



REASONING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Weekly Bible Study

A Very Personal Struggle

Key Verses: [Rom 7:14-25](#)

When We Believe on the Lord Jesus, He Enters Our Hearts and Lives in Us
([John 3:16,18](#); [Ro 10:9-13](#), [Eph 2:8-9](#), [Acts 2:37-38](#); [Acts 10:37-48](#))

Through faith we are declared righteous by God ([Rom 5:1](#)) and accepted as His children ([John 1:12](#)). Through faith we are cleansed by the blood of Christ ([Rom 5:9](#); [1 John 1:9](#)) and changed in our inner selves as well as in our outward standing with God. As such, we are transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light ([Acts 26:18](#); [Col 1:13](#); [1 Thess 5:4,5](#); [1 Peter 2:9](#); [1 John 1:6](#)). This reconciliation *katallagê* ([Rom 5:11](#)), transforms our former enmity with God, into friendship ([Rom 5:10](#)).

But the Believer Continues to Live in the Same Human Body and Struggles with Sin

We are mortal (*thnçtoi*), and therefore, subject to physical decay and death. Because we are in the body, we are called *sárkinoi* ([Rom 7:14](#), "fleshy, corpulent, made of flesh"). This present composition of our earthly personality we cannot help. Christ is also in our mortal body, however ([Rom 8:11](#); [2 Cor 4:11](#)), and the time will one day come when our flesh will be redeemed ([Rom 8:23](#); [1 Cor 15:53,54](#)).

We may either let our bodies control our spirits or vice-versa. In [1 Cor 3:1](#), Paul calls the Corinthian believers *sarkikoí*, "carnal," as contrasted to mature, spirit-controlled believers. A carnal Christian is one who allows his natural body to pull him down rather than permitting his redeemed spirit to lift him up. This state is to be distinguished from that of the unbeliever, who has a mind-set after the flesh ([Rom 8:5-9,12,13](#)).

Through faith the believer is crucified with Christ and his flesh no longer has preeminence in his life ([Rom 6:6](#); [Gal 2:20](#)). The dedicated believer continues to put down his old nature, which is a continuous struggle for the rest of his life. It is this battle which Paul describes in [Rom 7:14-25](#). Furthermore, we as believers must also contend with an unredeemed environment([Rom 8:20-22](#)).

The Believer Does Not Continually Sin Willfully

"For that which I do, I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I" ([Rom 7:15](#)). A believer cannot love the evil that he does. What he hates, he will cease to do. Conversely, he cannot have the mind-set (*phrónçma*) of the flesh and be willfully obedient to the Spirit of God ([Rom 8:7](#)).

"Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me: ([Rom 7:17](#)). This "I" refers to the new man that the believer receives in Christ Jesus along with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and this new spiritual creation desires no sin and does no sin, but is the renewed image of God. This contrasts with and is in conflict with the fleshly part of the believer who is pulled toward sin and continues in sin ([Rom 7:18-21](#)).

Victory, However, Is Possible at All Times

The battle described in Rom 7 closes on a triumphant note: "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God [I do what God expects of me]; but with the flesh the law of sin" (Rom 7:25). I do not serve the law of sin; only the unredeemed flesh in which I dwell serves the law of sin.

The final victory of the Christian life is then described in Rom 8:37, "***Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.***" This is the only place in the New Testament where the verb ***hupernikáœ***, "to be more than conqueror," occurs. Through the power of the indwelling Spirit we can defeat that subtle enemy of our souls.

Amen and Amen!