



**Why do we sin?** Sin is a common problem shared by each and every one of us – believers too. Why can't we just make a deliberate decision not to sin? Even the apostle Paul, who wrote over half of the New Testament had the same struggle, "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do." Romans 7:15.

The word we use for sin is rooted in the Greek hamarto/hamart: sin, to miss the mark. It is our failure to hit the mark or standard that God has set forth for our lives. In Romans 3:23 Paul said, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Because he was a human being just like us, Paul knew that sin "dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find" (Romans 7:16-18). We have limited natural ability to properly live up to God's standards. Paul explained why. We sin, or *miss the mark*, because of something that is part of each of us, it is our flesh. Jesus identifies the



most significant characteristic of the "flesh," that causes sin. "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). It is the weakness of the flesh that gives birth to sin. James also plainly states that sin is

generated through our human desires, because "each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin . . ." (James 1:14-15). Paul also said, "I thank God-through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin" (Romans 7:25).

### What is the answer?

Our only hope for deliverance then, is the aid and strength we receive through Jesus Christ. "Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren . . . For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted" (Hebrews\_2:17-18). -RF

*"If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." 1 John 1:10*

*"I have missed the mark again Father...I am a sinner. Please forgive me and strengthen me."-DW*

**Faith,** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

**Hope,** For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth. Psalm 71:5

**Love,** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.1 Corinthians 13:13