Romans 7:21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. **22** I love God's law with all my heart. **23** But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. **24** Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? **NLT**

Romans 7:25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

4) The turning point in Romans 7 comes when Paul stops looking within himself and starts looking to _____ _____ himself.

- **a.** The problem isn't the Law—it's our _____ .
- **b.** Victory comes with _____ , not self-confidence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Why do we naturally drift toward trying to earn God's approval instead of resting in what Christ has already done.**
2. **Why do rules alone rarely change a person's heart?**
3. **Why do you think Paul chose to be so transparent about his own struggles?**
4. **How does knowing mature believers still battle sin encourage you?**





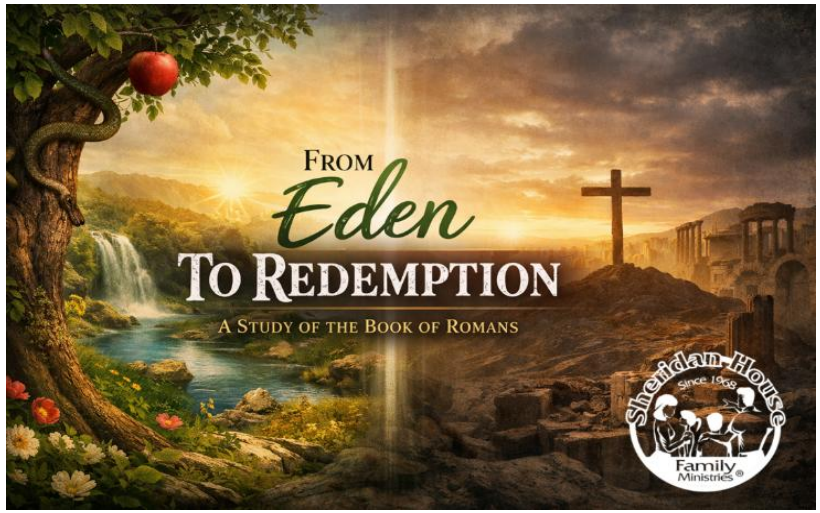
A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Chapter 7:1-25

THE BATTLE WITHIN

WHY WE NEED MORE THAN WILLPOWER

November 4 and 5, 2026



James 1:2-3 "*Consider it pure joy… whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perserverance*."

1) Headwinds don't create weakness—they _____ it. And when God reveals our weakness, He's inviting us to rely on **His** _____ .

Romans chapter 6 answered the question—"Should Christians continue living to sin?"

- And Paul answered—"*Absolutely not! We've died to sin*."

Romans 7 answers another question that many believers quietly ask:

- "*If I've been saved… then why do I still struggle*?"

Romans 7 reminds us, and this is huge, we are not alone.

We'll see that even the Apostle Paul experienced this battle!

POINT 1 – We Have Died to the Law (v 1-6)

Romans 7:1 Now, dear brothers and sisters—you who are familiar with the law—don't you know that the law applies only while a person is living? NLT

Romans 7:4 So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God.

POINT 2 – The Law Reveals Sin; It Doesn't Create It (v 7-13)

Romans 7:7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." NLT

Romans 7:8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. 10 The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. 11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. 12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

POINT 3 – Every Believer Experiences an Internal War (v14-25)

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 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. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

2) There is a conflict of _____ _____—when a believer tries to live a life pleasing to God in his own strength he will fail. As long as we think we can do it ourselves we are in Romans 7.
   - **a.** When we come to the end of ourselves, we discover the _____ of Christ.
   - **b.** Only someone whose _____ has been changed feels this conflict.
   - **c.** The struggle is evidence of spiritual _____ —not evidence of _____ .

Romans 7 isn't the story of a man who failed at Christianity—it's the story of a man who realized Christianity is not about self-reliance.

3) Christians don't lose their _____ when they struggle. They struggle because salvation has begun _____ them.
   - **a.** The Christian life is not 'try _____'; it's 'trust _____.'