<u>Effects of Sin</u>
Sin is not an isolated action. It has consequences.
What are they?
Darkened Minds and Hearts (Romans 1:18-25)
What does it mean to have a darkened mind/heart?

We cannot see who God is and what He loves any longer. This means that the more we sin the less we sin our sin as wrong. The longer we are involved in darkness, the more the eyes of our soul adjust to the darkness

Withering (Jer. 17:5-9)
How does this metaphor show up in our lives?

The cursed tree is that which is planted in the wasteland, where there is no hope for growth. Ironically, this tree represents those who put their trust in people. While we think trusting in people puts into healthy relationships, to put more trust in mankind that in God will end up producing death around you.
When we realize that our heart deceitfully longs to trust in things other than who God is we end up losing our access to life. To produce healthy fruit from a healthy heart requires us to deny our impulses for the sake of Scripture.

Loss of Strength (Romans 6:23)
The wages of sin is death. We reap death from our sin. Our bodies physically decay due to our engagement in sin.

It is also important to point out here that we have been called to love the Lord our God with our hearts, minds, souls, and strength (Matt 22:37) but sin destroys each of these. We have directly seen how our hearts, minds, and strength are corrupted by sin. By consequence our souls become corrupted because each of these aspects make up the fiber of our being.

Broken Relationships (James 4:1-3)
How does James 4:6-10 call us to address our sinfulness?

This passage calls attention to our selfishness which destroys relationships. Sin does not just cause personal destruction, but relational destruction as well. In order to restore relationships we must come before God with sincere hearts. We must see our need for him prior to any other relationship that we are in. We must submit to him and then lay down our own selfish desires for the sake of others.