



Thoughts on Romans Chapter 7

(Romans 7:14-25)

The key question:

How can I live a holy life serving God?

The startling answer:

I can't! (Romans 7:18)

There are two great lessons that every person needs to learn. The first lesson pertains to salvation; the second lesson pertains to living the Christian life: **Lesson #1--I CANNOT SAVE MYSELF** (I need a Deliverer, a Saviour). See Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Jeremiah 13:23; etc. I must come to that point in my life when I recognize that I am a sinner and that I am hopeless and helpless (Rom. 5:6 "**without strength**"). The Lord must do it all. I need to stop trying and start trusting. I must do the believing; **God must do the saving** (Acts 16:31).

Lesson #2--I CANNOT LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. I need a Deliverer (Rom. 7:24-25), One who can save me from the power of indwelling sin. I trusted Christ for salvation, and I am gloriously saved. I now love Christ; I want to please and serve Him; I desire to do His will and walk in His ways. At first, things seem to be going very well, but then I begin to have problems with sin. I can't understand why this is so. At times it seems that I am losing more than winning. It seems there are more failures than victories. *The Romans 7 struggle is very real* (see Rom. 7:14-24). Finally, I come to the point where I realize "**I CAN'T!**" "I cannot perform that which is good!" (v. 18) I don't have what it takes to live the Christian life! I can't do it! *And this is exactly what God wanted me to discover!* See John 15:5.

Just as I needed God for salvation, so I need God for sanctification (to live a set apart and holy life). It's God's **LIFE** (Gal. 2:20), it's God's **GRACE** (1 Cor 15:10); it's God's **WORKING** (Phil. 2:13); it's God's **POWER** (Col. 1:29; Phil. 3:10) and it's God's **VICTORY** (2 Chron. 20:15,17).

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