

“The Struggle With Self”

Part III

Key Scripture

Romans 7:14-25 (NIV)

14 We know that *the law is spiritual*, but *I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin*.

15 *I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*

16 *And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.*

17 *As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.*

18 *I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.* 19 *For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.* 20 *Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.*

21 *So I find this law at work: WHEN I WANT TO DO GOOD, EVIL IS RIGHT THERE WITH ME.*

22 *For in my inner being I delight in God's law;* 23 *but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.*

24 *What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?*

25 *Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*

Week One...

The Reality of Contrast

“The Law vs. The Sinful Nature”

The Reality of Conflict

“I Desire To Do Good vs. I Keep Doing Wrong”

The Reality of Confession

“I Can’t Do What’s Right”

The Reality of the Challenge

“The Spirit Is Willing, But The Flesh Is Weak”

The Reality of the Conquering

“Jesus Christ Gives Me the Power To Overcome The Struggle”

Week Two...

There Will Be Some Key Factors To Overcoming The Struggle With Self....

*God Puts Us In Perfect **Situations** For His Glory*

*God Gives Us The **Scripture** As The Source of Power*

*The Enemy Will Temp Us With **Sinful** Desires Within **Self***

*We Were **Sold to Slave of Sin...** But Have Been Redeemed Through Christ*

Introduction

Throughout this series, we have discussed the concerns about **OUR SITUATION...**

In order to grow spiritually, we must examine the **INTERNAL STRUGGLE**, not just the **EXTERNAL SITUATION...**

If you can conquer the **INTERNAL STRUGGLE**, You can function effectively in every **EXTERNAL SITUATION**

“Bless The Lord **AT ALL TIMES**” ~ “**IN ALL THINGS GIVE THANKS**” ~ “**PROSPER IN ALL THINGS**”

Key Scripture

Romans 7:18-19; 24-25 (NIV)

18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.

For I have the desire to do what is good, but **I cannot carry it out.**

19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--**this I keep on doing.**

24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

25 **Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Tonight, We Will Examine 4 Key Factors To Help Us Overcome The Internal Struggle

The Desire

The Discipline

The Doing

The Dependence

An Awareness Of Our Desires

God created us with *the ability to have DESIRES...*

Through desire, we are motivated and inspired to accomplish our goals. Desire means "*a strong yearning.*"

1 Timothy 3:1 ~ 1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

Matthew 16:24 ~ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself...."

However, *some desires* are destructive, and these the Bible usually calls "*LUSTS.*" These desires are often shown as cravings for the satisfaction of physical appetites (for example, food, alcohol, sex, money, power, and pleasure).

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NASB)

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Romans 8:5 (NIV)

5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their MINDS SET on what that nature desires...

2 Peter 2:18-19 (NLT)

18 They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With an appeal to twisted SEXUAL DESIRES, they lure back into sin those who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception. 19 They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 (NKJV)

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

An Awareness Of Our Desires

These Desires Can Lead To Failure and Fights

James 1:14-16 (NLT)

14 Temptation comes from our **OWN DESIRES**, which entice us and drag us away.
15 **THESE DESIRES** give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. 16 So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters.

❖ WE FALL INTO SINFUL ACTIONS BECAUSE OF THE EVIL DESIRES WITHIN US...

James 4:1-3 (NLT)

1 What is causing the **QUARRELS AND FIGHTS** among you? Don't they come from the **EVIL DESIRES AT WAR WITHIN YOU**? 2 You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.
3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because **YOUR MOTIVES ARE ALL WRONG**—you want only what will give you pleasure {**satisfy your desires**}...

Awareness Leads Us To Daily Discipline

Though Scripture speaks of desire in both a good and an evil sense, we must **recognize evil desires**, **turn from them when they arise**, and **pursue what is good**.

This requires **DISCIPLINE**

Romans 13:13-14 (NIV)

13 **LET US BEHAVE DECENTLY**, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, **CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** and **DO NOT THINK ABOUT HOW TO GRATIFY THE DESIRES OF THE SINFUL NATURE**.

Ephesians 4:21-24 (NLT)

21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, 22 **THROW OFF YOUR OLD SINFUL NATURE AND YOUR FORMER WAY OF LIFE**, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, **LET THE SPIRIT RENEW YOUR THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES**. 24 **PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE, CREATED TO BE LIKE GOD—TRULY RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY**.

Galatians 5:24 (NIV)

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus **HAVE CRUCIFIED THE SINFUL NATURE** with its passions and desires.

