

Good morning church family. Welcome to our two week sermon series:  
Cross Talk : Congregation Conversations

Each location, each service is going to feature different folks from our congregation in conversation with our pastors on topics of discipleship and biblical application. It's one thing for us to just to give you information, it's another to discuss it together and seek to further apply it. We will also have time at the end of each message for you to ask questions for discussion as well.

Today's discussion panel for this service includes  
(introduce each person)

We are going to look at scripture, and reflect on questions that the scripture prompts us to ask. Here's today's topic:

**What are biblical teachings or principles that you already know, but struggle with applying in your life? Why do we struggle with them?**

**James 1:22-24**

**22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.**

**Question 1: What are specific things you know you should be doing biblically that you've struggled to apply or follow through with?**

**James 4:17**

**17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.**

**Question 2: James remarks that not doing what we know we should isn't just unfortunate, but it's that it's sin. Most people view sin as intentional acts of unholiness, but this shows us that this is also sin by negligence. How does that fit or shift into your perspective on biblical application?**

**Romans 7: 14-25**

**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 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. 19 For I have the desire to do what is good, but I**

cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but 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: Although 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 me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature<sup>d</sup> a slave to the law of sin.

**Question 3: How does the fact that Paul, and every other Christian that's followed Him, has struggled with this constant give and take of flesh vs biblical application through the spirit effect you? Do you identify with this? Does it comfort you? Does it frustrate you?**

**Question #4 What have you learned in your own walk and journey that could be encouraging or helpful to others who are struggling with this?**

### **Closing**

**We hope these conversations have been encouraging and edifying to you in your walk Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,**

Conversations like these can help spur us on towards growth, and we hope that this wasn't just encouraging to listen to, but can help model how you can help each other grow in discipleship by talking about, and applying what you have learned and are learning.