

DARING FAITH

UPDATE: MAY 5/6

Romans 7:15-24 | “I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?”

Palm Valians 7:15-24 | *I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. I tell myself not to yell at my kids, then I hear someone yelling at my kids, and I realize it’s me. There’s something wrong inside of me that leads me to do what I don’t want to do. I tell myself, “Whatever happens, I will not deviate from my diet. I promise I will not make any exceptions!” Then I find a piece of pizza in my mouth. What a miserable person I am. I am a slave to pizza! As I try to understand this power that makes me a slave to sin I suddenly have a realization – I am now eating brownies! I am a slave to pizza and brownies! I have discovered this principle of life – that when I want to do right, there’s always something wrong for me to look at on the Internet. I don’t want to look, but there’s something in me that does it anyway. When I am about to tell my wife that she’s just like her mother, I know what I am about to do is wrong. That’s why I decide to not tell my wife she’s just like her mother. Then I find my mouth opening and words coming out. The words sound like ... “You are just like your mother.” It is sin living in me that does that. Who will free me from this life dominated by the dumb things my me keeps doing? One thing I know for sure; it’s not gonna be me!*

Romans 7:25 | “Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Ephesians 1:16-17 | “I pray for you constantly, asking God ... to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.”

Ephesians 1:19-20 | “I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead”

Ephesians 2:1-2 | “Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world.”

Ephesians 2:4-8 | But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.