

# Faith Talk - May 31, 2026

**Series:** The Utter Relief of Holiness

**Sermon:** Sin in the Stubborn Places

**Scripture:** Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; Romans 6:12-14; Ephesians 4:26-27; Psalm 139:23-24; Psalm 90:8; Exodus 20:5; Nehemiah 9:2-3; Colossians 1:21-22; James 4:6-8; Luke 4:18-21; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 1:13-16

## 1 Peter 2:24

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

## Sermon Summary

This sermon addresses persistent sin struggles that don't seem to improve despite practicing the previous disciplines covered in the previous sermons in this series. The message identifies a critical three-part framework with 10 actions we can each take to cooperate with what God wants to do in our lives, and help us participate in the fight for holiness and freedom we long for.

### Renounce the Sin (Proverbs 28:13)

- Agree with God (1 John 1:9)
- Offer Yourself to God (Romans 6:12-14)

### Break Free of Strongholds (Ephesians 4:26-27)

- Discover the Roots (Psalm 139:23-24)
- Be Aware of Companion Sins (Psalm 90:8)
- Be Aware of Generational Sins (Exodus 20:5; Nehemiah 9:2-3)
- Break All Agreements (Colossians 1:21-22)

### Heal the Brokenness (Luke 4:18-21)

- Draw Near to God (James 4:6-8)
- Invite Jesus to Heal (1 Peter 2:24)
- Invite a Friend to Pray (James 5:16)
- Choose Holiness in Every Moment (1 Peter 1:13-16)

Don't skip over an area, and don't skip an action. Do them all until Jesus leads you to the next action. It may not happen in this exact order. Follow Jesus as He leads you to renounce sin, break free of strongholds, and heal the brokenness.

We are here to help you and to pray with you through this. Sign up for Freedom Prayer, and we will meet and pray as you walk this journey. You can find out more and **sign up here:** [www.dallasbible.org/freedomprayer](http://www.dallasbible.org/freedomprayer)

## Discussion Questions

### Conversations with Adults

1. The sermon identifies three critical areas: renounce sin, break free of strongholds, and heal brokenness. Which area do you tend to neglect in your own battles with sin? Why?
2. Think of a persistent sin struggle. What companion sins (lies, secrecy, justifications) do you use to hide or enable it? How would confessing these to God and a trusted friend change things?
3. The message says generational sin (patterns from family) can give the devil a foothold. Do you struggle with the same types of sin as your parents? How could naming this and renouncing it break the cycle?

### Conversations with Students

1. The sermon defines a stronghold as "something that keeps holding you back." What stronghold in your life do you think has roots going back to a painful memory or first encounter with sin?
2. Breaking agreements with lies about your identity is critical. What lies have you agreed with about yourself? (Examples: "I'm just an angry person," "I'm ugly," "This is just how I am") How could accepting your true identity in Christ change your behavior?
3. James 5:16 says confession to a trusted friend is part of healing. Who is one committed Christian friend you could trust with your deepest struggle? What makes you hesitant to confess to them?

### Conversations with Kids

1. The sermon talks about strongholds, places where sin keeps holding us back. What's something you keep struggling with even though you want to stop? Does it go back to something that happened earlier?
2. The sermon says we sometimes make agreements with lies, such as "I'm a bad kid" or "I'll never change." How does thinking this about yourself hurt you rather than help you? What's the truth about who you are in Jesus?
3. Confessing to a friend who loves Jesus can be scary but important. Who is one trusted adult you could tell if you were really struggling with something?

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Jesus to set captives free and heal the brokenness in our lives. We're grateful that freedom from persistent sin is possible through renouncing sin, breaking strongholds, and healing brokenness, not through our effort but through Your power.

We ask for courage to confess sin, discover roots, and bring companion sins into Your light. Help us to address generational patterns and break agreements with lies that have held us captive. Most importantly, help us to draw near to You and invite Jesus into the deepest places of our brokenness, where only He can heal.

We commit to this battle, remembering that choosing holiness in every moment builds strength and fuels freedom. Give us righteous friends who will pray with us and walk alongside us. Help us to be patient with the healing process, knowing it may take time. By Your wounds we are healed. Set us free. In Jesus' name, Amen.