

January 12, 2024

## The Struggle is Real Romans 7:14-25 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 15 Num. 2

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will finish chapter 7 of Romans. In this section Paul talks about the struggle to do what he wants, and that sin is constantly pulling him to do what he does not want to do. The struggle in our lives with this same issue is real. Join us this week as we unpack our understanding of our own internal struggle to do what we really want to do.

There is a tug-of-war within us.



### The Conflict of Two Natures

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want *to do*, I agree with the Law, *confessing* that the Law is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.**

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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## 🕒 **Explore His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community group discussion)

### **What does God MEAN?**

1. In what way am I sold into the bondage of sin?
2. Does Paul give a reason for doing the very thing he hates?
3. Looking at verse 16, how does doing what “I do not want to do” agree with the Law?
4. In verse 17 is Paul saying that he is not responsible for his actions because it is sin controlling him? Explain
5. Where does the desire for sin come from? Why is it such a struggle to end sin in your life?
6. Where does the desire for good come from? Why is it often a struggle to do good?
7. When Paul says thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord how does this change the conversation from the struggle to hope?



Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

*Sermon Notes*