

“The Struggle With Self”

Part II

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.*

Last Week...

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”

Introduction

Throughout our daily journey, we find ourselves praying about **OUR SITUATION**...

So, God fixes **YOUR SITUATION**, then next week, we are asking God again... Fix **MY 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**”

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

Romans 7:14

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

This Can Be Seen From The Very Beginning.....

Your Situation

The Scripture

The Sin Within Self

Sold as Slave

The Perfect Situation

God creates **A PERFECT ENVIRONMENT** and **ATMOSPHERE** for mankind

Genesis 2:8-9 (NIV)

8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there **he put the man he had formed**.
9 And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that **were pleasing to the eye and good for food**. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 1:26-28 (NKJV)

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **LET THEM HAVE DOMINION** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 **THEN GOD BLESSED THEM**, and God said to them, "**BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY; FILL THE EARTH AND SUBDUE IT; HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, OVER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, AND OVER EVERY LIVING THING THAT MOVES ON THE EARTH.**"

GOD HAS GIVEN MANKIND POWER OVER EVERYTHING ~

No Need To **WORRY** About the Situation

Matthew 6:31-32 (NKJV)

31 Therefore **DO NOT WORRY**, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father **knows that you need all these things**.

God has supplied **EVERY NEED**

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

19 And my God shall supply **ALL YOUR NEED** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Principle of Scripture

God Gives **A PRINCIPLE** That We Are Commanded To Follow

Genesis 2:15-17 (NKJV)

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN YOU MAY FREELY EAT;

17 **BUT OF THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL YOU SHALL NOT EAT,**
for in the day that you eat of it **YOU SHALL SURELY DIE.**"

Notice He Is Given 2 Responsibilities

- 1) To Work ~ Employment
- 2) To The Word ~ Empowerment

He was given Employment and Enjoyment

"Of Every Tree.... You May Eat Freely".... Enjoy What God Has Given
SO OFTEN WE FOCUS ON **WHAT WE CAN'T HAVE... WHAT WE CAN'T DO**

We have made Christianity more about **RULES** over **RELATIONSHIP**

1 Timothy 6:17 (NLT)

17 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable.
Their trust should be in God, **WHO RICHLY GIVES US ALL WE NEED FOR OUR ENJOYMENT.**

The Principle To Follow is Simple

"Don't Eat of this ONE TREE"

The Situation is Perfect..... The Supply is Plentiful.....

THIS SCRIPTURE is the only PROBLEM

Problem of Scripture

There Was A Perfect Situation Then God Gives A Principle To Follow

Romans 7:7-13 (NLT)

*7 Well then, am I suggesting that **the law of God is sinful**? Of course not! In fact, **it was the law that showed me my sin**. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet."*

*8 **BUT SIN USED THIS COMMAND TO AROUSE ALL KINDS OF COVETOUS DESIRES WITHIN ME!**
IF THERE WERE NO LAW, SIN WOULD NOT HAVE THAT POWER.*

*9 At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, **THE POWER OF SIN CAME TO LIFE**,
10 and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, **BROUGHT SPIRITUAL DEATH INSTEAD.***

*11 Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; **IT USED THE COMMANDS TO KILL ME.***

*12 But still, **THE LAW ITSELF IS HOLY**, and **ITS COMMANDS ARE HOLY AND RIGHT AND GOOD.***

*13 But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! **Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death.** So we can see how terrible sin really is. **IT USES GOD'S GOOD COMMANDS FOR ITS OWN EVIL PURPOSES.***

COMMANDS BRINGS ABOUT CURIOSITY

The Reality of Contrast

Romans 7:14 (NLT)

14 So the trouble is not with **THE LAW**, for **IT IS SPIRITUAL AND GOOD**.
THE TROUBLE IS WITH ME, for **I AM ALL TOO HUMAN**, A SLAVE TO SIN.

