

The 7th Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 24, 2019
“Restoring the Masterpiece ~ Why Do I Do What I Don’t Want To Do?”
Romans 7:14-25

THE PROBLEM

“I don’t understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate. But I can’t help myself because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things. I know I am rotten so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can’t make myself do right. I want to, but I can’t.” (Romans 7:15-18)

There is a _____ going on inside of us—a war between right and _____; light and _____; good and _____.

“The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

This _____ within us is part of our _____ nature and we can’t escape it. In fact, we’re most aware of this battle when we try to _____ a bad habit.

Good _____ are not good enough—it takes more than just _____ to change.

Sentiments like these may be heart-felt at the time, but they often lack the _____ to have any lasting effect on our lives. Why? Because the _____ to do something is often stronger than the desire _____ to do something—especially during times of stress or when we’re feeling weak or out of control.

3 CONSEQUENCES OF THE INNER BATTLE

• _____
“I don’t understand myself.” (Romans 7:15)

• _____
“I have the desire to do good, but not the power.” (Romans 7:18)
The problem with self-help books; motivational speakers; and conferences is that even though they may offer some good _____ ideas and advice, they don’t give us the _____ to change.

• _____
“Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?” (Romans 7:24)

GOD’S PROMISE

“When you know the truth, the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)

“For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”
(2 Corinthians 3:17)

The secret to transformation and victory in our lives is Jesus and His _____.

When we change the way we _____, it changes the way we _____; and when we change the way we feel, it changes the way we _____.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.” (Romans 12:2 MSG)

We need to allow God to change the way we think—we need to let His Truth and His Spirit _____ in our hearts and minds—then we will know and experience His _____ to change.

Behind every self-defeating act is a _____ I’m believing.

Whatever it is—it’s an _____ belief that isn’t true—a belief that I’ve either consciously or unconsciously _____, and allowed to have control in my life—the way I think, a speak, and act—the way I view myself and other people.

Change doesn’t start in our _____, it always starts in our _____ and we have to expose and uncover the lies that we’ve accepted and focus on the truth.

Transformation doesn’t start with our _____—it always starts in our mind, and we have to expose and uncover the lies that we’ve accepted and focus on the truth.

THE PRESCRIPTION: 4 STEPS TO VICTORY

Step #1: _____.
Many people go through life with a vague feeling that something’s _____, but can’t quite put our finger on it. The good news is, God knows exactly what’s wrong—we have an _____ problem and God has a word for it: _____

“So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.” (Rom. 7:17)
Sin always starts in our _____–and it’s our thoughts that produce sinful _____.

We sin when we try to play _____. We think we know _____ than God; we do what we want to do instead of what God wants us to do.

What makes it worse, is that we can live in a state of _____ about our sinfulness.

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

Principle of Life: Sin always involves _____ the moment I’m sinning, I’m deceiving myself because I think what I’m doing will actually produce better results than what God said.

Fact of Life: To stop defeating myself, I must stop _____ myself. I’ve got to take an honest look at my life, face the truth, and deal with the issues.

Step #2: _____.

“Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:24-25)

The answer to our problem is a _____: _____! However, in order to experience Jesus’ _____ work in our lives, we need to ask ourselves: Who is going to be _____ of my life?

Only Jesus can set us _____. When we’re mastered by Him, we can master our _____–because He alone has the _____.

“For the new spiritual principle of life in Jesus Christ lifts me out of the old vicious cycle of sin.” (Romans 8:2)

Step #3: _____.

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

_____ is a Biblical principle of recovery–a prerequisite for healing and _____.

Confession is important because it brings what’s _____ in the darkness out into the light; it _____ it and weakens it’s _____ over us.

“But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

We can’t know the _____ until we’ve confessed the _____ and brought them into the open.

Step #4: _____.

“Don’t let sin control the way you live. Don’t give into its lustful desires. Instead give yourselves completely to God since you have been given a new life.” (Romans 6:12)

In order to experience _____ and victory in our lives, we need a power that’s _____ than our own.

We’re all _____ by something–and _____ only comes when we make the right choice of what that will be. When we choose _____ to be the controlling factor in our life–when we’re mastered by the Master–He gives us the power to _____ everything else.

COMMITTING TO JESUS

- _____ that I’ve been trying to play God and that I can’t change on my own.
- _____ ask God to help.
- being willing to be _____ with someone else about the things that need changing in my life.
- Giving Jesus total _____ of my life.

“God keeps His promise. He will not allow you to be tempted beyond your power to resist and at the time you are tempted He will give you the strength to endure it and so provide you with a way out.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)



If you’ve tried and tried, and you’ve failed–stop _____, and start _____. God gives us the choice to either _____ on Him or on ourselves–and the result is either _____ or _____.

Do you really want to change?

Are you willing to follow these 4 steps?

Might you need to be restored by the Master in this area of your life?