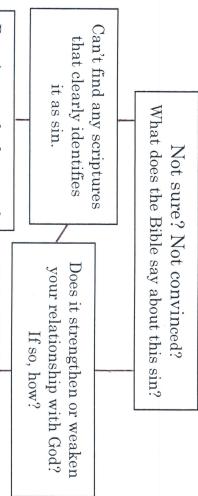


As much as possible, identify why the sin you have chosen is sin, and therefore evil, offensive to God, hurtful to others, The goal is to become convinced this particular evil/sin must be removed and replaced with godliness. and spiritually harmful to you, your relationship with God, and any other relationships.



Does it pass the love test? (love God, love others)

Not sure?

at the expense of others? your good/happiness Is some fear driving Are you seeking If not, why not? it harms your relationship while at the same time... Ask God to make it clear why it is wrong or how with Him,

your sin is offensive to God Ask someone more mature (do they feel loved/unloved, them and your relationship cared for/used, respected, disrespected, etc.). with them

what this behavior does to Ask those directly effected

to help you identify why

Still not sure?

at the expense of others?

self-protection

spiritually harmful to you.

unloving toward others,

Yet I know the Bible clearly identifies it as sin. Not convinced

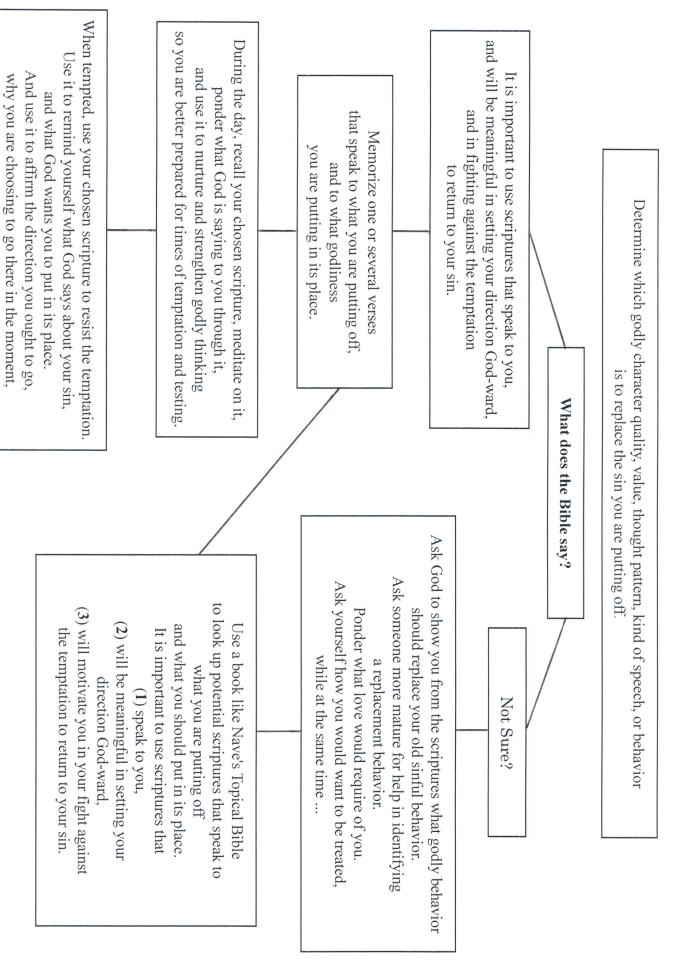
describe your sin and its effect on others Ponder the language the Bible uses to

Why have you loved this sin more than God and those What does the continued practice of this sin say about In other words, what selfish benefits do you gain the value you place on God vs. your own happiness/sense of well-being: from committing this sin? nearest/dearest to you?

your life? Does the practice of this sin feed other sins or fears or distrust of God? If so, what are they and How has this sin given the devil a greater hold on what does the Bible say about them?

conscience, integrity, love for God, reputation as a Christian, family, workplace, community, church. Ponder this sin's affect on your spiritual health,

List the reasons why you should hate this sin and remove it from your life



and why you are committed to continue going there

Count the cost and the gain.

Consider the gain of becoming godly in this area of your life and weigh it against not changing Consider the cost to your self-life and felt-needs of what you are giving up/dying to

Possible immediate and future cost to your self-life of changing.

to dying to self and selfishness, and putting on godliness. The loss of familiar/desired privileges and personal benefits due

- 2 pleasures, comforts, feelings of security, and happiness in the The loss of sinful yet self-soothing thoughts, behaviors, face of circumstances that trigger your felt-need to practice your
- ω Having to repeatedly use self-discipline (force yourself against know is wrong, and do what you know is right. your inner inclinations) to persevere in not doing what you
- 4. The daily burden of hard, even fatiguing efforts required to put ing thoughts, and vigilance against temptation. off sin and put on godliness – such as daily preparation, guard-
- S do) as you go from the known (life with the sin) to the unknown Times of uncertainty (quality of life) and lack of clarity (what to (godliness in that area of life).
- 6 experience the setbacks of returning to your old, sinful way Times of frustration, disappointment, discouragement as you (i.e., two steps forward, one step backwards).
- 7 Possible loss of current happiness in your closest relationships. because when you change, the sin(s) of those nearest to you becomes more evident, and sometimes they won't change.
- <u></u> Possible loss of acceptance, respect, status, job advancement, job, friends, freedom, and even your life

Gain to you and your spiritual-life of changing

- A growing sense of security in knowing you are making an for you, protects you, loves you, and requires godliness of you. honest effort to please Him who made you, saved you, provides
- 2. Growth in hungering and thirsting for righteousness, wanting to please God, and wanting to value God above all else
- S. Growth in (1) personal integrity leading to living up to what you on God's word. tears as you talk to God about it, (7) memorizing and meditating contrite heart over sin leading to a heartfelt sadness along with leading to intimate communion with God, (6) a broken and know, (2) honest self-assessment leading to honest self-judgment, vision for discerning right from wrong, (5) increased prayer (3) godly thinking leading to single-mindedness, (4) clearer
- 4. Growth in trust of God to the point of a settled confidence in
- S Growth in wanting to fellowship with God – which is now made possible by the kind of godly life that enables intimate fellow-
- 6. Growth in loving God leading to willingly making all other loves subservient to your love for God
- 7. Improvement in all your relationships, at least from your side 8. Growth toward Christian maturity, emotional stability, inner Growth toward Christian maturity, emotional stability, inner ing the meaning and intent of God's word. peace, godly wisdom, discernment, witnessing, and understand-
- 9. Noticeable decrease in self-inflicted problems and difficult times.

Daily Preparation

and prepare yourself for the temptations to return to doing what you are putting off Beneficial preparation requires a daily time to equip yourself to persevere in putting off your sin and putting godliness in its place.

