

LESSON 7

LOSING SIGHT OF THE VICTORY

ROMANS 7:1–25



1 When was a time you felt strongly tempted to do something you knew was wrong? Why was it so tempting?



Read Romans 7 and the following notes:

☐ 7:1ff ☐ 7:2–6 ☐ 7:4 ☐ 7:6 ☐ 7:9–11 ☐ 7:11, 12 ☐ 7:15 ☐ 7:17–20
☐ 7:23–25

2 This chapter begins by comparing life under the law with being married. Why is this comparison appropriate? How might Paul's audience have understood this and reacted?

3 Why do God's laws arouse our sinful desires?

4 If the law causes so much difficulty for the believer, why didn't God eliminate it? What useful purpose does it serve?

5 What struggle is Paul describing?



6 How can we be free from sin and yet continue to do wrong?

On first impression, this chapter presents a pretty gloomy picture of life as a daily struggle on the edge of defeat. Even Christians may feel powerless to defeat sin. If faith isn't any more effective than that, what's the use of trying, we may think. Does victory only come after our earthly life is over? Most assuredly not! Paul's purpose is not to prepare us for our inevitable failure. Instead, he is challenging us not to deal with sin in our own strength. When we do so, we are bound to fail. We must always be ready to resist the desires of our old sinful nature. We can resist sin only through the power of Christ within us. We must always take sin seriously, even though we know we have eternal life through Christ. Take heart—the enemy has already been defeated!

7 What forces might cause strong spiritual leaders to stumble?



8 What makes us complacent about sin in our life?

9 One of the notes on 7:15 summarizes three lessons Paul shared. Restate these lessons in your own words. Which one is most important for you to emphasize in your life?

10 How are you battling sin in your own strength? Identify some practical ways you can become more reliant on Christ in dealing with this struggle.

11 What temptations do you fight on your own? How can you depend more on God to help you fight temptation? How can other Christians help you?



A Why is it dangerous to separate our sinful nature and our spiritual nature, blaming our sinful nature (or Satan) for our moral lapses?

B Why is it wrong to say, “Satan made me do it”?

C Many people speak as though the forces of good and evil are equal and opposite in our life. Why is this wrong?

D Why is it that we cannot live a holy life in our own strength any more than we can attain right standing before God by our own works?

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