

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE



“Remorse is
impotence; it will sin
again. Only
repentance is strong –
it can end everything”

- Henry Miller

Lesson 1005

The Nature of Sin and the Enemy

What are New Name Journals?

You've probably completed numerous Bible studies over the years. Most of these studies strive to increase your knowledge of the Bible itself or strengthen your commitment to the doctrinal principles you hold so dear. Both of these pursuits has value but neither are transformative if you do not find a way to apply them to your walk.

New Name Journals are designed to go further by facilitating your desire for change by helping you to apply Biblical principles to your daily life. To be effective, this must go beyond the mental exercise of accumulating facts. Openness and honesty in your responses should lead you to a point of changing the way you think about yourself, others, God, and the world around you - repentance.

To arrive at this point of repentance, you will want to personalize the information to your own individual circumstances. Feel free to use any extra space available to complete your thoughts.

As with all worthwhile pursuits, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth.



Journal Goals

This Journal will help you to discover the damaging effects of sin and the repulsiveness of the enemy.

This *The Nature of Sin and the Enemy* Journal will give you an opportunity to:

- ✝ Adjust your view of the nature of God.
- ✝ See sin from God's perspective
- ✝ Realize sin is not what the enemy says it is.
- ✝ Visualize the freedom found in obedience vs. the bondage found in rebellion.
- ✝ Recognize the real nature of the enemy.



Name

Date

In the garden...



Genesis 2:16-17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Let's start with this question: When Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, what made that sin? The most common answer given is that they disobeyed God. But how does this answer speak to the nature of God? We know that God is good and that God is love. How does this fit with, “Obey me or die!”? Or perhaps He did not become “good” and “love” until the coming of Jesus. But wait, God is not like man in that He does not change His mind. (1 Samuel 15:29) Well, this just got complicated. Perhaps we started with the wrong assumptions. If we assume that God is a loving father instead of a petty tyrant, then the meaning of Genesis 2:16-17 is much like a father telling his young child, “Don't touch the hot stove; because if you do, you will get burned.” Instead of God defining sin with this statement, God warned of sin. Instead of God bringing death into the world; it was sin that brought death into the world. “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned” – Romans 5:12.

How does the above change your view of the nature of God?

STRUGGLING With SIN?



Do you struggle with sin? Is your life a constant battle or are you too worn out to even bother to do battle? Yet, the Word of God calls us overcomers, “overcome all the power of the enemy,” “overcome evil with good,” “overcome the evil one,” and “overcome the world.” If this is our true identity, why do we spend so much time and energy struggling? Perhaps we lack understanding of sin. From the previous page, we picked up on the idea that God is really good and He did not set some kind of trick to kill us. If He truly is our loving Father, why would He put so much effort into keeping us from something as enjoyable as sin? A petty tyrant would do that but not a loving Father. Perhaps, the best definition of sin is, “that which destroys God’s creation, namely us.”

When the serpent deceived Eve, he convinced her to look at the fruit differently than God had expressed it. God told her to see it as a bringer of death. By the time the serpent was finished with her, she saw the fruit as pleasing to the eye and desirable. It is the serpent who has convinced us that sin

Share how your struggle with sin can be reduced if you repent of the belief in the pleasure of sin and instead see it as your killer.



is desirable. Who do we trust here? If we truly trust the Lord, then we must see things from His perspective (truth). His desire is that we spend our lives in His garden, being productive (and reproductive), and hanging out with Him in the cool of the day. The enemy has a different plan for us...



In Genesis, God identifies Himself in the plural and He describes His creation of mankind. “Let us make mankind in our image...” (Genesis 1:26) If we are made in His image and He identifies Himself in the plural, or in the relational, then we were also created to be relational. Firstly, we were created to be in relationship with fullness of the Trinity. Yet the idea that sin separates us from God because God can’t stand to be in our presence lacks support from Scripture. In the book of Job, Satan presented himself to God and He didn’t seem the least bit nervous. (Job 1:6) Going back to Genesis, after Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from the Lord and He sought them out. (Genesis 3:7-9) For our final example, let’s look at the New Testament. Jesus (remember that God hasn’t changed) touched the leper (leprosy being a symbol of the uncleanness of sin), before healing him. (Matthew 8:3) So, how does sin separate us from God? In our sin, we are uncomfortable in the presence of a holy God. (It actually goes beyond that but we’ll explore it in the next section.) We tend to run away and hide. We tend to try to find some covering that turns out to be uncomfortable (figs leaves are prickly) and lacking. (See Genesis 3:7)

Share three (3) situations where you, as a Christian, intentionally committed a sin and afterward were resistant to reading your Bible, praying, going to church, or some other common way in which “connect” with God.

