



Series: Know Your Bible

Lesson: 8. Hacking Agag to Pieces

“Do you mortify [sin]; do you make it your daily work; be always at it; cease not a day from this work; be killing sin or it will be killing you.”

- **The Illustration of Agag and the Folly of Partial Obedience**

- The story: 1 Sam. 15 (cf. Ex. 17:8–16; Deut. 25:17–19)

1 Sam. 15:22–23 – Samuel said,

“Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices

As in obeying the voice of the Lord?

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,

And to heed than the fat of rams.

²³For rebellion is as the sin of divination,

And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,

He has also rejected you from being king.”

- Consequences: 1 Sam. 30:1–5

- **Life in the Spirit vs. Death in the Physical Body**

Rom. 8:9–13 – However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰**If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.** ¹¹But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. ¹²**So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

- All people are either dead in our flesh or alive in the Spirit.
- We can now please God, but we still struggle with the remnants of our old natures, awaiting our glorified bodies (cf. 1 Cor. 15:42–53)
- Progressive sanctification –

- **How Do We Mortify Sin?**

Matt. 5:29–30 – If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

1. Abstain from fleshly _____, and make no _____ for the flesh.

1 Pet. 2:11 – Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

Rom. 13:14 – But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. (cf. 1 Cor. 6:18)

2. Fix your heart on _____.

1 John 3:2–3 – Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2 Cor. 3:18 – But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (cp. Ps. 135:15–18)

3. Meditate on _____.

*Ps. 119:11 – Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You.*

Josh. 1:8 – This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

John 17:17 – “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

4. Watch and _____.

Matt. 26:41 – “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

5. Exercise _____.

1 Cor. 9:25–27 – Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

6. Be filled with the _____.

Eph. 5:18 – And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

Gal. 5:16 – But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

- **Checks Against Incomplete Mortification**

- Sin is not mortified when it is merely

_____.

- Sin is not mortified when it is only

_____.

- Sin is not mortified when it is _____
for another sin.

- Sin is not mortified until the _____
has been appeased.

- Sin is not mortified when is merely _____.

What Do We Do with These Truths?

1. How does something as graphic as hacking Agag to pieces help us to understand the mortification of sin?
2. What is the difference between those who are 'in the Spirit' versus those who are 'in the flesh' when it comes to our ability to deal with sin?
3. Can you give a biblical justification for Owen's quote, "Be killing sin or it will be killing you"?
4. What is hardest for you about mortifying sin? What truths are most important to remember to aid this struggle?
5. What are the biggest excuses for incomplete mortification we have to battle? How should we respond?

Blanks: lusts, provision, Christ, God's Word, pray, self-control, Holy Spirit, covered up, internalized, exchanged, conscience, repressed