



Romans 7:14-25

All Too Human | April 27th - May 3rd, 2014

Warm-up: Share about a time when you succeeded in the face of an internal battle to either take the easy way out (and sin) or honor God in obedience. What kinds of emotions, thoughts, and struggle accompanied this battle?

- Read **Romans 7:14-25** aloud. Mere human will, apart from the strength of Jesus Christ through the Spirit, is bound to crack.
 - Can you relate with Paul's cry of the heart and question in v. 24?
 - What is the meaning of the second part of v.25?
- Commenting on these verses Warren Wiersbe writes, *"In our new position before God, as dead to the Law, we are not expected to obey God in our own strength. God has not enslaved us under a 'Christian Law' that we must obey in order to be holy. Rather, He has given us His Holy Spirit who enables us to fulfill the demands of God's holiness."*¹
 - What does it look like to obey God "in our own strength"?
 - Now, identify what it looks like when one is enabled by the Holy Spirit? Practically speaking, how should these dispositions differ?
- While we will never reach complete sinless perfection this side of eternity, (See **Gal. 5:17**; **1 Jn. 1:8-9**), as Christians we can and should grow in our sanctification (becoming holy/like Jesus) our whole lives by the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us! In **Rom. 8** Paul shows us that the way we are delivered daily from the indwelling power of sin is:
 - By walking not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (8:4)
 - By not setting our minds on the things of the flesh, but...on the things of the Spirit (8:5) and..
 - By the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God who dwells in us (8:9,11)

Do you believe that a consistent, daily, and responsive walk with the Holy Spirit is possible? How have you experienced this?

Wrap-up: In what way do you *most* need to be enabled by the Holy Spirit this week? Pray and lay hands on one another for the Spirit's enablement in whatever you may be facing.

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 387). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.