

## Chapter 3

In this Chapter, Owen outlines the second general principle underlying the work of mortification. This principle explains what it is that makes mortification work, as opposed to those things people typically depend upon to counter their sin. This is the work of the spirit.

**The first thing Owen examines is the ineffective ways in which man seek to kill their sin, which he says os the greatest part of the popish religion. We of course, could add and the greater part of modern evangelicalism. Owen says this issue is what motivated him to write this book.**

1. In what ways do many people attempt to destroy the sins that trouble them?
2. What do they trust in to change them?
3. What are the reasons such things just don't work?
4. How do we often use the right things- such as reading the Bible, praying, fasting, etc. - in the wrong way to accomplish mortification?
5. Where does this getting tough-on-sin approach actually focus our attention? Where does the real problem lie?

**The second point in the chapter explains how mortification is the work of the spirit.**

6. Why must mortification be the work of the Spirit? How does this particular work of the spirit correspond to the work of Christ?
7. How does the Spirit mortify sin?
8. If mortification of sin is the work of the spirit, why do we have to do anything at all?
9. How does the Spirit's work relate to our own obedience?