

The Truth That Transforms: The Book Of Romans
“The Truth About Winning The War Within” Romans 7
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor James Jacobs
July 11, 2021

Big Idea: If we want real life change, we must allow God’s Word to transform us.

I Can Win The War Within By:

1. Living In The Spirit

“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.** When we **were controlled** by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the **law aroused** these **evil desires** that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. But now **we have been released** from the law, for we died to it and are **no longer captive to its power.** Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but **in the new way of living in the Spirit.**

Romans 7:4-6 (NLT2)

The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the **opposite** of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us **desires** that are the **opposite** of what the sinful nature **desires.** These two forces are **constantly fighting** each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.” **Galatians 5:17 (NLT2)**

A. If I Follow My Sinful Desires, It Will Lead To Destruction

Sexual Sins: “When you follow the **desires** of your sinful nature, the **results** are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures...” **Galatians 5:19 (NLT2)**

Spiritual Sins: “...idolatry, sorcery...” **Galatians 5:20a (NLT2)**

Relational Sins: “...hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone **living** that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.” **Galatians 5:20b-21 (NLT2)**

B. If I Follow The Holy Spirit’s Desires, It Will Lead To Abundant Life

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit **guide** your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves.” **Galatians 5:16 (NLT2)**

But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified** the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.
Galatians 5:22-25 (NIV)

Notes: _____

2. Admitting I Have A Problem

“Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was **the law that showed me my sin**. I would never have known that **coveting** is wrong if the law had not said, “You must not covet.” **But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me!** If there were no law, sin would not have that power. At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, and I died. So I discovered that the law’s commands, which were supposed to bring life, **brought spiritual death instead**. **Sin** took advantage of those commands and **deceived me**; it used the commands to kill me. [spiritual death] But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good. But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! **Sin** used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see **how terrible sin really is**. It uses God’s good commands for its own evil purposes. So the trouble is not with the law, for it is **spiritual** and good. The trouble is with me, for **I am all too human**, a slave to sin.”
Romans 7:7-13 (NLT2)

Notes: _____

3. Giving Jesus Control Of My Mind

I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don’t want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is **sin living in me** that does it. [not excusing himself – just acknowledging the flesh] **I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong**. I love God’s law with all my heart. 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. Oh, what a **miserable** person I am! Who will free me from this life that is **dominated** by sin and death? **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**. **Romans 7:19-25 (NLT2)**

“Don’t **copy** the **behavior and customs** of this world, but let God **transform** you into a new person by **changing the way you think**. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. **Romans 12:2 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

➤ **How is your mind being transformed?**

My next right steps to winning the war within, I will:

- Read and journal personal applications from the book of Romans
- Transforming my mind with: love joy peace patience kindness
 goodness faithfulness gentleness self-control
- Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior

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Icebreaker for families: Who can share an occasion when someone confronted you about you doing or saying something un-Christian?

Big Idea: If we want real life change, we must allow God’s Word to transform us.

I Can Win The War Within By:

1. Living In The Spirit

Read Romans 7:4-6

Paul uses the illustration of marriage to the law. When Paul says, “we have been released from the law” what implications does this have for Christian living? Verse 6

What kinds of legalism do Christians fall prey to?

What helps you to bear more fruit?

Read Galatians 5:17

Do you ever feel that you are unspiritual because you struggle with your desires? How does this verse help us understand what is going on?

What two things conflict with each other?

Read Galatians 5:19-21

Can a person who chooses a lifestyle of living for the sinful nature be a true Christian? Why or why not?

Which area of sins seem to have more? Why do you think this is true?

Read Galatians 5:16

What motivates you to live a good life?

Read Galatians 5:22-25

Which spiritual fruit is blossoming in your life?

Which are still in the bud?

What is the biggest change that being a Christian has made in your life?

How do you sense God calling you to change your lifestyle?

2. Admitting I Have A Problem

Read Romans 7:7-13

How close did your day come to illustrating the statement: I do not understand what I do?

From reading this passage, what is your impression about Paul?

According to Paul, what purpose does the Law serve?

3. Giving Jesus Control Of My Mind

Read Romans 7:19-25

In the midst of Paul's struggle, what is his hope? 24-25

In what area of your life is the spirit willing, but the flesh is weak: Diet? Work habits? Spiritual disciplines? Exercise? Other?

How does this encourage you in your struggle?

Read Romans 12:2 Remember Verse

How is your mind being transformed?

How or where are you starting to think differently?

Read these two passages and use them to write out a spiritual warfare prayer.

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." **2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NIV)**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

Write out your spiritual warfare prayer:
