

Pk's Perspectives ... Tug-of-War

Most of us are intimately acquainted with the internal tug-of-war between the enticement to sin and the desire to honor God. Paul says of himself in Romans 7, "For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do." I can relate to Paul's struggle. In Galatians 5:17, God clarifies the cause of this internal conflict between doing right and wrong when He tells us that "...the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want." Again, I can relate! The struggle is real.

For some people this tug-of-war is rooted in an outward, observable area of sin and disobedience and bondage that stands in opposition to God's purpose; issues like substance abuse/addiction, eating disorders, infidelity, laziness, explosive anger, financial irresponsibility, etc. For other people this tug-of-war is private, hidden, and quite possibly more spiritually lethal; issues like racism, shame, pornography, jealousy, fear, and bigotry that destroy the intimacy of our fellowship with God.

Recognizing the struggle, naming the struggle, confessing the struggle, and making yourself accountable to honestly confront this inner tug-of-war are all a part of experiencing the triumph Jesus made possible by His death and resurrection. An unknown author interprets the inner conflict of the Christian life in a very succinct piece titled "An Autobiography in Five Short Paragraphs." Read this slowly. Meditate on the truth hidden in these words; as regards your own struggle with a specific sin – consider which paragraph best describes your current habitation.

1.

I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I am lost. I am helpless. It isn't my fault. It takes forever to find a way out.

2.

I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in. I can't believe I'm in the same place, but it isn't my fault. It still takes a long time to get out.

3.

I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I see it is there. I still fall in. It's a habit. My eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out immediately.

4.

I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.

5.

I walk down a different street.

Cya Sunday morning in Sunday School & Worship, PK.