

Praying for Believers in Sin

1 John 5:16-17

- I. We should pray for believers to repent and avoid the consequences of their sin (I John 5:16a).
 - A. Get Involved: It is our business to get involved when another believer is sinning.
 - We should pray for believers struggling with sin (1 John 5: 16).
 - We should firmly and gently confront those caught in sin and seek to restore them (Galatians 6:1,2).
 - B. Be Warned: There are sometimes physical consequences of sin for the believer.
 - “Sin leading to death” – God sometimes directly judges sin with death (Old Testament; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 11:18-30 – also natural consequences – Galatians 6:7-9).
 - When we pray and confront each other, God may work so that life is extended and consequences are avoided (James 5:16-20; Ephesians 6:3).
- II. We may stop praying for believers who seem to be reaping God’s direct judgment of their sin (I John 5:16b).
 - Get out of God’s Way: Sometimes we may sense that a person’s heart is hardened and we see God’s discipline. We are not commanded to stop praying, but we are released from the burden and may stop praying for them (5:16b; Jeremiah 7:16).
- III. All sin is serious, but not all sin is judged with physical consequences on earth (I John 5:17)
 - Focus on the seriousness of all sin: We must not neglect the need to address any sin in our life and to help any other believers struggling with sin.