

UPCOMING

- Fellowship meal March 29 following worship service
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Prayer List

Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments.

- Renee Cumberland (cancer)
- Ora Barrett
- Connie Montgomery
- Emily Linton
- Andy Duncan (Liver transplant)
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Communion Preparation

2026 preparation list is in foyer
March - Rowell
April - Potts
May -

Birthday / Anniversary

Mark Potts - 6th
Larry Montgomery - 13th
Kylie Joiner - 23rd

Men to Serve

- Announcements - Larry Montgomery
- Scripture Reading - Matthew 4:12 - 17
- Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
- Head of Lord's Table - Rick Carlberg
- Assist on Lord's Table - Mark Potts
- Scripture Reading - Matthew 27:1 - 14
- Closing Prayer - Corey Murphy



03 / 15 / 2026

WELCOME

We are a body of believers whose soul intention is to glorify and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of His church. Our desire is to reflect that of our God--that all be saved. Anyone who is willing to humble himself before the mighty hand of God can be saved.

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Bible Study //
9:30 am
Worship Service //
10:30 am

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study //
7:00 pm

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
4217 Highway 39 N // Meridian, MS 39301
PHONE: (601)483-2726 **WEB:** www.nscocmeridian.com
Join us via live stream for our worship service!
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SERMON NOTES

A Hairy Reminder

By Roger Shouse

A person between the ages of 20-30 has about 615 hair follicles per square centimeter. A person 50 years of age has around 485 hair follicles per square centimeter. Typically, most people have somewhere between 100,000-150,000 hairs on their head. By the way, the average hair loss for an individual is 50-100 hairs per day. As a result, there is no way you can tell accurately how many hairs you have (in fact, unless you are going bald, most of us don't really care). But God knows.

Jesus said: "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29-31). This passage reveals three interesting truths.

First, God knows more about us than we know about us. That is a humbling thought. When we sometimes feel like no one understands us or grasps our situation, we forget that God does. God knows your

personality. God knows your strengths. God knows what motivates you. God knows when you stumble. God knows the real you. Therefore, when God declares something worthwhile, He knows what He is talking about. When God warns about danger, He knows what He is talking about. When God tells us that we should do something, we need to do it, because He knows us better than we know ourselves.

God is a God of detail. How insignificant are hairs and sparrows to us. Yet God is aware of them. He is a God of details. The motives, attitudes, and heart behind our actions are as important to Him as the actions themselves. It does little good to give, if you have left out the detail of being a cheerful. Singing fails if we neglect thankfulness in our heart. Let us be a people of details, as God is.

God cares about you. This is why Jesus referred to sparrows and hair. Christ was not sent to save the whales, the environment, or the endangered species, but mankind. Stress and worry often make us wonder if God cares. These two simple illustrations remind us that He does.

"I Struggle with Sin. Am I a Bad Christian?"

By Mark McCrary

Every honest Christian knows this question, "I'm struggling with sin. Does that make me a bad Christian?"

The Bible doesn't brush this concern aside. In fact, it describes exactly that tension between God's call to holiness and our ongoing battle with sin. On one hand, God says, "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). That's the standard—absolute purity, no sin. But then 1 John 1:8 reminds us, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

It's in the middle of these two truths that our everyday lives take place.

Our goal is not to sin—John goes on to say, "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin" (1 John 2:1)—but he immediately adds, "If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

In other words: sin is still real, but because of Christ, it's no longer our master.

You Don't Have to Sin Anymore

Romans 6 makes that crystal clear. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, believers have been set free from sin's dominion. Paul writes, "Sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace" (Romans 6:14).

Yes, you will sin (1 John 1:8), but you don't have to keep sinning. You are no longer chained to your old desires. Christ has freed you from the bondage of sin.

Because of Christ, when you sin, you can stop. You can walk away. Paul reminds us that faithfulness is part of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

You don't struggle alone. As John promised, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

That's why the key word in this question—"I struggle with sin"—is so important.

Struggle Means You're Fighting

There's an old preacher's story about a young man who confessed, "I'm struggling with pornography."

The preacher asked, "How often do you look at it?"

"About ten times a day," the young man answered.

The preacher paused, then said gently, "That doesn't sound much like a struggle."

He wasn't trying to be cruel—just to make an important point: the word struggle demands we fight back. We hate what's wrong. We repent when we fall. We don't want to live in sin.

Paul puts it this way, "Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you" (Colossians 3:5). You declared war on sin when you were baptized into Christ. You committed to holy living. But it isn't a "one and done" thing. Following Christ is a commitment to fight that war every single day you live.

When Guilt Is a Good Thing

The reality is that the person who doesn't struggle isn't doing well. If sin doesn't bother us, something's wrong. The absence of struggle usually means the absence of caring—and that's a huge problem.

But when sin does grieve you—when you feel that pang of conviction after you fall—that's actually evidence of life. Paul calls it "godly sorrow" and says it "produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret" (2 Corinthians 7:10).

That sorrow isn't meant to crush you—it's meant to drive you to Christ. Guilt without grace leads to despair; guilt that turns to Jesus leads to growth.

There's Good News

If you're struggling with sin—bothered by it, fighting it—that's not a sign you're a bad Christian. It's a sign you're alive in the fight.

Take heart: the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you (Romans 8:11).

The more you grow, the more you'll see progress. Temptations that once owned you will lose their hold. Sin's voice will grow weaker, and the Spirit's voice stronger. You will become more like Christ—not overnight, but over time.

But remember: there has to be fruit. People who live in continual guilt without change aren't repenting. Real repentance is more than acknowledging sin—it's genuine effort to change. God wants you to overcome sin, not be overcome with sorrow (2 Corinthians 2:7).

So no, struggling with sin doesn't make you a bad Christian.

Giving up the struggle would.

So, beloved, keep fighting. Keep repenting. Keep trusting Jesus.

He's not ashamed of the Christian who struggles—He's there to help them stand.