

ROMANS

PART 10: THE CHRISTIAN'S STRUGGLE

Romans Chapter 7

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J. Vernon McGee writes, "Do you have the experience of this struggle in your Christian life? Do you do something, then hate yourself because you have done it? And you cry out, 'God, oh how I've failed you!' I think every child of God has had this experience. Paul is speaking of his own experience in this chapter."



A. CENTRAL QUESTION

If I've been forgiven of my sins, why do I have such an internal struggle?

B. KEY WORDS

1. Flesh (Gk: *sarx*): the sinful nature, a self-sufficient independence of God.
2. Law/written code (Gk. *nomos*): The Mosaic Law given at Mount Sinai.
3. Wretched (Gk. *talaipōros*): Miserable, afflicted, suffering.

C. CHAPTER 7 OUTLINE

1. Principle No. 1: I am not under the authority of the Mosaic Law (7:1-4).
2. Principle No. 2: The Mosaic Law exposed our sinful nature (7:5-14).
3. Principle No. 3: My new nature conflicts with my sinful nature (7:15-24).
4. Principle No. 4: Jesus Christ is the only solution to my inner struggle (7:25)

D. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Can Christians solve this inner conflict on their own by their own sheer will power? Why or why not?
2. In what ways can Christians attempt to solve their internal spiritual conflict through self-efforts?
3. Should Christians carry around a constant load of guilt over their sinful actions? Why or why not?
4. How does 1 John 1:9 relate to the tendency some Christians might have with always carrying a heavy load of guilt?
5. What can Christians do to strengthen their new nature against the old sinful nature?

E. CONCLUSIONS

1. In this life all Christians will have an _____ between their old and new natures.
2. Sins are forgiven when we confess them and receive God's _____.
3. This struggle between our old and new natures is _____—God has something much better in store for us.