- While working this method/process, talk to God not in a formal prayer kind of way, but in a conversational way, with three Him as often as possible. awareness of His continual presence and assistance, and (3) to develop the kind of prayer life whereby you are eager to talk with general goals in mind: (1) to give Him the clear message you want Him involved in the whole process, (2) to nurture an
- will promote honesty with God, honesty with yourself, and the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to help you think/see beyond your Tell God, in detail, what you know about the sinful behavior you are putting off and the godly behavior you are putting on. This
- Review what God says about your sin and why you ought to hate it. Review both the actual and possible consequences of continuing in your sin. Review why replacing your sin with godliness is the right choice. This will nurture (1) hatred for your sin,
- overall life-changing gains/benefits of pursuing godliness. This will reinforce the foolishness of sin and the wisdom of godliness Review the costs involved of putting off your sin. Affirm your willingness to pay the price. Review the spiritual, relationship, and (2) a conviction-driven longing to change, (3) a heartfelt desire to please God, (4) perseverance, (5) a loving concern for others.
- according to His word. implications for you and your situation. As new insights come, respond accordingly. Affirm, to God, your strong longing to live Ask God to speak to you as you review your chosen scripture(s). Then as you ponder/meditate on it, talk with God about its
- Affirm your need for His continued help. holy as He is holy, and have a pure heart. Affirm you want to do this for His sake and the sake of His kingdom here on earth. Talk to God about your desire, need of desire, or lack of desire to love Him supremely, love others as you ought (be specific), be
- Review yesterday's failures and successes. If you have not confessed and made the failure right, do so. Then tell God what you should have done to prevent the failure. Build on the failures/victories by looking ahead at your day to predict probable times of temptation and testing. Then review with God how you intend to handle the temptation(s) and time(s) of testing
- Remind God that you not only need His help, you want His help in all facets of the process. Talk to God about what you think sensitivity to thinking patterns, practices, choices, and circumstances which either hinder or help you along the way. you need from Him to make progress (but do not ask Him to do your part for you). Ask God to clearly show you what prior thoughts or activities set you up (makes you vulnerable) to give in to temptation when it arrives. Ask God to increase your
- Thank God for all He has done to save you from the power and practice of sin. Thank Him for His gracious assistance in working His method for growing in godliness. Affirm your confidence in His continued grace and help as you continue to work the

Fighting The Foe Until Victory Is Won

- strengthens your desire to do what you know is wrong Remain vigilant so as to guard against any thought, desire, fear, or activity which weakens your resolve to do what you know is right or
- Nurture a healthy fear of God so that when your love for God or your love for others or your hunger for righteousness stops motivating you, your fear of God will push you to persevere in working God's sanctification method and continue pursuing growth in godliness
- S. When temptation is knocking at your door, begin resisting by quoting your chosen scripture. Then remind yourself why this sin is wrong, remaining faithful to doing what you know is right. Repeat as often as necessary. His help as you redirect your thoughts and actions (may include changing your circumstances) away from the temptation and toward what the destructive consequences are of doing it, and the wisdom and benefits of doing what is godly. Then tell God you are counting on
- senses: (1) confess, (2) make things right with whomever you sinned against, (3) review why you want to change, (4) affirm to God your If you give in to temptation or simply choose to do what you are trying to put off, take the following action as soon as you come to your determination to change, (5) return to a serious, intentional, persistent pursuit of godliness.
- to be holy as God is holy, and for a pure heart. As your understanding increases of how deeply the sin is rooted within you, how much you have treasured the (so-called) benefits of the sin, and how challenging and seemingly unending (at least at first) the battle is to put off your sin and replace it with godliness, than how and when you are setting yourself up to give in when tempted, for a growing desire to love God supremely, for an increased longing increase your "help me" and "teach me" prayers for wisdom, for inward spiritual strength, for a heartfelt hatred of your sin, for clarity in
- Look for an accountability partner who will ask the tough questions, tell you the truth, and call you back to godliness especially in those times when you would rather feed your flesh, give way to self-pity, take a vacation from the hard work of pursuing godliness, or give up
- As much as it depends on you, do not give up. Fight the good fight. Run with endurance. Persevere to the end! An established pattern of that area of your life. The goal is to get to the place where all desire is gone for the old way and godliness has become your natural choice. probability that it will take three months to a year or more to gain the kind of victory whereby you are a new creature in Christ Jesus in sin gets established because you have practiced it for a long time. It will take time to kill it off and replace it with godliness. So plan on the
- 000 Throughout the battle and until victory is won, be vigilant in guarding against wrong thinking and feeling, against fleshly desires that feed will need to continue being extra vigilant in relation to the sin just defeated so as to prevent it from returning. the sin, against self-pity or anger that make it easy to justify the sin, and against temptation. For a period of time after victory is won, you
- 9 When victory has been won or nearly won in one area of sin, start the process again on another sinful behavior, thought pattern, fleshly desire, or fear. However, remain vigilant against past defeated sins until you no longer have any desire to do them