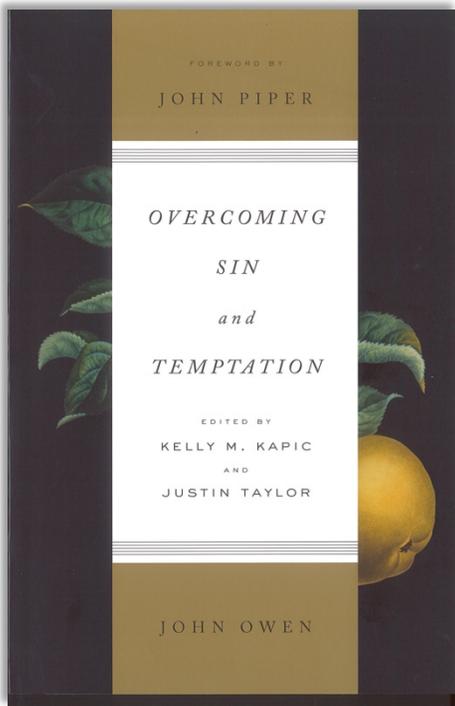


book of the month

Overcoming Sin and Temptation

John Owen, ed. Kopic & Taylor



Sinclair Ferguson wrote of John Owen's writing, "Whenever I return to one of his works I find myself asking 'Why do I spend time reading lesser literature?'" I have to agree with his assessment. There has been no one more skilled or effective at stimulating my heart to see and love the glory of my Triune God than John Owen. No one has been helpful to me at helping me to see and put to death my own sin. The writing can be hard to understand, but it is well worth the effort to read.

Overcoming Sin and Temptation includes three of Owen's works:

1. *Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers*
2. *Of Temptation: The Nature and Power of It*
3. *Indwelling Sin*

John Owen is known to be difficult to read. While I think that many have exaggerated the difficulty of reading Owen, Kopic and Owen have worked hard to help you understand his writing easier. The formatting is much more natural to follow in this edition compared to vol 6 of his *Works*. They've also included very helpful outlines for each book at the end of this edition. They've also footnoted difficult-to-understand words, changed archaic pronouns (thee, thou), and modernized some spelling. All of these things will serve to help you read and benefit better from these excellent books.

We will be reading *Mortification of Sin* together this month. It is less than 100 pages long. If you read it carefully, seeking to apply what you learn, I am certain that this will certainly prove to be one of the most beneficial months of your life. —Jacob Hantla

Tips for reading and understanding

1. **Photocopy the outline** from the back of the book and follow along with it as you read, taking notes. It is very important to understand how each part of the what Owen writes fits into the whole point he is trying to make.
2. **Don't get overwhelmed.** Owen was writing *Mortification of Sin* primarily for students, probably aged 12-24. He wrote a shorter book in more plain language than he often used. *Mortification of Sin* is a good place to start.
3. **Pay attention:** You can't turn your brain off while you read. Owen does not waste sentences—or even words! You must pay attention. It will be helpful to set aside some undistracted time to read, stay engaged. Spurgeon said that Owen is not complicated just condensed...that he says things with few words that he could have said with many. So in order to grasp it you have to pay attention to all the words he says, but it is worth it.
4. **Don't get bogged down:** Going too slow, trying to totally understand every point can slow you down in your reading actually making you understand less. If you don't get something, move on. I personally find it helpful when reading Owen to **read out loud**, which keeps me moving and smooths out long sentences to my mind.
5. **Summarize:** Each day when you finish reading, try to summarize in one or two sentence either one thing you learned or the summary of what you read.
6. **Apply:** You must not be content to merely understand mortification of sin, but be moved to apply it by the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Each day, after you write your summary, begin implementing appropriate changes in your thinking or behavior.
7. **Read with somebody else:** If you are able, it is helpful to read with somebody else to keep you on track and discuss what you are learning and how to apply it.
8. **Read daily:** Reading daily will require probably 15-20 minutes per day. This will build the discipline of daily reading, keep the content fresh, and make the completion of the book in a single month possible without being overwhelming

Suggested 1-Month Reading Plan

Week 1: 2 ½ pages per day + intro

Introduction (optional) – 13 pages
Overview – 2 pages
Chapter 1 – 5 pages
Chapter 2 – 9 pages
Chapter 3 – 6 pages

Week 2: 3 ½ pages per day

Chapter 4 – 6 pages
Chapter 5 – 5 pages
Chapter 6 – 7 pages
Chapter 7 – 9 pages

Week 3: 3 ½ pages per day

Chapter 8 – 4 pages
Chapter 9 – 9 pages
Chapter 10 – 7 pages
Chapter 11 – 8 pages

Week 4: 4 pages per day

Chapter 12 – 9 pages
Chapter 13 – 10 pages
Chapter 14 – 9 page