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DIRECTIONS FOR DEALING WITH SIN

- 1. Always address sin in the context of the Gospel.** As we struggle to put to death our subtle sins, we must always keep in mind this twofold truth: Our sins are forgiven and we are accepted as righteous by God because of the sinless life and sin-bearing death of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2. Learn to rely on the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.** It is by the Spirit that we put to death the sins in our lives. We should cultivate an attitude of continual dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- 3. Recognize our responsibility to diligently pursue all practical steps for dealing with our sins.** Here the wisdom of some of the older writers will help us: “Work as if it all depends on you, and yet trust as if you did not work at all.”
- 4. Identify specific areas of acceptable sins.** As you think about your daily preoccupations, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see if there is a pattern of sin in your life. As you identify a particular sin, give thought to what situations trigger it. Anticipating the circumstances or events that stimulate the sin can help in putting it to death
- 5. Bring to bear specific applicable Scriptures to each subtle sin.** These Scriptures should be memorized, reflected on, and prayed over as we ask God to use them to enable us to deal with those sins.
- 6. Cultivate the practice of prayer over the sins we tolerate.** It is through prayer that we consciously acknowledge our need of the Holy Spirit, and it is through prayer that we continually acknowledge the presence of those persistent sin patterns in our lives.
- 7. Involve one or more other believers in the struggles against our subtle sins.** We need the mutual vulnerability with and accountability to one another, as well as the praying for one another and encouraging one another, if we want to make progress in dealing with sin.