

**Freedom in Christ: The battle is real**  
**Romans 7:13-25; Galatians 5:16-18**

Statement: **Do I see myself primarily as a “saved sinner” or a “saint who still sins”?**

**I. We battle our carnality Romans 7:13,14**

**A. The law had a purpose (13)**

**13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.**

**B. The law reveals the nature of man (14)**

**14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.**

**I Corinthians 2:14-3:3**

**14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. 16 For “*who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?*”<sup>[fn]</sup> But we have the mind of Christ...3:1 1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere men*?**

**II. We battle with the flesh We battle with the flesh**

**A. Battle to be good (15-17)**

**15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is good*. 17 But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.**

**B. Battle of the wills (18-20)**

**18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.**

**C. Battle of the mind (21-23)**

**21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my**

**members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.**

**D. Battle to defeat death (24,25)**

**24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.**

**III. We battle the flesh in the Spirit Galatians 5:16-18**

**A. Battling in the spirit (16)**

**16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

**B. The walk of the Spirit will face opposition**

**17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

**Conclusion**

**I. We battle in our own strength.**

**II. We battle with the flesh.**

**III. We battle the flesh in the Spirit.**