

July 2022

The Lighthouse

ON THE MORTIFICATION OF SIN

The following is a summary of John Owen's On the Mortification of Sin by Bob Thune I have adapted.

"For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Romans 8:13, ESV)

Why Must We Mortify Sin?

- Because sin is always active
- Because unmortified sin weakens and darkens the soul
- Because unmortified sin hardens others to the gospel

What Does It Mean to Mortify Sin?

Negatively,

- To mortify sin is *not* to utterly destroy it. (That's Jesus' job, not your job.)
- To mortify sin is *not* to forsake the practice of it only outwardly. Those who do this are just "more cunning; not ... more holy."
- To mortify sin is *not* to have a quiet, sedate nature. "Some men have an advantage by their natural constitution... they are not exposed to unruly passions and tumultuous affections as many others are." This does not mean they have mortified sin.
- To mortify sin is *not* to divert it. "He that trades sensuality for Pharisaism has not mortified sin... He has changed his master, but he is a servant still."
- To mortify sin is *not* to experience "occasional conquests" against it only.

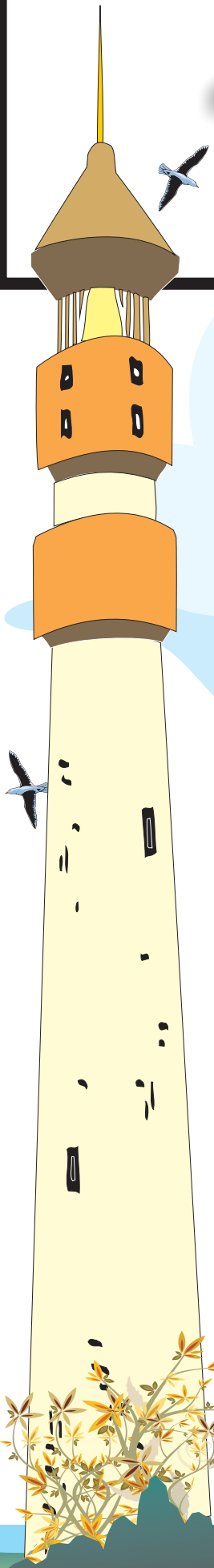
Positively, to mortify sin is:

- *A habitual weakening of it.*
- *A constant fighting against it.*
- *Success. Victory over sin!*

How Do We Mortify Sin?

Four General Principles –

- *You must set faith on Christ.* (Fill your soul with the consideration of who Jesus is and what he's done for you)
- *You must rely on the Holy Spirit.* "A man may easier see without eyes and speak without a tongue, than mortify a sin without the Spirit."
- *You must be truly converted.*



- *You must intend universal obedience.* If you don't intend to obey God in every area, you don't hate sin; you hate the particular sin that is bothering you. Which means you don't love Christ; you love yourself. A particularly strong, besetting sin commonly issues from a careless, negligent spiritual life in general.

Nine Specific Directives –

1. *Get a clear and abiding sense upon your mind of the guilt, danger, and evil of your sin.*
2. *Load your conscience with the guilt of your besetting sin.*
3. *Long for deliverance from the power of sin.* “Longing, breathing, and panting after deliverance is a grace in itself, that has a mighty power to conform the soul into the likeness of the thing longed after... unless you long for deliverance you shall not have it.”
4. *Consider whether you are prone toward a particular sin because of your personality or disposition.* This should awaken your zeal. “So great an advantage is given to sin and Satan by your temper and disposition, that without extraordinary watchfulness, care, and diligence, they [sin and Satan] will prevail against your soul.”
5. *Consider what occasions your sin uses to exert itself, and watch against them all.*
6. *Fight strongly against the first actings of your lust.* “Sin is like water in a channel – once it breaks out, it will have its course.”
7. *Dwell on thoughts that humble you and remind you of your sinfulness.*
8. *Know the warning signs of particularly dangerous sin patterns:* persistent, habitual sin; secret pleas of the heart to leave sin alone; giving into sin without struggle; ignoring the conviction of the Holy Spirit; avoiding sin because you fear punishment. If a lust has any of these symptoms, it cannot be dealt with by an ordinary course of mortification; it requires extraordinary measures.
9. *Do not speak peace to yourself before God speaks peace to you.*
When the heart is disquieted by sin, speak no peace to it until God speak it -- Peace, without detestation of sin, is unsound; so is peace measured out unto ourselves.

