



Day 22

March 30

by
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“If We are Free, Why Don’t We Live Like It – The War Within – The Conflict of Our Two Natures”

There is an inward struggle I wrestle with every day... perhaps you too, can identify with this inner conflict in your own life.

Pulling excerpts from today's reading (Romans 7:13-25) in multiple translations, verses 24-25 express that “my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I’m in! (Wretched *and* miserable man that I am!) Who will [rescue me and] set me free from this body of death [this corrupt, mortal existence]? The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. It has been done by Jesus Christ our Lord. He has set me free.”

If we are free, why don't we live like it? And since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? So often I've brazenly told God “I'll do it my way”, or “Ok Lord, I'll fully surrender my life (including those parts I'm still holding on to) when You can assure me that You'll do what I want you to do.”

Have we forgotten that when we were joined with Jesus in baptism, we also joined with Him in His death? Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives... We are no longer slaves to sin! He has broken the chains of sin that bind us, and we are set free from the power of sin over us!! How amazing is that?!

Even though sin is no longer master over me and no longer has dominion over my life, I still need to make a daily choice to not let sin “take the reigns and drive the day”. I can consciously choose to submit my day to God and allow the Holy Spirit to take over where I fall short (undoubtedly there will be many opportunities!) I am constantly in need of re-focussing my mind on Christ throughout the day, and it's no wonder that when I do, my attitude and behaviour follow suit.

And so I run (daily) to the foot of The Cross, pouring out my heart so that my sinful nature may be cleansed by the redeeming blood of Jesus. Easter reminds us that He has done this for us. It is finished. Praise God!

Prayer: Father, I am in desperate need of You. May I never lose sight of my need for You. Like a child, I am continually tripping over myself, messing up and doing what I know I ought not to do. In spite of myself, every time I come running to You, You pour grace and mercy over all my sin. Lord, help me to be focussed on less of me, and more of You.

*Prayer: (from the hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)
“O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be,
Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee,
Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love!
Here's my heart Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.*

Scriptures: Psalm 97, Jeremiah 17:19-27, Romans 7:13-25, John 6:16-27