

## 69. Kill or be Killed



A soldier at war faces the grim option, kill or be killed. This savage struggle is not unlike what we face today. Sin wants a foothold in our life. It crouches ready to pounce, (Genesis 4:7).

Like a cancer it wants to spread from a small beachhead to a place where it has possession of our body, mind and spirit. Part of our life's quest is to kill off sin in our daily living. There are more than the seven deadly sins after us, all sin is deadly. (Ephesians 2:1)

In the middle of the spelling of the word sin is an "I", which is revealing. Sin puts self first regardless of the consequences. Some would say sin like anger, gambling, homosexuality, and even the propensity to steal, we inherit in our DNA. If they can't scapegoat the genes then they may well argue our environment impresses a sin nature on us. So they put the argument for no blame, or diminished responsibility. Some might choose to mitigate blame by saying it's the result of generational curses or "the devil made me do it". Adam tried hard to shrug off all blame, (Genesis 3:12). We hear about little "white lies" and other euphemisms to cover sin and make it a bit more acceptable. The Bible doesn't allow such slippage and requires us to deal with sin by owning it- and then killing it off permanently.

Biographies of great saints reveal that as they grow and deepen their spirituality, the struggle with sin doesn't abate. Pride that they are doing so well compared with peers and enjoying the blessings of God, as well as the acclaim of others can puff up the ego. They report to be an ongoing battleground as they ascend into God's presence. St Paul wrote, "I do what I don't want to do" (Romans 7:15). Our propensity to sin can be held in check, the power to choose not to sin and to walk in holiness is available. We are not alone facing impossible overwhelming urges. (Hebrews 2:18). God promises a way out, (1 Corinthians 10:13). As unlikely it may seem, we can live in a way that is not selfish and sinful from our first waking moment till when we fall asleep. Sin is not to have dominion over us, (1 John 5:18), all sin bondage has been dealt with at the cross, it is up to us to bring this power and apply it to our lives killing off what seeks to possess us.

Our students and those who look up to us need reminding that we too are fighting the same enemy in a demanding struggle.

*And if you do not do well, sin crouches at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." **Genesis 4:7***

*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **Ephesians 2:1***

*Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." **Genesis 3:12***

*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***

*For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. **Hebrews 2:18***

*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. **1 Corinthians 10:13***