

# **The Struggle**

**11-20-16**

## **Romans 7:18 (ESV)**

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

**Romans Chapter 7 is fascinating, but complicated chapter. It presents insight into the struggles we face when serving the Lord. The struggles we have are closely related to last weeks message on “Human Choices”. Chapter 7 also gives valuable information about the attitudes of our children.**

**The Struggle; Look at a succinct Biblical explanation of our human make up.**

### **#1 All Human Beings**

- a) **The Soul.** This is our mind, will, and emotions. **This is our decision-making capacity.** We come into this world preprogrammed in certain ways; our personality, family traits, a soul DNA. However the soul gathers information and experiences over life that impacts our behavior.
- b) **The Flesh. This is the body impulses and cravings.** Biblically, anyone controlled by these impulses or cravings is always referred to as sin.
- c) **The Function. The soul makes decisions to take care of the flesh.** The soul can be programmed, but the flesh with its impulse and cravings are just there to be fed or starved.

d) **Children.** This is basically how they also function.  
**You teach their soul to restrain their flesh.**

When a child reaches puberty, things change. They begin to have adult feelings without any adult experiences to know how to handle them. May I be a little facetious: They begin making funny gestures with their mouth and their breathing changes – raised upper lip and blowing out air. They make statement like, “All my friends are going,” and “You don’t let me do anything.” You finally say, “Okay darling, just be careful.” Let me interpret that through the flesh. The child says, “I have all these fleshly cravings and I want to go be with my friends who also have all theses same cravings.” Then you say, “Okay, just be careful.”

## **#2 Religious Human Beings add rules.**

a) **The Law**, the right and wrong, works against the flesh and requires decisions by the soul to follow the Law. Thus the struggle, the conflict, the war.  
Romans 7:18 (ESV)

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

b) **Don’t be naïve**; look at Paul’s struggle.

1 Corinthians 9:27 (ESV)

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

- c) **Children. Even with religious teaching at puberty, these are children with adult feelings!** Don't expect them to do better than adults? They have the struggle without the benefit of any life experience to guide them.

**#3 Human Beings Having a Relationship with God including children! Teaching and discipline without including the forgiveness through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit is deadly. It promotes spiritual defeat because they are words without power against the flesh which does have power. Romans 8:1&13 is crucial for teaching with power.**

- **Romans 8:1 (ESV)**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- **Romans 8:13 (ESV)**

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

- **Galatians 5:16 (ESV)**

But I say, walk (occupied) by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

**With a relationship with God and the power of the Holy Spirit, the struggle still remains. Why? Here is a human example that may help us understand.**

**The dynamic of our Relationship with God and the continuing presence of sin and temptation has a similar relationship as Aerodynamics and gravity. Aerodynamics is greater than gravity but gravity is always present.**

### **■ Overhead – Airplane**

**The power of the Holy Spirit is greater than sin, but sin is always present. Resting in the airplane gravity is defeated; Abiding in our Relationship with God sin is defeated.**

- **But--** If you step out of the plane, the ever-present gravity takes over!

### **■ Overhead – Falling**

**Neglect our Relationship with God and ignore being Filled with the Holy Spirit, the ever present sin takes over. We must always abide in Christ.**

**Get on the plane to experience the Power of God!**

### **2Cor.5:21 (NASB)**

**He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

### **Prophetic Team**

**Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.**