



# GRACE-POWERED LIVING

## A Study of the Book of ROMANS

VICTORY IN THE WAR WITHIN  
Romans 7:15-25

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**Introduction:** Every Christian battles against the desire to disobey God. If we have truly become a “new creation” in Christ, what is the source of those desires contrary to God’s will? Is it possible to consistently resist those desires? Paul answers those very relevant questions by sharing his own struggle with sin.

REVIEW:

I. Our Relationship To The Law (Romans 7:1-6)

Romans 6:14 “For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.”

II. Our Benefits From The Law

A. The Law **Describes** Sin (Romans 7:1-7)

Romans 7:7 “What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, ‘You shall not covet.’”

## VICTORY IN THE WAR WITHIN

Galatians 3:24 “Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.”

B. The Law **Arouses** Sin (Romans 7:8-12)

C. The Law **Reveals** Sin (Romans 7:13-14)

Romans 7:13 “Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.”

### III. Our Struggle With The Law (Romans 7:15-25)

#### A. The Reality of the Struggle

Romans 7:15-19 (New Living Translation)

“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. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience shows that I agree that the law is good. But I can’t help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things. I know I am rotten through and through 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. When I want to do good, I don’t. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway.”

### B. The Reason for the Struggle (Romans 7:21-23)

Romans 7:21 "I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good."

Romans 7:22 "For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,"

2 Corinthians 4:16 "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day."

Romans 7:5 "For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death."

Romans 7:14 "For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin."

Romans 7:23 "But I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members."

### C. The Remedy for Our Struggle (Romans 7:24-25)

#### 1. Realize that the struggle is inevitable.

Romans 7:24 "Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?"

### 2. Realize that the struggle is winnable.

Romans 7:20 “But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.”

Romans 6:11-12, 14 “<sup>11</sup> Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, <sup>14</sup> For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.”

### 3. Realize that the struggle is temporary.

Romans 7:25 “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.”

Conclusion