke death; He broke the power of sin.” What does that mean? Why does it matter?

“Sometimes the reason sin continues to rule over us is because we enjoy sinning. We don't want to win over sin because we enjoy it.” Agree/Disagree. Discuss.

Paul says I have a choice about whether or not I will be ruled by sin. Why do we insist on saying, “The devil made me . . .”?

What would it mean for you, every day, to dedicate your entire body (eyes, mouth, all of it) to God, and saying no to sin? What might change for you?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

- 1) While all of us have sins to conquer, among the toughest are those that have grown into addictions. Make a prayer covenant to pray for Christians who are struggling with addictions, especially this week.
- 2) Invite someone you know, who is struggling, to an event outside the worship service.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: When you place your faith in Christ, sin no longer has to control how you live.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Galatians 5:16

Day 2: Colossians 3:1-3

Day 3: Hebrews 4:15-16

Day 4: 1 Peter 4:1-2

Day 5: 1 John 3:6

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)