

Vintage: Changing Times. Changeless God.

Week 6: The Struggle

Weekly Summary: Do real Christians really sin? Do real Christians want to sin? If Christians love Jesus, why do they keep doing the stuff Jesus hates? Is their faith fake? Romans 7 is a transparent answer to those essential questions.

❖ People who struggled -

✓ 1 Samuel 13:14 - "But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

✓ Matthew 16:16 - Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

✓ Matthew 16:23 - Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!"

✓ John 11:16 - Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

❖ Romans 7:15 - "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."

Romans 7:18b - "For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

❖ Remember who Paul was.

✓ Philippians 3:5-6 - "[I was] a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

✓ 1 Corinthians 6:12b - "I will not be mastered by anything."

- ❖ Romans 8:7 - The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Galatians 5:25 - Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

- ❖ Take Away 1: We have a daily struggle.

- ❖ Romans 7:24 - "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?"

- ❖ Take Away 2: Sometimes we feel like giving up.

- ❖ Romans 7:25 - Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Luke 5:8 - When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

John 8:4 - "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery."

Luke 7:48 - Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Hebrews 4:15 - [He] has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

- ❖ Hebrews 10:26-27 - If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

- ❖ Take Away 3: The struggle can lead us to indifference.

- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Galatians 6:2 - Carry each other's burdens.

James 5:16 - Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

- ❖ Take Away 4: **Help** your brother/sister with their struggles.

Points to Ponder

1. List some Biblical characters who struggled with sin. Comment on the change (struggle) that took place for the infant Roman Christians. Explain the struggle that takes place within us.
2. What is the bowling ball you carry? Why is it easy to despair at times? Comment on how Jesus did with temptation? Why is this comforting?
3. Why is it easy to become indifferent to sin? What's the danger? Who can you encourage in his/her struggle? Who can encourage you?

Homework For Next Week: Romans 8:1-17