The Law is the Word of God

- *The Law is Spiritual*
- The Law is a **GOOD THING** because it lays down **THE RULES FOR PROPER LIVING**
 - The Law **DOES NOT SAVE OR SANCTIFY**, but it does **CONVICT OF SIN**

The Problem is Not With The Law

The Flesh is the Problem

The Flesh Is Wicked

The Flesh possesses a Worldly Appetite

This is what is called "**THE OLD NATURE**" and it is **STILL ALIVE**

From the Beginning There Is A Contrast

*God Says... **DON'T EAT** ~ ~ The Desire Is There....**JUST COULD NOT DO IT***

Sin Within Self

The Enemy Can't Touch The Situation... So He Tempts The Selfish Desires

Genesis 3:1-7 (NKJV)

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?**"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "**We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;**

3 **but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'**"

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "**YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE.**

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman **saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, SHE TOOK OF ITS FRUIT AND ATE.** She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

DID THE LAW CAUSE HER TO SIN? IF THE LAW WAS NOT IN PLACE.... ALL WOULD BE GOOD???

James 1:13-15 (NKJV)

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 **But each one is tempted when he is drawn away BY HIS OWN DESIRES AND ENTICED.**

15 Then, when **desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**

The ENEMY PLAYED ON THE DESIRE THAT IS WITHIN

Become A Slave To Sin

*Because Of **Disobedience To Scripture**.... **Our Situation Changed**....*

We become Slaves to Sin

Genesis 3:23 (NLT)

*23 So the Lord God **banished them from the Garden of Eden**,
and he sent Adam out to **cultivate the ground** from which he had been made.*

The Sin Nature Becomes of Default Nature

*When we speak of **the sin nature**, we refer to the fact that we have **a natural inclination to sin**;
given the choice to do God's will or our own, **we will naturally choose to do our own thing**.*

SINFUL BEHAVIOR COMES NATURALLY.

*All of us have a sinful nature, and **it affects every part of us**.*

NO ONE HAS TO TEACH A CHILD TO LIE OR BE SELFISH...

*rather, we go to great lengths to **TEACH CHILDREN** to tell the truth and put others first.*

Psalms 51:5 (NKJV)

*5 Behold, **I was brought forth in iniquity**, And **in sin**, my mother conceived me.*

Proof ~ First Child Born To The New Nature Was CAIN... {MURDER}

Struggle With Sin/Self

The Sin Nature **Can Still Be Overcome** By The Scripture

Genesis 4:6-7 (NLT)

6 “Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected?

7 **YOU WILL BE ACCEPTED IF YOU DO WHAT IS RIGHT. But if YOU REFUSE to do what is right,**
then watch out! **SIN IS CROUCHING AT THE DOOR, EAGER TO CONTROL YOU.**

BUT YOU MUST SUBDUE IT AND BE ITS MASTER.”

DO WHAT IS RIGHT ~ OBEY THE WORD.

Ephesians 2:1-5 (NLT)

1 **Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.**

2 **You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the
unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those WHO REFUSE TO OBEY GOD.**

3 **All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature.**

BY OUR VERY NATURE, WE WERE SUBJECT TO GOD’S ANGER, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

4 **BUT GOD** is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 **that even though we were dead because of our sins,**
HE GAVE US LIFE WHEN HE RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.

WE HAVE THE POWER TO OVERCOME OUR SINFUL NATURE!!!

The Reality of Contrast

Romans 7:14 (NLT)

14 So the trouble is not with **THE LAW**, for **IT IS SPIRITUAL AND GOOD**.
THE TROUBLE IS WITH ME, for **I AM ALL TOO HUMAN**, **A SLAVE TO SIN**.

There is The Pull of the Flesh vs. The Power of the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-17 (ESV)

16 But I say, **WALK BY THE SPIRIT**, and **YOU WILL NOT GRATIFY THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH**.
17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh,
for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE WINNING THE WAR WITH THE FLESH...

Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT)

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these.

When You Are **AWARE** of **THIS CONTRAST** ~ You Prepare For Battle

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NASB)

27 but **I DISCIPLINE MY BODY AND MAKE IT MY SLAVE**, so that, after I have preached to others,
I myself will not be disqualified.

In Conclusion

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