Illustration

The Beatrix Potter Garden.

Count the cost.

Determine what are the benefits.

Heirloom Roses @ $40-50 per plant

Rosetone and in the fall.

Bioadvanced Three in One

Insecticide, fungicide.

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2**By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3**Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

 **4We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.** **6**We know that our old selfwas crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7**For one who has died has been set freefrom sin. **8**Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9**We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10**For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11**So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**12**Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. **13**Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. **14**For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What does it look like?

To live life in Him …

According to the Spirit

Not according to the flesh-

the “sin-corrupt” flesh?

Not sinful but Spirit-filled

We want to know how.

Be more aware.

Grow in understanding of

Our Humanness,

Our remaining Sin,

and the Holy Spirit within!

This is wall of love is a great battle to be fought here.

How do people who have been justified by grace through faith deny and defy the flesh?

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its desires."

In other words:

Don't desire sin as much as you desire God. Don't desire sin's lie as much as you desire God's truth.

When it comes down to the conflict between the desire for what sin offers and the desire for what God offers, prefer God.

Which means that one great strategy of living the Christian life is to set God and his ways before us as our treasure – as preferable.

O that we, the body of Christ,

The church,

the lukewarm,

worldly,

half-hearted church,

 would realize that the Christian life,

the only life that leads to heaven,

is a life of competing desires.

Thistlebend Ministries

Why Thistlebend?
THORNS AND THISTLES

Weeds.

Choke.

Sinful to Spirit-filled Justification – Sanctification – Glorification

Ongoing Weeding and Planting

*In the Power of the Spirit!*

Verse 12 says, "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its desires."

Tender. Gentle. Firm

Convinced that you saw

your sin and your pride.

2 hours later



In other words,

we live a Spirit-filled life by not obeying the desires of the flesh that sin has captured and corrupted that has a mind of its own.

 And if you choose not to obey a desire, it's because you desire something else more. But what if you have learned a kind of Christian life that is all willpower-duty and no desire for God? What if you never invest any prayer or meditation or conversation in cultivating stronger desires for Christ than for sin? What if you only think of Christ as true, but don't desire him as your treasure?

**Choose to Love Christ.**

**Choose to Hate Sin.**

SETTLE IT. CONSECRATE.

And realize if you don’t settle it

you are not a true disciple of Christ.

**Away from Christ.**

**Allured.**

**Aroused.**

**Deceived.**

**Love Christ.**

**Die to death and enter into**

**intimate living loving communion**

**with Christ.**

**Leave old self**

**I’m special.**

**I’m so special.**

**Enter into the new**

**Identify sin. Target it.**

**Mark it, target it, name it, and don’t …**

**SIN**

 “Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness” ([2 Timothy 2:22](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Tim%202.22)). “Make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires” ([Romans 13:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%2013.14)).

**Say “No” to self immediately**

**And say “Yes” to Christ I LOVE YOU.**

**Since I love you I will obey you.**

Say it out loud if you dare. Be firm tough and warlike. As John Owen said, “Be killing sin or it will be killing you.” Strike fast and strike hard. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” ([James 4:7](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/James%204.7)).

**Grab hold of the weed.**

**Dig down and dig out the roots.**

**Uproot all of it.**

**Incinerate it.**

 **Love Christ.**

**Bask in His beauty.**

**Cherish Him.**

**Delight in Him.**

**Revere Him.**

**Enjoy Him.**

**T – Turn your eyes and your heart intentionally toward Christ and choose to love Christ more than self or sin.**

Transition from defense to offense. Fight fire with fire.

Attack the promises of sin with the promises of Christ.

The Bible calls lusts “deceitful desires” ([Ephesians 4:22](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph%204.22)). They lie. They promise more than they can deliver. The Bible calls them “passions of your former ignorance” ([1 Peter 1:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Pet%201.14)). Only fools yield. “All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter” ([Proverbs 7:22](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Prov%207.22)). Deceit is defeated by truth. Ignorance is defeated by knowledge. It must be glorious truth and beautiful knowledge. This is why I wrote [*Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*](https://www.desiringgod.org/books/seeing-and-savoring-jesus-christ). We must stock our minds with the superior promises and pleasures of Jesus. Then we must turn to them immediately after saying, “NO!”

**H – Hold the promise and the pleasure of Christ firmly in your mind until it pushes the other images out.**

Fix your eyes on Jesus (see [Hebrews 12:2](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb%2012.2)). Here is where many fail. They give in too soon. They say, “I tried to push it out, and it didn’t work.” I ask, “How long did you try? How hard did you exert your mind?” The mind is a muscle. You can flex it with vehemence. Take the kingdom violently ([Matthew 11:12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2011.12)). Be brutal. Hold the promise of Christ before your eyes. Hold it. Hold it! Don’t let it go! Keep holding it! How long? As long as it takes. Fight! For Christ’s sake, fight till you win! If an electric garage door were about to crush your child, you would hold it up with all your might and holler for help, and hold it and hold it and hold it and hold it.

**E – Enjoy a superior satisfaction.**

If you want to kill lust, you must fight fire with fire. Attack the promises of sin with the promises of Christ.