



July 29, 2012 • Dennis Blythe

### **Sin That's Hard to Shake** Romans 7:14-25

A Fundamental Reminder: Becoming a Christian does not instantly \_\_\_\_\_ all of life's \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **3 Essentials for Battling Sin That's Hard to Shake**

- Recognize that spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ struggle with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Reasons to have confidence that Paul is speaking as a born-again believer:
    - Paul makes reference to both his relationship to \_\_\_\_\_ and his relationship to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Paul speaks only as a \_\_\_\_\_ could.
    - Paul has a \_\_\_\_\_ to do God's will.
    - Our \_\_\_\_\_ experience resembles Paul's.
  - Key Point of Application: "The more I \_\_\_\_\_ in my faith, the more \_\_\_\_\_ I'm going to be to sin's attempts to conquer me."
- Understand your \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The Situation: The "\_\_\_\_\_ him" is stuck in the "\_\_\_\_\_ flesh."
    - Our Mistake: We often make \_\_\_\_\_ attempts to fix the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The Struggle: "\_\_\_\_\_."
    - Key Point of Application: "One of the keys to spiritual victory in my life is recognizing my utter \_\_\_\_\_."
  - The Source: \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Sin is a \_\_\_\_\_ thing! It's a law that governs every aspect of the flesh.
    - Before your conversion, you were in opposition with \_\_\_\_\_. When you came to faith in Christ, a powerful war with \_\_\_\_\_ broke out.

*"The Christian life is a life of continual struggle, of victories and defeats, and Christian victory comes only when we totally distrust self, and rely on the provision of God. How frequently we throw works out the front door of justification, and invite them in the back door of sanctification."-John Stott*

- Realize that the \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - No one benefits from the cross apart from receiving the \_\_\_\_\_, and no one receives the Spirit who is not justified by the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - *"To walk by the Spirit is to live with moment-by-moment dependency on and sensitivity to the initial promptings of the Holy Spirit."* - Charles Stanley
  - Summary Points of Application:
    - The Christian life is only possible because sin has been \_\_\_\_\_, guilt has been \_\_\_\_\_, and God's Spirit was \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The Christian life can't be lived in the power of the \_\_\_\_\_; it only happens by the strength of the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Don't ride the fence between \_\_\_\_\_ in the Spirit and \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh.
    - Cry \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the ongoing ministry of the Spirit of God in your life.



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A Fundamental Reminder: Becoming a Christian does not instantly solve all of life's problems.

#### **3 Essentials for Battling Sin That's Hard to Shake**

- Recognize that spiritual Christians struggle with sin.
  - Reasons to have confidence that Paul is speaking as a born-again believer:
    - Paul makes reference to both his relationship to God and his relationship to sin.
    - Paul speaks only as a Christian could.
    - Paul has a desire to do God's will.
    - Our personal experience resembles Paul's.
  - Key Point of Application: "The more I grow in my faith, the more sensitive I'm going to be to sin's attempts to conquer me."
- Understand your spiritual condition.
  - The Situation: The "new him" is stuck in the "old flesh."
    - Our Mistake: We often make human attempts to fix the flesh.
  - The Struggle: "I don't want to do some of the things that I am doing."
    - Key Point of Application: "One of the keys to spiritual victory in my life is recognizing my utter hopelessness."
  - The Source: Sin.
    - Sin is a powerful thing! It's a law that governs every aspect of the flesh.
    - Before your conversion, you were in opposition with God. When you came to faith in Christ, a powerful war with sin broke out.

*"The Christian life is a life of continual struggle, of victories and defeats, and Christian victory comes only when we totally distrust self, and rely on the provision of God. How frequently we throw works out the front door of justification, and invite them in the back door of sanctification."*

John Stott

- Realize that the answer is the Spirit of God.
  - No one benefits from the cross apart from receiving the Spirit, and no one receives the Spirit who is not justified by the cross.
  - "*To walk by the Spirit is to live with moment-by-moment dependency on and sensitivity to the initial promptings of the Holy Spirit.*" - Charles Stanley
  - Summary Points of Application:
    - The Christian life is only possible because sin has been forgiven, guilt has been removed, and God's Spirit was provided.
    - The Christian life can't be lived in the power of the flesh; it only happens by the strength of the Spirit.
    - Don't ride the fence between walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh.
    - Cry deeply and daily for the ongoing ministry of the Spirit of God in your life.