



## [Genesis 4:7](#)

(7) If you do well, shall you not be accepted? But if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. Its desire *is* for you, but you must rule over it!"

*A Faithful Version*

In all its forms, [sin](#) is marked as mankind's enemy. It must be defeated to God's satisfaction for Him to accept us. If not, our relationship with Him will not be continued for eternity.

Because sin is an ever-present reality of life, it is essential that we have sufficient knowledge to recognize it before its fiery darts strike us down. This requires consistent, thoughtful study of God's Word and effort to build an awareness of its presence, enabling us to beat it to the punch, so to speak.

Overcoming sin is indeed a formidable task, but not a hopeless one. One reason why it is not hopeless, when rightly thought through, is quite encouraging. [Jesus](#) teaches in [Luke 12:48](#):

But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

We are admonished to be alert because our enemy is at the door ([Genesis 4:7](#)), stalking us as we make our way through life. However, we are also encouraged to understand that we are all judged individually. [God](#) judges everyone against the same standard, yet He judges individually according to our natural talents, gifts, dedication, [faithfulness](#), discipline, time sacrificed, and energies exerted to overcome against what God knows we are capable of.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Genesis 4:7 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

We stand alone, as it were, not measured against any other person. Though the ultimate standard is the holy, righteous character of the Father and Son, we are neither measured against their performance nor any other human's performance. We are not in competition against others.

Though not measured against the performance of the Father and Son, we are nonetheless urged to strive to be at one with them. They are in complete and total agreement with each other. It is to this oneness that God wants to bring us, not merely intellectually, but also in attitude and conduct. They do not sin, and imitating this sinlessness becomes our great challenge in life.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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**[Sin, Christians, and the Fear of God](#)**

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