

THE FAILURE OF SELF-EFFORT (ROMANS 7:7-25)

IV. SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION (6:1 - 8:17)... Righteousness Reproduced

A. POSITIONAL Sanctification. (6:1-10)

B. PRACTICAL Sanctification. (6:11-23)

C. POWERLESS Sanctification. (7:1-25)

1. The BELIEVER'S Relationship to the LAW (7:1-6)

2. The BELIEVER'S Struggle to LIVE by LAW (7:7-25)

a. You Need to Recognize the BACKGROUND to this Section.

- 1) This passage describes the spiritual experience of Paul _____ he was saved.
- 2) The spiritual defeat Paul experienced is not because he does not want to do God's will, but because he does not understand _____ it can be done.
- 3) The word "I" is found _____ times in these verses, while the word "Spirit" is found _____ times.
- 4) The word "sin" is a _____, that is _____, and normally has the _____ preceding it, referring to the _____.

* Principle to remember:

b. You Need to Answer Some Questions about the Law and Sanctification (7:7-14)

- 1) **A legitimate question:** What shall we say then? Is the law sin? (7:7a)
- 2) **A definite answer:** Certainly not! (7:7b)
- 3) **A theological explanation:** On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. (7:7c)
- 4) **A perfect example – the prohibition of the sin of coveting (7:7d -11)**
 - a. **The purpose of the Law:** For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." (7:7c)
 - b. **The provocation of the Law:** But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. (7:8a)
 - c. **The practical result of the Law:** For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. (7:8b – 9)
 - d. **The personal frustration with the Law:** And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. (7:10)

- e. **The personal testimony regarding the Law:** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. (7:11)
- 5) **A doctrinal conclusion:** Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. (7:12)
- 6) **Another logical question:** Has then what is good become death to me? (7:13a)
- 7) **Another dogmatic answer:** Certainly not! (7:13b)
- 8) **Another theological explanation:** But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. (7:13c)
- 9) **Another personal testimony:** For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. (7:14)
- c. **You Need to Understand the BATTLE Within You. (7:15-20) Some questions you need to correctly answer are...**
- 1) **Can the inner conflict you experience as a believer be baffling at times? (7:15a)**
 - 2) **Can the Christian life be lived by your sheer will-power and strength? (7:15b)**
 - 3) **Can you actually end up doing the opposite of what you desire in your Christian walk? (7:15c-16)**
 - 4) **What is the real source of your spiritual defeat? (7:17)**
 - 5) **Who is your greatest problem? (7:18a)**
 - 6) **Does God change your flesh at salvation? (7:18b)**
 - 7) **Why do believers live in spiritual defeat? (7:18c-20)**
- d. **You Need to Recognize Three BASIC PRINCIPLES Regarding This Battle. (7:21-25)**
- 1) **Principle #1: Resident in every believer is the presence of _____ (the sin nature), along with the desire to do _____ (due to the new nature). (7:21-22)**
 - 2) **Principle #2: There is a constant _____ within every believer, and our right _____ and _____ are no match for the flesh. (7:23)**
 - 3) **Principle #3: Apart from the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, you will live in _____ and practical _____. (7:24)**
- * Do you hunger for practical deliverance and salvation from sin's power in your life?
- * Where does true hope and victory in this battle begin?