

Living Life in the Power of the Holy Spirit – The Struggle

Romans 7:14-25 – In these verses Paul talks about the struggle within himself of the sinful nature and a Spirit led life. What he desires to do the right thing, the thing that pleases God, but he is not able to achieve it, yet what he hates, he ends up doing. His conclusion is that there is a sinful nature in him that produces these works of the flesh and that there is a warring for control: sinful nature control or Spirit of God control. He concludes that the only way to be free of the control of the sinful nature is through Jesus Christ who rescues us from the domination of sin which produces death. We don't have the ability to conquer our own fleshly desires, sinful nature; only through the power of Christ blood and the transforming power of the Holy Ghost. We must daily submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit and His Holy Word. We can't do this thing through WILL POWER, but through HIS POWER.

Because we struggle does not mean that we are not saved, or redeemed. But the more we submit ourselves to the Lord, the more knowledge of His Word which fills our hearts so that God's will becomes second nature to us, the less intense will become the struggle. We are constantly growing and learning. Peter full of the Holy Ghost had to learn to do the right thing.

In Mark 14:29 Peter claims that he will not be offended. In Mathew 26:33 he says I will never be offended and in v. 35 says though he should die with the Lord he will never deny him. Yet in Mark 14:66-72 Peter actually denies the Lord three times before the cock crowed twice.

What keeps us from doing the right thing?

In Acts 10:9-22, Peter receives a revelation from God that the Gentiles are acceptable to God, and don't call unclean what God has declared clean. He goes and preaches to Cornelius, his household, and others and while he preached, the Holy Ghost fell on all those Gentiles. Validation came from God and the wall of partition had come down. Yet in Galatians 2:11-14 Peter acts in a very hypocritical way by sitting and eating with the Gentiles until Jewish Christians came from Jerusalem, then he separated himself from the Gentiles. But were they not still clean in the eyes of the Lord. Peter was perpetrating prejudice and division as well as sending the wrong message about the gospel. He still had to struggle and learn to live and think as God had revealed things to him.

Romans 6:10, 11 – We have been set free from sin and death. This has to be in our minds always.

II Corinthians 12:9 His grace is sufficient for us. We have to depend on the Lord and His power and His wisdom, and we will be able to do the right thing.

Phill 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.