

“The Christian’s Struggle Against Sin”

Romans 7:14-8:1

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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Teaching Aim: To recognize every Christian struggles with sin while living on this side of eternity. To identify those areas of sin in our own lives that we struggle with and learn how to have victory over them. To realize “*sanctification*” is the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus and won’t stop until we either die or until we receive our glorified bodies from Jesus at the rapture. To understand, “*in Christ,*” we can live our lives in victory right now by the power of the Holy Spirit.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: For we know that the law is good, but the way of the flesh is not (Rom. 7:14-18)

1. What did Paul mean when he said, “*the law is spiritual*” (vs. 14)? Who was the originator of the law and what was its purpose? (See **Gal. 3:24**) What do we mean when we say that someone is “*carnal?*” (See Dictionary) Can a person “*continually live in a carnal lifestyle*” and still be saved? Why or why not? (See **2 Cor. 13:5; 1 John 2:3, 5, 15, 19; 3:10; 5:2-4**)

2. According to **verse 15**, what major struggle was Paul facing? Do you ever find yourself in the same kind of struggle? What makes sin so attractive? (See **Gen. 3:1-6; 2 Cor. 11:14**) What should a Christian do as soon as he or she realizes that they have sinned in either thought or deed? (See **1 John 1:9**) What does the word “*repentance*” mean and why is it so important for us to stay in a right relationship with God? (See Dictionary)

3. In **verse 16** Paul opens up about the inner struggle he was struggling with between his old sin nature and the new man he was in Christ. Do you ever experience the same struggle in your own life? What is the “*conscience*” and why do you think God has given us one? What did Paul conclude about “*the goodness of God’s law*” based on the reaction of his own conscience?

4. Who or what did Paul cast the blame upon in **verse 17**? In **verse 17**, Paul spoke of the two major influences in his life, what were they? What did the “*I*” in **verse 17a** refer to? (See **Gal. 2:20**) What was Paul referring to in **verse 17b**?

5. What did Paul mean in **verse 18a** when he said, “*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells?*” (See **Rom. 3:10-12**) What internal conflict did Paul refer to in **verse 18b**? Do you find yourself struggling to be holy in your own life? Why do you think this is such a struggle for every Christian?

Part II: Sin’s powerful hold on the believer (Rom. 7:19-23)

1. Have you ever reached a spiritual high where you felt unusually close to the Lord (**vs. 19**)? What was it like? Did you hope that the high and closeness to the Lord would never end? Did you find that you came under spiritual attack after experiencing that closeness to the Lord? Why should we not be surprised when Satan attacks after we have a mountaintop experience?
2. The “*I*” Paul is referring to in **verse 20a** is the new man in Christ. According to Paul, what major influence in his life took over in **verse 20b**? Satan and his demons tend to hit us hard at our weakest points spiritually. What do you see as the weakest area spiritually in your life? What are some practical steps that you can take as a believer to keep Satan and his demons from attacking you in those areas? Why is fellowship at church so important to your spiritual health and to your continued spiritual growth? (See **Heb. 10:25**) What are some ways that going to church has helped you grow as a Christian?
3. A law is a binding rule or principle of conduct. What law did Paul find present in his mind that he had to fight every day (**vs. 21**)? Do you find that sin seems to be constantly knocking at the door in your life? Why do you think that is? At what point will we finally be delivered from sin? (See **Rom. 8:30**)
4. As a sinner saved by grace, what was Paul’s view when it came to the law of God (**vs. 22**)? What was Paul referring to when he spoke of the “*inward man?*” Do you “*delight*” in spending time in God’s Word (meaning “the Bible”)? If not, what do you find is your greatest hinderance? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your daily devotion time with the Lord? What are some things you can do to improve your devotions?

5. The first law in **verse 21** is that *“evil is present with the one who wills to do good.”* This is a law that affects our human minds and *“what we think.”* The second law Paul referred to is found in **verse 23**; this law deals with the members of our body and *“what we do.”* What was Paul referring to when he spoke of the members of the body? Describe how the following members of our body can lead us into sin: our minds, our eyes, our ears, our tongue, our hands, our feet.

Part III: Our victory in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 7:24-8:1)

1. Completely frustrated at his own failure to overcome sin, how do we find Paul referring to himself in **verse 24**? What does it mean when we say that a person is *“wretched?”* (See Dictionary) Why did Paul refer to his physical body as *“a body of death?”* What is the only way that someone can find deliverance from his or her *“body of death?”* (See **Eph. 2:8-9**)

2. In **verse 25a**, we find the answer to the question Paul asked in **verse 24**, *“How are we delivered from this body of death?”* How does Jesus deliver believers from sin (**vv. 24-25**)? Why is it so important to have a personal relationship with Jesus? (See **Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 15:54-57; John 14:6**)

3. What ongoing battle does every Christian face according to **verse 25b**? What are some practical steps that you can take to have victory over the flesh (*or sin nature*) in your life? What are some of the sins that you’ve had to wrestle with? Have you ever sought spiritual help?

4. Condemnation refers to judgment and future punishment. What incredible truth can we learn from **Romans 8:1**? (See **John 3:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:8-9**) Why are the words, *“in Christ”* so important to our salvation?

5. According to **Rom. 8:1a**, who is the only One who can set us free from condemnation on Judgment Day? What are the two ways of walking stressed in **Rom. 8:1b**? What is the proper way of walking with the Lord? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your own spiritual walk with the Lord? What spiritual goals have you set for the next five years? The next ten years? How do you plan to reach these goals?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Every Christian has their struggles with sin, no one will reach perfection in this life.
- In **Rom. chapter 7** Paul shares about his own struggles with his old sin nature.
- Each of us must identify the triggers in our own lives that cause us to sin and then take the appropriate steps to conquer them.
- The ground is level at the foot of the cross; everyone needs Jesus.
- Ultimate victory over sin comes only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and through the power of His indwelling Holy Spirit in our lives.
- At the moment of "*justification*," (our salvation), the Christian is delivered from the penalty of sin.
- During the lifelong process of "*sanctification*," we are being delivered from the power of sin.
- At "*glorification*," we are delivered from the presence of sin in our lives – Hallelujah!