

HAVING PROBLEMS DOING WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO?

Romans 7:14-25

Introduction: Ever hear a child answer "I don't know" when asked why he/she did that? Ever wonder why in the world people do strange things? Ever do something "dumb" and didn't even know why you did it? Ever try your best to do your best and fail?

A little known truth is that everyone is born already under the control of an invisible force and God calls it "the Old Sin Nature." The "old sin nature" is contrary to how God wants people to live and will fight any and all efforts to change it.

The man, Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament and a great man for God confessed his struggle in wanting to do God's will and not always being able to do so because of that inborn nature opposed to God's will.

I. EVERY PERSON IS BORN UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE OLD SIN NATURE (vv 14,15)

1. Any effort to go against the Old Sin Nature results in a struggle.
 - "...*that which I do I allow not...*" some things happen so fast, sometimes sin is not recognized until it has happened and even if recognized and fought against, still lose.
 - "...*what I would, that do I not...*" want to do right, want to be like Jesus, want to do all God wants, but sin still happens and failure again.
 - "...*what I hate, that I do...*" don't want to sin, want to be what God wants, fight to overcome, struggle hard, but still fail and sin.
2. Knowing what God wants and wanting to do what God wants is just not enough.
 - God Word reveals that even when man knows God's laws and tries to keep God's laws he just can't become all that God requires.
 - Everyday life proves the law of God is good because when one sins, the opposite of what the law says not to do is done, even though that person knew better.
 - The law points out that every time one sins, it also points to the need of somebody to come help people get out from under the control of the Old Sin Nature.
3. The Old Sin Nature is contrary to how God wants people to live.
 - Christians don't want to sin, try not to but can't keep from it, always falling short of God's requirements, why?
 - Was one's mind not focused on Christ or God's Word or didn't know God's will or didn't try hard enough?
 - Christians get into sin because of the Old Sin Nature. It wants control and will tug and pull to keep one from doing what God wants.
 - Wanting to sin is ingrained throughout the believer, born with it, controlled by it and the Old Sin Nature cannot be removed while the believer lives on this earth.

II. NO PERSON HAS ENOUGH STRENGTH TO OVERCOME THE OLD SIN NATURE

(vv 16-20)

1. Alone, even a believer just cannot overcome sin.
 - Make up one's mind not to sin, want to do good, determined to do good but to no avail.
2. In God's eyes, no one, no matter how hard one tries, can be what God wants because every person is born already separated from God and controlled by sinful nature.

III. THE BELIEVER IS GIVEN A NEW NATURE BY GOD (vv 21-23)

1. The Old Sin Nature fights to keep a person from becoming a child of God, a Christian, a believer, for God gives a New Nature or Law to every person who becomes one of His and the Old Sin Nature then has to fight to keep control of that person's life.
2. The New Nature or Law given by God begins to change the believer into the kind of person God wants and to have a new way of living. It frees the believer from the control the Old Sin Nature had from the person's birth.

IV. PEOPLE NEED HELP (v24)

1. When one sees what is good he/she cannot do it, can see what is wrong but cannot help but do it. It's like two people in the same body using the same mind.
2. All christians, believers, children of God are like Paul: struggle, there's a power inside that one cannot overcome, can want, wish, try, but despite all efforts, sin still wins out.
 - Help is needed to overcome the Old Sin Nature.
3. When a person comes to the point of wanting to do what God wants but realizes that he/she just cannot do it alone, then God steps in with Someone who take care of things.

V. GOD'S HELP IS HIS SON, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (v. 25)

1. Nothing that a person can do or has, can do what needs to be done to overpower the Old Sin Nature. He/she ought to know that from experience, having lost so often.
2. The Old Sin Nature can be defeated and overpowered only by Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus transforms and renews the believer's mind, giving thoughts never known before.
 - With a renewed mind, the believer, though still sinning, has full access to God now and forgiveness is given and he/she is restored back to fellowship with God.
3. The believer is also indwelt with the permanent presence of God's presence, the Holy Spirit, who enables the believer to fight and defeat the Old Sin Nature.

CONCLUSION:

1. From the first born of Adam and Eve every human being born since has been born already under the control of a force God calls The Old Sin Nature and it is contrary to all that God is.
2. Every person who has tried to go contrary to the Old Sin Nature has had inner battles, wrestling and struggling and almost always losing to it's sinful ways.
3. Only God can overpower the Old Sin Nature and it is by giving the believer in His Son, Jesus, a new Nature or Law that indwells the believer along with the Old Sin Nature.
4. The christian will constantly have inner battles as the two natures war against one another for the will and life of that believer.
5. The christian makes the decision: Listen to his/her New Nature or his/her Old Sin Nature. Do what God wants or do what "comes naturally" - sin.