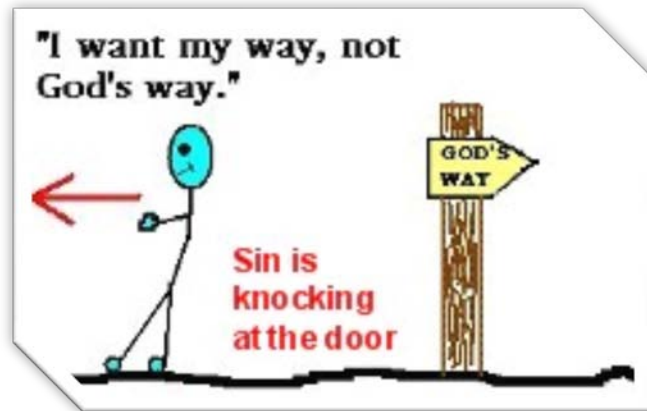


1. Scriptural Definitions of Sin

a) **Failure to conform to the divine standard.** The Hebrew *chata* and the Greek *hamartia* may each be translated literally "missing the mark." These words found in the original in the respective Testaments are the common words for sin; they are also translated trespass, offense, and fault. Sin, in this sense of failure to achieve the divine standard, is mentioned typically in a

verse such as: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God"

(Romans 3:23). *Seen thus, to sin is to miss the divine aim of God and thereby to arrive at a state of delusion and deception.* It is a case of failing to accomplish that quality of life that God's divine law demands and thereby failing to conform to the measure of God's standard.



b) **The transgression of the law.** The word *avar* in Hebrew and *parabasis* in the Greek implies sin in the sense of "proceeding beyond prescribed limits". Sin in this sense is a stepping or passing beyond that which God has decreed either in His law or in human conscience: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is a transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Sin in this sense is a deviation of a divine requirement and a bending of that which is right. "David spake...Lo, I have sinned, and have done wickedly" (2 Samuel 24:17). *In passing over the boundary of the right and entering the forbidden world, this type of sin may be seen as rebellion against the law of God.* "...Children...have rebelled against me" (Isaiah 1:2). It was this rebellious transgression of which Judas Iscariot was guilty in falling from his apostleship and betraying the Lord: "...Judas by transgression fell" (Acts 1:25).

c) **The denial of the law.** In the Hebrew word *pasha* and the Greek *anomia* sin is depicted as "lawlessness". It is not mere transgression, but a total lack of conformity and the outright disregard of the law of God. It is not mere disobedience to that which God's Law prescribes, but an open defiance typified by the set jaw and clenched fist with the deliberate intention of acting in a contrary manner. The deeds of the Sodomites are described on this order, and thus Lot: "vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds" (2 Peter 2:8). *It was the wicked or unlawful hands of the enemies of Christ who were responsible for His death.* "Him...ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (Acts 2:23). Sin in this sense is a life of affront and insult to God and the consequent rebellion is pointedly flagrant and deliberate.

d) **Sin is ungodliness.** In the Greek word *asobeia*, sin is depicted as that character of life which results in the "separation" of the (soul) individual's spirit from God. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness..." (Romans 1:18). Sin in this sense characterizes the individual who is totally diverse from the person and will of God. It represents him who is irreverent, impious, and ungodly: "...the law is...made...for the ungodly and for sinners..." (I Timothy 1:9). "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and

the sinner appear" (I Peter 4:18). *It is evident that to sin in the sense of practicing ungodliness is to live a life without God.*

e) **Sin is a falling aside.** The Greek word *paraptoma* depicts sin in the sense of an act that is a slipping or a falling from the pathway prescribed by God. It constitutes sin as a "trespass, offense, or fault". *It involves a failure to achieve a divine purpose and a departure from duty and right to the over-all tragic damage of the guilty individual.* "And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). "In whom we have...the forgiveness of sins" (Ephesians 1:7).

f) **Sin is debt.** The Greek word *opheilema* depicts sin as that which is owed, or that to which the sinner is under obligation. It is sin in the sense of that which one is indebted for or behoved upon to do, or that which is one's duty or that which one is "bound or pledged to do". "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren" (Hebrews 2:17). "Forgive us our debts" (Matthew 6:12. Also see Luke 17:3 & 4 and I John 1:9). Sin is death in the sense that it remains a liability until discharged. *It calls for a satisfactory payment and it can be resolved only by prescribed expiation.*

When God completed his perfect creation, it was "very good" because: There was no disorder. There was no chaos. There was no conflict. There was no struggle. There was no pain. There was no discord. There was no disease. There was no decline. There was no death. Now we all live our whole lives with all of that. Life is defined by disorder, chaos, conflict, struggle, pain, discord, disease, decline and death. Sin is any personal lack of conformity to the moral character of God, or the law of God. Sin is a disposition of the heart. It thinks evil; it speaks evil; it acts evil and it omits good. Let me give you those four, because those are the four ways in which you sin. You sin by thinking evil, speaking evil, acting evil or omitting good. You sin when you do, when you say, when you think, or when you don't do, say, think what God demands you to.

James 4:17

Sins Of Commission Doing what I know is wrong.	Sins Of Omission Failing to do what I know is right.
---	---

"Of all forms of deception, self-deception is the most deadly; and of all deceived persons, the self-deceived are the least likely to discover the fraud"

- A.W. Tozer

Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, BUT they are helpless against our prayers

- J. Sidlow Baxter