

When we become a believer, the Holy Spirit enters us so that we become a new creation with new desires. With the Holy Spirit in us, we crave to follow God's ways. Yet, as Christians we still sin. We sometimes fall into the temptation that sin brings, which results in guilt, broken fellowship with our Creator and frustration. We strive so hard to live a holy life free from sin, yet time after time we fall into sin's hands. That is the problem right there. *We* must stop trying so hard and leave it to God to sanctify us.

For anyone who has ever played baseball, avoiding sin can be compared to throwing a pitch. Many times the commentators on television will remark, "The pitcher has lost control of his pitch location. He seems to be *aiming* the ball over there." When pitchers start struggling with their location, they try to do the exact opposite of what they should do—they start aiming their pitches. They change the mechanics that have helped them become great pitchers and begin to try to guide the ball over the plate. The pitcher has lost faith in his mechanics and practice.

We do this exact thing with God. Instead of relying on God to deliver us from sin, we try so hard ourselves to defeat it. Instead of continuing steadfast in prayer and having the mindset that God will take control, we try to fight the sin ourselves. If a Christian is going to attempt to sweat out a battle against sin, sin will always win. However, if Christians place their trust in God, praying with all their hearts for the Spirit to take control and truly believing in their hearts that they are made holy by Christ's blood, sin will be crushed.

Don't try so hard to defeat sin. Once you sense yourself *trying* too hard, it's a sign that you are taking matters into your own hands. A pitcher never *tries* so hard to get the pitch over the plate; he simply rears back and whips the pitch for a strike out. Let God rear back and strike out sin.