When we speak about this topic, about the sin, we need to see the entirety of what it means and the different places where it is found in the Bible, so that we can have a complete picture of it, same as we need to do with any other biblical discussion. It is a topic that is vastly found throughout the entire Bible from the first to the last book of it and it is to accompany us in throughout our life here, as it dwells in us. We mustn’t obviously be slaves of it, and it mustn’t guide us through the crucial and important decisions we take in our life. Its purpose is to lead us astray from Him. That’s why we need to resist it as much as we can. In which way though this needs to be done?

The most effective way is through the grace of God, which not only comes to forgive our sins, but also to enable us to live in the right way. Most of the other ways which we can use to fight with it, will eventually turn not effective in time and will not lead us to live in the holiness for which the Bible is speaking about.

We need to know that we will fall in sin, being this done purposely, half purposely (if we can say so), or we just slip into it. This is not anyway to be used for our justification. Who really justifies us, is Christ and we need to look for this kind of justification. What happens when we sin, after the moment in which we did it? We might feel confused and ashamed of ourselves. This happens mainly if we are new born Christians having a relationship with our Father. Our relationship with Him feels broken. If we are not such believers, we will not feel in this way most of the times. The reason for which we experience this, is because we feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit, but in the midst of this is also the role of the enemy, the Devil. Sometimes he can come with a thought in us that all the hope is lost and that we sinned so much that it is not even worth to go and ask God for forgiveness. Yes, we can feel that we sinned a lot, and it might be true, we can feel not worthy and it is again true, but the word of God doesn’t say anywhere that we cannot approach God for forgiveness.

Here we see some of the passages speaking about it.

 “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. **And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**”

1 John 2:1

We see that in this verse tells us not to, which is the desire of God for us, but it tells us also that if we sin, we can find a forgiveness. And in this way we need to approach the topic of sin.

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

By these verse we see that God is willing to forgive us. We also need to know that the forgiveness is a real experience and it is not just a formal statement that we know of. There are feelings and emotions into this experience. One is not forgiven just because someone tells him that he is, or just because he read it even in the Bible. We have to know that the forgiveness for which the Bible speaks about, is an experience by people that were really forgiven and wrote about it, as they lived it.

The enemy does not come except for stealing your joy and everything else God is having for you. He wants to entice you first into the sin and then to tell you that you are too deep into it, so deep that cannot get out.

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.” John 10:10

Of course that when we are into sin, we mustn’t be fine with it and to carry on, but we also need to know that we can call upon His name. The sin leaves consequences nevertheless.

What often happens after falling into sin is that we lose faith and hope, we cannot see clearly the promises of God for us. This is the purpose of the enemy.

There are consequences of sin and the only medicine is the blood of Christ.

There is a verse in Proverbs saying that the fear of the Lord is health to our flesh and strength to our bones.

7Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil.  
8It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.

That means that the opposite, I mean the lack of the fear which leads predominantly to sinning, cause a disease. There is a disease, an illness into our soul when we sin and if we don’t prevent it, if we don’t cure it in time, can spread further on and our spiritual condition can get worse. It takes also a time to heal sometimes and get to the right spiritual condition and health, same as healing from any other disease that effects us physically. The process of healing continues even after we receive the forgiveness from the Lord, which is the first thing for which we need to ask Him after we sin. Yes, when we acknowledge sincerely that we sinned and we humble in front of Him, He forgives us, but it still takes a bit of time sometimes, to get again to the right spiritual condition.

We mustn’t lose hope though, when we fall into sin. The purpose of the enemy for us, is to lose hope and not to go to the Lord for forgiveness. We have to be serious and cautious in our walk and relationship with Him and not to lose hope in the same time, knowing that He is our advocate (1 John 2:1). He also demands from us not to fall over and over into this same sin though. We also need to trust Him in order to be able to escape temptation. We have to set our eyes on Him and be sober and realistic about our condition in front of God. He wants to heal us, but for this we also need to acknowledge that we are sick. He came for those ones (Mark 2:17). On the other side the enemy wants to steal our faith and hope, telling us that there is no solution and not to go at all to Him for forgiveness.

This message is obviously for those who are born again and have accepted truly Jesus in their hearts. Only they can feel truly the consequences of sin in their life, as they have the Holy Spirit who is guiding them to live in holiness and once they fall, they feel the difference. We obviously are all sinners and the sin dwells in us, but the difference amongst the believers who are born again and the rest of the people is that the sin still dwells in their members as Romans 7:23 says, but they also have the new nature given to them by God which opposes sin while those who don’t have yet Jesus in their hearts, can have some kind of conscience regarding the sin, but they will never feel the full consequence the sin brings into their life. Those who feel it (the new born Christians), feel it because of the relation they have with God and the pact He has established with them. This is because He wants to bring them to eternal salvation and He does everything possible to keep them from going astray from Him. This is also how His love is expressed toward them. A father corrects his child, because he loves him. In the same way is God with us.

The sin also blinds us to His promises. More we carry on sinning, more we lose sight of His promises. When we return to God, the regain our sight, but until then we still carry on as we are blind in part. That’s why the believers cannot allow themselves to persevere on sinning.

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us,* and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1, 2

When I speak about sinning, I know that all of us are sinners, and that what actually makes of those who have believed saints (this is how the believers were called in the new testament), is not just not committing certain sins, but sanctifying themselves through the blood of Jesus, which comes through faith. In this way they manage to be clean even on the inside, in their hearts. Obviously they are not secured that they will not sin, but the difference is that some people force themselves not to do or commit “certain” sins that they esteem as more sinful and in this way they consider themselves righteous (we are speaking here mostly about the sins outwardly committed) while others acknowledge their sin and ask God for His grace through faith, which makes them righteous. I want to be sanctified through faith in His grace. So we can conclude that I am not righteous or holier than the others just because I do not sin in certain areas of my life, but because I’ve received His forgiveness and grace. It is because of Him and that’s why there is not a place for me to exalt myself or to boast because of my own righteousness.

There are some different attitudes to look to the sin. One is that by not committing certain sins I am already righteous, which is self-righteousness and it is not right. It is not a question of just not committing certain mistakes that we retain as worse than the others and by this to esteem ourselves as better persons. It is a matter of being sincere with our sinful condition and to have an attitude of repentance. I think that this is the way in which God can work in us and to grow in sanctification in front of Him. This should be natural and provoked by the work of God in our life. We should have a desire for it. A desire not to sin and walk in holiness, but the real work that performs that and makes it to become real is from God. Without that we can try, but it won’t be really possible.

Falling in sin is to fail to listen and obey God and we need to be conscious when that happens. Although it is not a question of just condemning ourselves, but to see what happened in the light of the word of God, we also cannot just say that all is forgiven and we feel in such a way just because of a certain statement that someone made, saying that it is written in the Bible. The Bible does speak about persons who were forgiven, but also for persons that were not. Those who were forgiven and wrote about it, did it because they had experience with it and pleaded earnestly God for His forgiveness and humbled themselves.

We have to know also that it is not a question of sinning and not sinning that defines us as Christians, but the blood of Christ, and if that blood is in someone, it will guide him into life of holiness and transformation into the image of God.