

In My Flesh

Rom 7:18 For I know that **in me** (that is, **in my flesh**,) dwelleth no good thing: for to **will** is present with me; but *how* to **perform** (*Gk.2716- accomplish*) that which is good I find not. (*Emp. Added*)

- in me- Even as an apostle, chosen by Christ Himself*, Paul confessed that he too had some difficulty in avoiding certain temptations that would cause him to sin against God.

*Gal 1:11 But I certify (*Gk.1107- to make known: -declare, give to understand*) you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation (*Gk.602- disclosure: -**appearing*) of Jesus Christ.

Act 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for **I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which **I will appear unto thee**; 17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me. (*Emp. Added*)

- (that is, in my flesh)- This is a parenthetical statement where Paul points out that there are two sides within each of us. The one is spirit the other flesh. The one that cannot be corrupted but the other that can.

- flesh- Gk.4561- (by implication) *human nature* (with its frailties [physically or morally] and passions.

Eph 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation (*Gk.391- behavior*) the **old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed (*Gk.365- to renovate, that is, reform*) in the spirit (*Gk.4151- mental disposition*) of your mind (*Gk.3563-the intellect: -understanding*); 24 And that ye **put on** (*Gk.1746- [in the sense of sinking into a garment]; to invest with clothing [literally or figuratively]*) the new man, which after (*Gk.2596- according to, pertaining to, by, after the manner of*) God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (*Emp. Added*)

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our **old man** is crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, **that henceforth we should not serve sin**. (*literally "that we no longer be subservient to sin"*) Rom 6:6 ...*Because of this we are no longer slaves to sin.* (*God's Word*) (*Emp. Added*)

1Jn 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1Jn 3:9 *Those who have been born from God don't live sinful lives. What God has said lives in them, and they can't live sinful lives. They have been born from God.* (*God's Word*)

- As a child of God a Christian “prefers” to **not** sin because of the new mindset obtained from the “renovation” process. These passages are not saying that it’s **impossible** to sin. They are only affirming the idea of a Christian’s choice in not **wanting** to sin.

- good thing- Gk.18- αγαθος - “good” (in any sense, often as noun): -benefit. There is nothing good to be gained in living according to the human nature that is in all mankind. Again, there are two sides to the sub-conscience in each of us. One good, the other evil. The human side, which is corruptible, chooses the evil, whereas the godly side, which cannot be tempted, chooses the good.

1Pe 3:4 ...the **hidden** (Gk.2927- *concealed, that is, private: -inward [-ly], secret*) man of the **heart** (Gk.2588- *[figuratively] the thoughts or feelings [mind]*), in that which is **not corruptible** (Gk.862- *undecaying*)... (Emp. Added)

The only way to discern the difference between good and evil then can be found in God’s word.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is ... a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Only with the help of the word of God can we distinguish, through the process of carefully considering within the mind, what is morally right or sinfully wrong.

- will- Gk.2309- θελω -to **determine**, that is, **choose** or **prefer** (literally or figuratively); by implication to *wish*, that is, **be inclined to**; to *be about to*. When Paul stated “for to will is present with me” he was speaking for all of mankind. It is because of the choice that we all are given, out of God’s love for us, (*we weren’t created as robots*) that we have the right to choose between good and evil.

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 **But** of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (Emp. Added)

But along with any choice there are the consequences that follow.

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done **good**, unto the resurrection of **life**; and they that have done **evil**, unto the resurrection of **damnation**. (Emp. Added)

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Rom 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

- Just because Paul was an apostle didn’t mean that Christ would give him some special favor that would keep him from the temptation to sin. As an apostle he had the gift of knowledge which would have taught him what was to be considered wrongdoing. But that didn’t keep him from committing sin anyway. Remember that Peter was also an apostle. But that didn’t keep him from acting on the temptation to sin.

Gal 2:11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, **because he was to be blamed**. 12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. *(Emp. Added)*

Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. 13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

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Rom 7:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

- Personally, Paul set his mind to not sin. He was a perfectionist.

Gal 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14 And profited in the Jews' religion **above many my equals** in mine own nation, being **more exceedingly zealous** of the traditions of my fathers. *(Emp. Added)*

- Paul hated sin and wanted nothing to do with it as should be the desire of all Christians. But it still remained within him as it also does every person until Christ returns.

Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, **Cursed** is every one that **continueth not in all things** which are written in the book of the law to do them. *(Emp. Added)*

- In "The Worldly Church" Second Edition- Copyright 1991 (pgs. 44-45) it states "Paul saw that the law actually incited desires in sinful human hearts. Not only did he realize that the prohibition itself may incite desire for what is prohibited, more fundamentally he saw that the law also aroused the sinful desire to keep the law. That is, **the law provides the prideful and self-centered heart an apparent means to achieve self-righteousness**. The law thus may evoke the desire to keep the law not out of love for God but in order to make oneself righteous **by one's own religious accomplishments**." *(Emp. Added)*

*Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves**: it is the gift of God: 9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast**. (Emp. Added)*

*Tit 3:5 Not by **works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy** He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; (Emp. Added)*

Rom 7:11 For **sin, taking occasion by the commandment**, deceived me, and by it slew me. 12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. 13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. *(May it not be!)* But **sin, that it might appear sin**, working death in me by that which is good; that sin **by the commandment might become exceeding sinful**. *(Emp. Added)*

Rom 7:7 What shall we say then? *Is the law sin?* God forbid. (*May it not be!*) Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Thus the purpose of the O.T. law was (*to the Jew but also now as a teacher to the Christian*) to show how terrible sin really is. It gave the opportunity to place sin under a microscope and investigate its actions and consequences more closely, making it understood how destructive it really can be. Take any of the ten commandments, besides the forth one (*remember the sabbath*), and do its opposite. For instance, put something before God like a sport on a Sunday that would cause you to habitually miss worship, say you're a Christian but cuss and drink around your worldly friends, don't honor your parents, go ahead and kill, commit adultery, steal, lie (*as per Judge Judy- "if you never lie you don't have to have a good memory"*) and desire something that rightfully belongs to someone else. See how destructive the consequences can and will be?

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Rom 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

- This is that "hidden man of the heart, in that which is **not corruptible**" that Peter spoke of (*1 Pet 3:4*). Paul had a definite desire to satisfy this part of the conscience because in doing so he knew he couldn't do wrong. But...

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Rom 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

- There is another rule of conduct, based on that human sinful nature to go against God's law, that attacks that inner part that is incapable of corruption, which is the innocent nature we are all born with. It gets taken over as we reach adolescence/adulthood by the human nature which is influenced by the environment in which we live. When a penitent sinner is born from above (*Jn 3:3, 7; 1 Pet 1:23*) their sins are washed away as though they are going back to having the innocence they once possessed at their physical birth. But then that "old man" is what Satan tries to use to cause this newly born babe in Christ (*and all Christians for that matter*) to fall back into that former sinful lifestyle they (*we*) have now died to (*Rom 6:6*). So, what is the solution?

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Rom 7:24 O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

- wretched- Gk.5005- *enduring trial*, that is, *miserable*. Paul knew that his trials would end with his death.

2Ti 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a (*the*) good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.

Joh 14:15 If ye love Me, keep My commandments.

Isa 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *His* face from you, that He will not hear.

- Who, asks Paul, is able to rescue him from the slavery to sin that separates anyone from God? He answers this question with the Answer to all of our struggles in the next verse.

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Rom 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

- Our righteous justification is from God but **only** through Jesus Christ His Son!

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.** (*Emp. Added*)

- With the answer to his question bringing relief, Paul declared that with his inner, innocent and righteous nature that we all possess, he would continue to serve God. But he also understood there is the other evil side that we all possess. And since no one has ever attained the sinless perfection of the Godhead, sometimes we serve our human nature and that leads us to sin.

Jas 1:15 ...and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

- But to those of us who are saved...

Rom 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are **in** Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death (*you sin, you die*). (*Emp. Added*)

1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But **if** we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive** (*Who? God? NO! We deceive...*) **ourselves**, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (*Emp. Added*)

Rom 3:23 For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (*Emp. Added*)

- If you are not **in** Christ you are being influenced by the “natural man” that is against God. Awaken that incorruptible innocence that’s inside of you and experience the rebirth which is from above. But if you are a Christian and are being led by the things that once came naturally while living your formal, pre-Christian life, maybe you aren’t paying much attention to reading and devotion to the word of God. That can easily be remedied and we would like to help you.

Hear: Romans 10:17 ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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