

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ROMANS 7****Romans 7**

Romans 7 can be best summed up in just a few verses. Every follower of Jesus can identify with the struggle that Paul speaks of in this chapter. Romans 6-8 are pieced together by asking and answering questions that must be asked.

"So, the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate." (Romans 7:14-15)

"And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway." (Romans 7:18-19)

Sound familiar? There is no good thing that dwells in me; that is my **flesh**. Flesh is used in the physical sense to refer to the **sin nature** within us. What is **sin nature**? This is a reference to the natural inclination and propensity to sin. It is part of the curse passed on through Adam, see Chapter 5 of Romans. There is, within humanity, all humanity, a sin nature that is passed on through the earthly father and his genes. It is natural and spiritual. This is why all are concluded by God to be sinners, see Romans 3:10, 23. As long as we

are in this body of sin we live in daily, we will wrestle with our own fleshly desires. The beloved James talks about this early in his writing to those under hard circumstances and trials. The struggle is real. Paul so struggled with it that he cried out, as all of us do when pressed,

"I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So, you see how it is: In my mind, I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin." (Romans 7:21-25)

We have been made free in Jesus, and by the Holy Spirit in us, we are given the power to overcome the wicked one, our flesh and the worldly order of thinking we face each day. "God has delivered us from this present evil world." (Galatians 1:3-5)

As we have received Christ Jesus the Lord (by faith/trust in His Word), let us also walk day by day in Him!

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, thank You for setting me free. Please help me to trust You day by day and walk in your Word. Please help me to read, study, and live in obedience and the conscientiousness of Your presence each moment. Amen