1.

2.

3.



We know sin separates us from God, and that He graciously gave us a Savior to reconnect us with Him. Jesus became a man to be relational with His creation and to set an example of how we too can be connected with God and man. He was intimate with many (intimacy = in to me see). Christ was sinless, allowing for total transparency. It was the disciples' own sin nature that kept them from seeing His full nature until they received the Holy Spirit. A principle to put in your tool box is that water seeks its own level. We're drawn to, and draw others to us, that operate at the same level of integrity (sinlessness) we choose to operate at. This in

turn manifests our character and the character of those relationships we have with others. God's design for relationships is for us to have shameless, guilt free close relationships that encourage us in our walk with Him. When we live in fear of transparency we are likely under self-condemnation, experiencing isolation (not good for man to be alone) and hiding from others, ourselves and God. It's nearly impossible to experience the joy of the Lord, His love and His promises when we are identifying with sin (death) more than life (in Christ). God is right, sin brings death which makes sin a relationship killer; first with God, then with others. If you think about the times when you consciously committed a sin; did you feel like getting close to others? Were you a bit agitated in your spirit or emotions? Ashamed? Did you isolate physically or emotionally after choosing sin over righteousness? Or, did you simply compartmentalize the sin and pretend that it's not impacting your relationship with God and others? Sin simply does not promote intimacy; it pushes us away from closeness with God and others. We may still interact with God and others, but our mask (mobile hiding device) only keeps us from making intimate connection with Him, and others, as intended by God from the beginning.

Shame, fear, condemnation, and lies: all these things are the work of the enemy to steal, kill and destroy our relationship with God and others. We, in turn, need to consciously and deliberately seek to destroy the works of the enemy. Start by identifying the areas you are hiding from others (sin) and cry out to God for forgiveness for choosing to operate in cooperation with the enemy. Ask God for the wisdom (renewed mind) and strength (mind of Christ) so as not to fall prey to the schemes of the enemy. Raise the water level in your life by seeking out others who are living in the freedom of Christ that you know you need. Be transparent with them about the sin you are seeking to destroy in your life.

To help you become and remain strong of heart, learn to make declarations over your life. One that will change your life inside and out is to declare daily over yourself regularly, "I am the righteousness of Christ."

How has sin effected the intimacy in your relationships?



Liberty



SAFETY



Share what you understand from the illustration above.

The Nature of the Enemy



The devil is a liar and the father of liars. (John 8:44) Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10) The enemy desires to entice us into destroying our relationship with a loving Father by using schemes. (Only bad guys have schemes.) Basically, he's a jerk trying to take from others what he rejected.

Let's look back at Genesis 3:1-5. Notice the first things he said while deceiving Eve was, "You will not certainly die," when referring to what God had said about the fruit. The enemy called God a liar. Then he says, "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Translation: "God can't be trusted, He's holding out on you. He doesn't have your best interest at heart. Satan's primary tool for attacking us is to slander the nature of God. As long as our hearts are not in a place to trust the Lord, we will buy into every lie, every perversion, every evil the devil brings our way. Psalm 37:3 states, "Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture." Our safety, our walking in righteousness, is rooted in trusting in the Lord; because He does have our best interest at heart. Father knows best.

Write down 5 (five) different ways the enemy has used slandering the nature of God in order to entice you to sin. Write down both the slander and the sin.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

In Conclusion

Go back and review all of your answers throughout this Journal. Summarize below how you see yourself now differently than before you worked through this assignment. Do you see sin and the enemy in a new light? Does this new light offer you an easier path to reject the word of the enemy and his presentation of sin as something pleasant? How can this change your struggle against sin?

This image shows a single sheet of bright yellow paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly textured appearance and is set against a dark background.

As you complete this stage of your journey of transformation, look back and appreciate what you have accomplished. Recognize what God has given you to carry you through the challenges and opportunities ahead.

This Journal has helped me to... _____

New Name Ministries envisions its model of
community safe residential reentry
replicated nationwide, promoting social
reform through effective renewal of former
offenders reentering society, resulting in
fewer victims and a safer, stronger America.



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