

SPIRITUAL SLAVERY – MOMENTUM / HABITUATION

Rom 7 – Paul’s confessional description of the experience of a believer who is still dominated by his Old Man Belief System (OMBS), fighting to defeat it; the dramatic back/forth between Old Man and the New Man Belief System (NMBS),

Rom 7:14-23 – Paul’s inner conflict; He sets up a contrast for his readers
The good which he wants to do & in his mind is determined to do **CP** the sin/evil he actually produces
Joyfully agree with the Law of God in his mind **CP** Law of sin indwelling his body making him slave

Gal 5:16-17 - walk in the Spirit & you won’t fulfill desires of OMBS; for they both produce desires contrary to the other, pulling you in opposite directions

- Creates the inner conflict of believer; being pulled in opposite directions

Inner Conflict of the Christian

1. Every human is born with an OSN & develops OMBS as we progress through stages of growth
Eph 2:1 and you were dead in trespasses & sins; **Rom 5:12** sin passed to all men through Adam
2. Every new believer is given a divine nature at the moment of salvation 2Pt 1:4
2Pt 1:3-4 His divine power has given us everything pertaining to godliness & His great promises that enable us to partake of His divine nature – new nature in Christ.
3. These 2 natures & corresponding belief systems are diametrically opposed to one another & impossible to reconcile one with the other – one or the other must be removed or given in to.
Rom 11:6 Grace/faith vs Law/works; **Rom 7:22-23** Law of God – Law of sin in my members **Rom 12:2** conformed to the age – transformed by renewing the mind by Spirit.
4. Possessing 2 different natures & beliefs that correspond to these two natures sets up an inherent inner conflict that can’t be avoided, but over time, with determination, can be resolved.
Eph 4:22-24 take off OM – put on NM; **Col 3:8-10** put off OM – put on NM positionally
5. Experiencing this inner conflict is appropriate for the baby, childhood and adolescent phases of growth but spiritual maturity is where we begin to win this inner war for Christ.
 - If you are newly saved & new to in-depth teaching explaining the spiritual life, then this inner war reveals that you are saved and growing in the word.
 - If you have sat under doctrine for years with no real progress, then you need to talk with the leadership of your church about what is going on in your spiritual life.
 - If you have decided that living with ongoing inner war, never resolving it is the normal Christian life, then talk with Ron or Al, because that is not true.
6. AS we take off more and more OM beliefs & exercise walking in the Spirit, we will gain control of the OM side of our inner self, allowing the spiritual side to be dominant.

Slavery – Habituation Rom 6:1

Vs 1-11 Positional truths & realities (baptisms) that have experiential consequences

6:1 The Legalists were always criticizing Paul, claiming that he was teaching lawlessness. They contended that when you release people from the law that restrains them, that love for God would never be enough to inspire them to live the spiritual life. They thought you needed law to scare people into doing the right things with their lives. Paul contended that love under grace/faith would inspire believers to give more to God than ever before.

6:2 - Paul assures his followers that he is not teaching lawlessness, far from it, may it never be!!

6:3-5 - baptized (id) with Him in His death, we will surely be identified with Him in his resurrection.

6:6 - know this – must understand this positional reality & its experiential results

6:6 - old man crucified – our OMBS, AOS & our personal sins were all identified with Him on the cross

6:6 - so that – **hina** – purpose clause – the purpose of substitutional identification (baptism) was to place all of our sinfulness on Christ & all of His righteousness & assets on us.

6:6 - done away with – **katargeo** a.p.subj – might be (possibility) done away with (in the future).

- Aorist Subjunctive indicates a point in time in the future where a specified result is possible.
- OM crucified with Christ breaks the positional hold the OM has on the believer
- Positional destruction of OM at cross creates **the possibility** of experiential victory now in time
- Positional victory **does not eradicate** the OMBS when we are saved even if some say it does
- Positional victory only opens the door to the potential for experiential destruction of OM

6:6 – body of sin (OM) might be destroyed & we no longer forced to serve sin.

6:7 – one having died (positional in Christ) is freed from sin (potential in time)

Volition is the Issue Rom.6:12-13

12 - don't allow sin to rule, that you would obey its desires

13 - don't keep presenting your body as instrument of -R; instead present to God as instruments of +R

6:15 - another refutation of the ridiculous claims against Paul – lawlessness for fun; May it never be!!

6:16-22 Freed from Slavery to Sin – Enslaved to +R

6:16 - present self to obey → enslaved: repetition develops habituation produces automatic thinking
sin becomes habitual, automatic → death; obedience to God becomes habitual, automatic → +R

6:17-18 - were habitually enslaved to sin but believed the gospel, breaking the hold, allowing us to form new attachments and habituations resulting that we formed habituations to +R thinking & living.

6:19-22 - when enslaved (habituated OM beliefs) to sin you were separated from +R; now you have broken the pattern and enslaved self to God & +R by habituating NM beliefs

7:24-25 - Who will deliver me from this body of death, **Thanks to Jesus Christ our Lord.**

1. God designed the human soul with the ability to naturally form habits through repetition.
 - Any thought, feeling, word or action that we repeat begins the process of habituation
 - Early in life we form habituated thought patterns that even program the way the brain forms.
2. Any new ideas that we accept by believing the idea, are transferred into the heart for use. After we have used the idea (min 21 X) we form a habit of viewing the idea as part of our own viewpoint. We begin to automatically use the idea as our own – automatic thinking
3. As this period of habituation is occurring, we are also losing conscious contact with the source, use & impact of the idea – lose awareness of where idea originated or that we are even using it.
4. Eventually we lose awareness that we are even using this idea, or why, it has become fully habituated into the subconscious where it is automatically used to deal with life - enslaved
5. If the idea has a desire, pleasure, satisfaction, fulfillment of any kind connected to it, then it becomes much more difficult to resist the temptation to use the idea & avoid the pleasure.
6. OMBS is man's attempt to handle life in the devil's world on his/her own, apart from God.
7. OMBS is driven by desire, using the logic that we can substitute pleasure for fulfillment.
8. Because OMBS came first, while spiritually dead, it is the most hidden, most comfortable, most automated thinking in the heart, dominating our hearts without our even knowing it at times.
9. GHS & truth bring light to reveal the lies we have been using, that we might tear down the old system that operates on hidden lies & remove it from our presence.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 “for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,”