1 Peter 1:13-14 (NIV)

13 Therefore, **PREPARE YOUR MINDS FOR ACTION**; **BE SELF-CONTROLLED**; **SET YOUR HOPE** fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 As obedient children, **DO NOT CONFORM TO THE EVIL DESIRES YOU HAD WHEN YOU LIVED IN IGNORANCE**.

Biblical Example

2 Samuel 11:1-5 (NIV)

1 In the spring, *at the time when kings go off to war*, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole *Israelite army*. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. *But David remained in Jerusalem.* 2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof, he saw a woman bathing. *THE WOMAN WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL*, 3 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "*Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?*" 4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. 5 The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

Then....{Cover-Up}

2 Samuel 11:14-15 (NIV)

14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15 In it he wrote, "*Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.*"

Then.... {Conviction}

2 Samuel 12:7-14 (NIV)

7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. 9 *Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes?*'"

Then.....{Confession}

2 Samuel 12:13 (NIV)

13 Then David said to Nathan, "*I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD.*"

A Need For Dependence

Psalms 51:1-12 (NIV)

1 *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*

2 *Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

3 *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.*

4 *Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.*

5 *Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

6 *Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.*

7 *Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*

8 *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*

9 *Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.*

10 *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

11 *Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

12 *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

Once I Show A Dependence ON HIM... Things Change

Psalms 37:4-5 (ESV)

4 *Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

5 *Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and HE WILL ACT.*

Biblical Example

Luke 22:31-34 (NIV)

31 "Simon, Simon, **SATAN HAS ASKED TO SIFT YOU AS WHEAT.**

32 *But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And **WHEN YOU HAVE TURNED BACK,** strengthen your brothers."* 33 But he replied, "**Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.**"

34 Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

Mark 14:27-31 (NIV)

27 "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' 28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

29 **Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I WILL NOT."**

30 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today--yes, tonight--before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times." 31 But Peter insisted emphatically, "**EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIE WITH YOU, I WILL NEVER DISOWN YOU.**" And all the others said the same.

Application

Then Enemy Knows **Peter's Flaws and Shortcomings**... He knows which disciple to attack...
But he still needs permission to attack....

He has the Desire To Please God... But lacks the discipline to do good...

Mark 14:37-38 (NIV)

37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said **TO PETER,** "are you asleep? **Could you not keep watch for one hour?**"

38 **Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. THE SPIRIT IS WILLING, BUT THE BODY IS WEAK.**"

Biblical Example

Jesus has revealed to Peter, the problem within SELF... But the Situation reveals the problem within Self...

John 18:8-11 (NIV)

8 "I told you that I am he," Jesus answered. "If you are looking for me, then let these men go."
9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."
10 **Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear...**
11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

THE SITUATION REVEALED A STRUGGLE WITH SELF!!!

Matthew 26:69-75 (NIV)

69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. 70 **But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.**
71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 **He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"**
73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away." 74 **Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"**
Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then **Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken:** "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." **AND HE WENT OUTSIDE AND WEPT BITTERLY.**

Then....

Mark 16:7 (NIV)

7 But go, tell his disciples **AND PETER**, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'

The Dependence

The situation revealed the problem within self....

There is an Awareness ~ I Can't Do This Own My Own!!!

*Once we are saved and belong to God, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our hearts forever...
This provides the Ammunition we need to wage warfare against the evil desires within us...*

John 16:13

13 But when he, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, comes, he will guide you into all truth...

John 16:8

8 "And He, when HE COMES, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment

John 14:26

26 "But the Helper, THE HOLY SPIRIT, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

He is the ultimate guide, leading the way, removing obstructions, opening the understanding, and making all things plain and clear. He leads in the way we should go in all spiritual things.

Galatians 5:16 (NASB)

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

The Dependence

The Spirit Leads and Guides In All Things

*The Spirit Keeps Us From **Doing The Right Thing In The Wrong Place***

Acts 16:6-10 (NIV)

*6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.***

*7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, **but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.***

8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

*9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, **"Come over to Macedonia and help us."***

*10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, **concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel TO THEM.***

*Pray and Ask God To **Lead You***

*Be Aware That The Enemy Desires To **Deceive You***

*Get Under Spiritual Leadership That Can **Feed You***

*Thanks, Be To God That He Has **Freed You***

In Conclusion...

There Will Be Some Key Factors To Overcoming The Struggle With Self....

We Must Have An Awareness Of Our Sinful Desires

We Must Apply Spiritual Discipline Daily

Without Spiritual Discipline, We Cannot Successfully Do What Is Required By God

This Leads To A Total Dependence on the Spirit

Then We Can Truly Say....

I Can Do ALL THINGS Through Christ Who Strengthens Me