

HOW CAN I HANDLE THE STRUGGLE INSIDE ME?

Romans 8:1-11

Many consider Rom 8 greatest chapter in the Bible.

Begins with *no condemnation*; concludes with *no separation*;
in between, assures us of *no defeat*. Hard to beat!

Many think that once we trust Christ & receive security of eternal life, we're safe to live however we please.

Is this logical conclusion of the gospel?

Rom 6-8 *RESULT* of salvation by trusting Jesus alone

Good News not limited to glorious future in eternal home

Gospel also brings us *good news for living today*:

God changes our life through faith in Christ.

We can live a new life that pleases God.

Rom 7 => Paul reaffirms *weakness of law*

In spite of good of revealing sin & revealing God's standards,
law can't give us *power* to live by those standards.

Law leaves us frustrated; *incapable of satisfying demands*

7:19 *"What I do isn't the good I want to do; no, the evil I don't want to do—this I keep on doing"²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"*

Cry of every Christian who tries to please God on his own. We want to do good, but do very thing we didn't want to."

Swindoll: "Like Paul, I came to hopelessness. Trapped by inability to live way God finds pleasing. I labored under weight of condemnation. "After reaching my own wretched state, I surrendered to fact I can't live the Christian life. Having come to the end of myself, only *then* was I ready to accept truth of Paul's stunning declara-

tion: *There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*"

Law *can't* give *power* for godly living—*gospel* **pro-vides power**. Victory is possible through Christ

Don't miss connection between ch. 7 & 8!

7:24-25 ***"Who will rescue me from this body of death?***

Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! ..."

He asks *"who will deliver this wretched man?!! [future!]*

Issue of eternal destiny is already resolved.

His question relates to his present struggle.

Answer: **JESUS** will deliver me from this struggle.

=> **"Therefore, there is now no more condemnation!"**

POWER FOR GODLY LIVING 8:1-11

How can we live life that pleases God? 1-4

God has provided new life in Christ.

YET, struggle continues inside us:

2 KINDS OF LIFE—2 ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES

We can live by the flesh

What does it mean to live this way?

"FLESH" What **WE** are able to achieve

=> **Our effort to accomplish something.**

Contrasts what **we** do, with what **Spirit** produces **Gal 5**

Our nature is incapable of producing

what God wants to produce in us

Our best efforts can't produce God's desires

We don't have power to satisfy God's demands.

Answer is NOT “grit your teeth and try harder!”

Our **BEST** effort brings us back to Paul’s desperate cry!

“Who will get me out of this mess?!! => 8:1 “There is now no condemnation for those who’re in Christ Jesus.”

Since we’re in Christ =>We’re not condemned

By Christ's death we receive new life.

Power to live this life comes from H.S. who lives in us.

8:2 “Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin & death.”

We’ve been set free

At penitentiary service, governor was to free several con-victs. Suspense mounted; Reuben Johnson’s called. No one responded. Man looks behind him. Must be another by that name. Chaplain points, "You're the man!" After pause, he approached. When prisoners march back to cells Johnson began to go. Warden called, "*Reuben, you don't belong there anymore. You're a free man!*"

Sometimes *WE* act that way.

We think we’re still enslaved to sin.

We forget **WE** “*don’t belong there anymore! We’re free!*”

Spirit of life in Christ set us free from law of sin & death.

Sin & death are result of knowing God's standards.

Why?=>Even our **best** efforts can't satisfy law's demands

We’re weak 8:3a “For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did”

Rom 7: problem is US—we suffer from “weak flesh.”

By His death **God fulfilled His requirements in us 3b-4** *“Sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.”*

[1st alt.: **We can live by the flesh => condemnation]**

[Or, 2nd alt. lifestyle:] **We can live by the Spirit**

Christ showed us how to satisfy the law's demands.

Ability to fulfill it isn't achieved by *our* efforts

Power for godly living comes from H. S.

Who lives in all who trust Jesus.

Way of the flesh 5-8 *“Those who live acc. to sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind of sinful man is death, but mind controlled by the Spirit is life & peace. ⁷The sinful mind is hostile to God; it doesn't submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by sinful nature cannot please God.*

Stop thinking the way godless people think! Why?

=> that's the way of death; it can't please God.

What's that way? ***“I'd rather do it myself!–my efforts!***

Stop trying to do it yourself!

Let the Spirit produce His fruit in us!

Our efforts=>ungodly attitudes & actions =>death.

Life controlled by Spirit => life & peace

Our best efforts will never please God!

Near Watsonville CA: “**Salsipuedes Creek**” –lined with quicksand. Mexican laborer fell into quicksand. Spaniard, riding by, saw him & yelled out: “Sal si puedes!” That’s what flesh is like.

“Way of Flesh”–man’s best shot–will never make it!

That way is characterized by death

We need a better way! => God provides power

Way of the Spirit 9-11

When He resides in us, He teaches new lifestyle 8:9

“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he doesn’t belong to Christ.”

H.S. in us produces godly living:

Doesn’t mean we’re perfect.

We echo with saints of all ages: *“I’m not all I want to be; I’m not all I’m going to be, but thank God, I’m not what I USED to be!!!”?*

People who don’t experience this work have reason to ask whether we really belong to Christ,

because Spirit lives in ALL who are His

When He lives in us, Spirit produces His fruit

We have hope of eternal life because God’s righteousness is credited to our account **10**

“If Christ is in you, your the body is dead because of sin, yet your Spirit is alive because of righteousness.”

**Same Spirit that raised Jesus from dead
has power to give us new life**

11 *"If Spirit of him who raised Jesus from dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you."*

Spirit Who transforms life *will* raise our physical bodies

2 go together: **Same Spirit raises us to new life now &, after physical death, resurrects us to eternal life!**

2 alt. lifestyles– Which way would WE rather live?

Way of flesh—"I'd rather do it myself"

Way of Spirit—allow Him to live His life through us.

Which lifestyle do we prefer?

=> *Don't walk according to flesh*

=> *Walk according to the Spirit!*"

Stop acting like godless people! Trying to do it ourselves

Let Spirit produce His fruit in us!