

Our Struggle with Sin **Romans 7:14-25**

If you feel a gap between where you are now and where you want to be, you should know that the Bible affirms that gap. The Bible says we live in a fallen world and we are not entirely satisfied with the way things are.

The gospel speaks powerfully to your feeling of a gap between who you are today and what you want to become. Your ground for justification is Jesus. Your power for sanctification is the Holy Spirit who is sent by Jesus to bring glory to Jesus.

So far in Romans, you have learned that your position in Christ is perfect. Yet your experience tells you that your practice as a Christian is far from perfect.

If that gap produces tension in your life, Romans 7 is for you. Romans 7 teaches us that Christians have competing desires – you crave sin, you want to please God. You are perfect in Christ but there's a gap between your position and your practice.

Can you see that sin affects your heart, mind and will? Sin does not merely affect what you feel or desire. Sin does not merely affect what you think and believe. Sin affects the ability to obey God or disobey God.

Notice the struggle:

7:14 I am unspiritual
7:15 I do not understand what I do
7:15 What I hate, I do
7:17 It is sin living in me
7:18 Nothing good lives in me
7:19 The evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing

This struggle leads to a cry of despair:

7:24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me?

The cry of despair leads to Jesus:

7:25 Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!

This is why we say repentance involves a turning away from sin and a turning toward righteousness. No to sin and yes to Jesus. Resist sin and pursue holiness. Our lifelong struggle includes this: We naturally desire sin MORE than we desire Jesus.

Be careful here: Sin will take you further than you want to go and cost you more than you want to pay. True freedom is not the ability to do whatever you want to do and be whoever you want to be. True freedom is the ability to be the person you were created to be.

On your own, you will not experience victory in the gap. You need help. God offers the divine enablement you need by way of the Holy Spirit in your life.