

Stuck

Week of February 7

It is chilling to visit the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem—memorial to the holocaust—and retrace the steps leading up to the Nazi regime that eventually wiped out millions of Jews in the early to mid 20th century.

Countless victims, in addition to Jews, whose existence opposed the idealism of the third Reich, were regarded as trash to be thoroughly discarded. Early on, as early as the late 1920's and early 1930's, hate and evil propaganda had begun to circulate in the more populated areas of Germany, intentionally laying the groundwork for the Vice Chancellor of Berlin to create a mindset of superior race among many.

Had the watching world, namely the U.S. and allied forces, sat idly by World War II would have lasted much longer and the destruction would have been even more widespread. The U.S. did step in, and the battle of Normandy marked the beginning of the end of this world war. The U.S. and allies would take back Europe, but victory would underscore the reality that the fight was not over. More work would be imperative in the months ahead. We learned to fight from a position of victory.

Read Romans 8:1-14

Christ defeated the war on sin through His death on the cross and glorious resurrection. But just as there was fighting to be done from a position of victory post WW II, followers of Christ are in a day-to-day battle against sin.

1. According to v3a of this passage, what was the Law unable to do for us? Why?

According to v3b, what did God do in addition to giving us the Law?

God's Law is good. God reveals His truth in order to draw us into a personal relationship with the Himself. The apostle Paul says, "But the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good" (Romans 7:12). It is the weakness of our sinful nature that brings death. "So God did what the Law could not do. He sent His Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the Law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit" (vv3b-4).

2. Christ has won the battle against sin but a fight is still going on. How do you see this to be true in your day-to-day struggle against sin?

Re-read vv5-8. What do you learn about allowing our sinful nature to dominate our thoughts vs. allowing the Holy Spirit to control our thoughts?

Paul says, "But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you" (v9a). The Holy Spirit identifies believers as true children of God—connecting us to the things of heaven where God is and not the things of this world (see also Colossians 3:1-3). "The Spirit is God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people" (Ephesians 1:14a, also 2 Corinthians 5:5).

The Holy Spirit is a gift to be treasured! The Holy Spirit teaches us and guides us "into all truth" (see John 16:13). Jesus said that the Holy Spirit "will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment (John 16:8). It is important that we always try to follow the Holy Spirit's lead and welcome the Holy Spirit into our day-to-day living. Grieving or blaspheming the Holy Spirit will surely cause us to get stuck (see Ephesians 4:30 and Mark 3:28-29).

3. What else does God promise through His Holy Spirit according to v11 of Romans, chapter eight?

How does keeping your eye on the big picture—the victory already won through Christ—encourage you to surrender to the Holy Spirit's control?

Surrendering control to the Holy Spirit really is a good thing. God loves you and has your best interest at heart. You can trust Him with every area of your life. Although the devil fights against you, remember the war on sin has already been won. There is no reason we must remain stuck when the Lord Jesus Christ has come to set us free! "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death" (Romans 8:1-2).

4. When Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, they also had to fight from a position of victory. God had given them the Land, but they had to fight and work hard to occupy it. As with the Israelites in the days of the conquest, the Lord promises to be with us and calls us to be courageous as we carry out His will (Joshua 1:3, 9). What does this example – and other examples from Scripture or personal experience – tell you about our Lord and the precious gift of salvation with which He has entrusted us (2 Timothy 1:14)?

*But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace... For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
(Romans 8:6b, 14)*

STUCK

Text: Romans 8:1-14, I Corinthians 10:3-11

The Plain Truth:

Victory is ours when we _____ the enemy
and when we know the _____!

- 1. Sin is seductive—know your _____.**
 - a) Sin is seductive in its _____ to our fallen nature.
 - b) There is a personal _____.

- 2. Don't blame the law as it is _____ and a _____.**

- 3. There is victory in _____ the enemy.**
 - a) Take every thought _____.
 - b) Don't allow _____ to develop.
 - c) Begin to live _____ with prayer, Scripture, and repentance.

One Year Bible Reading

Feb. 7: Exodus 26:1-27:21, Matthew 25:1-30, Psalm 31:1-8, Proverbs 8:1-11
Feb. 8: Exodus 28:1-43, Matthew 25:31-26:13, Psalm 31:9-18, Proverbs 8:12-13
Feb. 9: Exodus 29:1-30:10, Matthew 26:14-46, Psalm 31:19-24, Proverbs 8:14-26
Feb. 10: Exodus 30:11-31:18, Matthew 26:47-68, Psalm 32:1-11, Proverbs 8:27-32
Feb. 11: Exodus 32:1-33:23, Matthew 26:69-27:14, Psalm 33:1-11, Prov. 8:33-36
Feb. 12: Exodus 34:1-35:9, Matthew 27:15-31, Psalm 33:12-22, Proverbs 9:1-6
Feb. 13: Exodus 35:10-36:38, Matthew 27:32-66, Psalm 34:1-10, Proverbs 9:7-8

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