



Romans 7:14-20

The Battle With Indwelling Sin (Part 1)

- I. Introduction:** Paul explained that Christians constantly battle indwelling sin, struggling to do what is righteous and to eliminate sin in their lives.

- II. The Battle With Indwelling Sin (Rom 7:14-20).**
 - A. Paul's Condition (v. 14).**
 - 1. Paul explained that the law is spiritual, but he was still fleshly, and because of this, he was strongly influenced by his carnal desires.

 - B. Paul's Confusion (v. 15).**
 - 1. Paul admitted that he didn't understand his own actions because sometimes he did what he knew was wrong, despite his desire to do what was right.

 - C. Paul's Confession (vv. 16-17).**
 - 1. Paul proclaimed that his regenerated heart agreed with God's law and declared it good, but the sin still living in him influenced him to break it.

 - D. Paul's Clarification (vv. 18-20).**
 - 1. Paul explained that although he genuinely desired to obey God, the presence of indwelling sin continually hindered his ability to follow Him.

- III. Conclusion:** Paul explained that even though he was a new man, indwelling sin still tormented him, luring him back into carnal ways of thinking and acting.



Questions About: The Battle With Indwelling Sin

1. Why is **Romans 7:14-25** one of the most controversial passages? Is Paul speaking about unbelievers or believers? Is Paul speaking about his former life or his current struggles?
2. How did Paul describe himself? (**Rom 7:14**) What did he mean when he said the law is spiritual, but he is of flesh? How can a Christian be saved but struggle with fleshly desires?
3. What did Paul mean that he was sold into bondage? (**Rom 7:14**) How do we reconcile this with Paul's statement that he was free from sin? (**Rom 6:6**) Why is sin such a powerful influence?
4. Why was Paul confused by his own actions? (**Rom 7:15**) Have you ever failed to do what you wanted to do? (**Matt 26:41**) Have you ever done the thing you didn't want to do? (**Gal 4:9**)
5. What did Paul's hatred of sin reveal about him? (**Rom 7:15**) Why is hatred of sin evidence of genuine conversion? (**Psa 97:10; 119:104**) Why is this common? (**Job 42:6; Isa 6:5**)
6. What did Paul confess about his own struggle with sin? (**Rom 7:16-17**) How did God promise to write the law on our hearts? (**Jer 31:31-33; Ezek 36:26-27**) How is God's law good? (**v. 16**)
7. How did Paul clarify that there was a battle within him? (**Rom 7:18-20**) Why did he say that nothing good was "in my flesh"? (**v. 18**) How was Paul willing to obey?
8. Why do mature Christians often become more aware of their sin the longer they live? How can this passage encourage us? What comfort is it to know that even Paul fought this battle?

Prayer

1. Thank the Lord that although sin still dwells within us, it no longer reigns over us.
2. Ask God to increase your love for holiness and your hatred of sin.