I hope this helps you in your battle against sin!

Grace & Peace,
Tim

*And now from
Evan & Bonnie,
our missionaries in
Burkina Faso,
West Africa...*



Dear Friends and Family,

The happiest news we must share is that we have successfully made it through the hottest season of Burkina Faso! For over a month, the highest temperature was never lower than 102 during the day. We were grateful for the nearby pool we frequented. Aidan wasn't at all sure about the water but has finally grown to trust his floaty. Now we are very excited to see the start of the rain! It has already cooled the city down considerably.

Sadly my Grandfather passed away on May 25th after 98 years on this earth. We are thankful that we got to spend time with him before leaving America. We are glad to know he is a Christian and that we will see him again. Unfortunately, will we not be able to return to America for the funeral.

Ministry has been keeping us all busy. We completed our first training with Foundation for Farming on May 3-6. We prepared three fields, cleared land for our tent, and translated all the material into French. Our first training was centered around educating the church leaders in our community, and we had pastors from 7 different churches in our group of 17 students. We had one pastor from Ivory Coast and one from French Guinea come for the training.

We were excited to see that after that single training, our Foundations for Farming course has garnished significant interest in the community. Four of the pastors have now posted pictures of starting farms at their churches using our system. Two local farmers have heard about our last training and are asking to receive the training. The local village chief has stated a desire to send a member of his family and plans to prepare some of his own land with our method. So as our plans move forward with at least 3 more trainings planned this year, please pray for us as we prepare more training with Foundations for Farming, that it will continue to benefit the community, but also pray that this ministry will be seen as an outreach from our church to show the blessing of God on Burkina Faso.

The church itself has been doing well. We had a good number of people come for Easter, where we had a meal afterwards. Bonnie sang with our team member Debbie in French during the service, and Charlotte and Lucas joined in as well. We have had two men regularly attending church and who are interested in becoming deacons. Currently we have no leadership in the church beside the pastor Jean Baptiste, so it would be a huge step. Please pray that the Lord will work in them and prepare them for the responsibility of becoming deacons and pray for Jean

Baptiste and me for wisdom as we interview them and start the process.

As you enter this summer season, we are praying that your time is blessed and that whatever plans you've made that the Lord will bless and protect you and your families. We are thankful for your prayers and encouragement and continual support and look forward to sharing with you again soon.

Evan, Bonnie, Charlotte, Lucas, and Aidan



The students at our first Foundation for Farming course.



How Can You Give Financial Support

1. You can give online at www.MTW.org. To find us, put our account number 13727. You will not see our names mentioned because we are going to sensitive country, but any donations to that account number will go toward our ministry. To have the support automatically taken and applied to our support account you will need to make an account with MTW.
2. Send out a check to Mission to the World (in the memo line add: account 13727) and send the check to:

Mission to the World
P.O. Box 744165
Atlanta, GA 30374

BIRTHDAYS for JULY

Kayla Clark 5th

Sarah Horn 5th

Steve VanderKoooy 9th

David Allen 12th

Andy Bagby 31st

Dates to Remember for July

- July 2 Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall
- July 4 Church office will be closed for the Holiday
- July 4 Celebration on the front lawn
- July 10 Communion at morning service
- July 17 Communion at the evening service
- July 17 Women's Ministry meeting at 9:30am

Join us for the 4th of July at 5:00pm on the front lawn of the church. Grills, tea, lemonade and water will be provided. Please bring your own lawn chairs and a side dish to share and anything you would like to cook on the grill.

FIREWORKS at 9:00pm

Due to this event we will not have our monthly luncheon in July.