

## Ephesians 2:1

*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins*

Did you know that “*sins*” and “*trespasses*” are two different things?

“*Sin*” is trying to hit a mark, yet missing it. It’s actually a archery term, where you have a target with a bullseye (center of the target) that you try to hit with an arrow. But if you missed the bullseye, even if you hit the target, it was called a sin, because you missed the bullseye, and the archers who did miss the bullseye were actually called a sinner, because they missed the mark (bullseye).

But “*Trespasses*” is different, because it means that you were not trying to hit a target. For example, let’s say in our archery scenario that you used that same bow and arrow to try and shoot someone with your arrow, you did not use the arrow to try and hit the target and bullseye, but you used it for something even worse, which was to hurt or kill someone, and you did it on purpose.

Also think of trespassing on someone else’s property, where you are deliberately jumping over their fence to get to a place where you are not supposed to be, and you are doing it on purpose. Some people like to go hunt deer, so they will take a bow and arrow (or a gun), and go onto someone else’s property to go hunt and kill the deer. Be it in season or out of season, being on someone else’s property without their permission is wrong and against the law, yet they do it on purpose to hurt and kill a deer for their own pleasure.

We know that we all sin, and as Christians we should be confessing our sins, which are our shortcomings against God’s law. We try and do what we are supposed to do, yet we fail every single day, every single hour, and not just once, but multiple times each day and hour. We know that we do, but we also know that we have the blood of Jesus Christ that has cleansed us of these sins, and not only that, but we are repentant of them, meaning we hate our sins and run from them because we don’t want to do them.

But then there are those things that some people know are wrong, yet they willfully and happily do them anyway. Some even have the mindset that, “*I am forgiven, so I can do it and God will forgive me.*” If you have that mindset, then you need to be very careful, because you are walking a thin line here, because as a believer, we are to hate sin, not run to it or even flirt with it. We are to hate the things God hates and love the things God loves. But if you are running to sin then you are doing what God said in Isaiah:

† **Isaiah 65:11-12 (MSG)** *"But you who abandon me, your GOD, who forget the holy mountains, Who hold dinners for Lady Luck and throw cocktail parties for Sir Fate, Well, you asked for it. Fate it will be: your destiny, Death. For when I invited you, you ignored me; when I spoke to you, you brushed me off. You did the very things I exposed as evil; you chose what I hate."*

Now there is also a difference in willful sinning and struggling with sin. Willful sinning or trespassing is just that, you do it willfully and not feeling bad about it at all. It's something you do for your own pleasure, and you could care less if it's wrong or not. In fact, you don't even care that God says it's wrong, you are going to do it anyway. Once again, if this is you then you really need to stop and check your heart, and seek God about your attitude and lifestyle, because it will affect your eternity, and just saying a prayer is not a get out of hell free card, you need to confess and repent of your sins, not run back to (repeat) them.

But if you struggle with sin (like we all do as believers), because you know it's wrong and you don't want to do it, yet you do because your flesh is weak. Know that you are in good company, because we all struggle with sin. They are not all the same sins for everyone, yet we struggle anyway. Even Paul had this same struggle when he confessed:

✠ **Romans 7:14-17 (NLT2)** *So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.*

Sin is a struggle that we will all have until we go to heaven, it's part of reality here on earth. The question isn't do you sin, but rather do you run to it, or run from it, and is it tackling you when you run from it and you struggle not wanting to do it?

Paul also had an answer for those of us (which is everyone) who do struggle, because it seems we have no hope, yet Paul reminds us as believers, that we do have hope..

✠ **Romans 7:24-25 (NLT2)** *Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.*

So, if you struggle, know that your hope is in Jesus Christ and just keep on keeping on, walk the walk, and keep fighting the good fight, because you will make it, knowing that Jesus is walking with you.

✠ **1 Timothy 6:11-12** *But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

And for those where this is not a struggle, and you willfully run to sin and not from it. Check your heart and ask yourself... better yet, ask God if you are really saved, because your heart and lifestyle are not showing it. Then truly confess your sins and trespasses to the Lord, and make the heart decision to run from them, because if you run to your sin, you are running straight towards hell, but if you run from sin, you are running straight to heaven and into the arms of Jesus Christ!

† **Ephesians 2:4-5** *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)*