

WHY DO I DO WHAT IS WRONG WHEN I KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT?

By: Fountain Hendricks

(Romans 7:14-20)

Have you ever done the wrong thing not understanding why you did it? If you can answer yes, then you know what it feels like to be conflicted between your head and your heart. Most people live their entire lives battling between the information they know and the emotions they feel.

The psychological impact a person undergoes when they cannot understand why they are doing something is disastrous. The inner conflict will damage a person's spirit.

THIS IS THE TOUGHEST BATTLE YOU WILL
ENCOUNTER!

THE WAR WITHIN

(Romans 7:14-20)

It is **EASY** to **LEARN** the right thing. However, it is **HARD** to do the right thing. Doing what is right, does not mean you have attained an **AFFECTION** for it. When your knowledge is different from your passion, you will battle with inner torment. Here's what I mean.

- Many people know they should tell the truth. However, they have an **AFFECTION FOR LYING**.
- Many people know they should eat healthy. However, they have an **AFFECTION FOR EATING PROCESSED FOODS**.
- Many people know they should be selfless. However, they have an **AFFECTION FOR BEING SELFISH**.
- Many people know they should speak kind words. However, they have an **AFFECTION FOR PROFANITY**.

- Many people know they should obey God. However, they have an **AFFECTION FOR DISOBEDIENCE**.

The Apostle Paul wrote an intriguing statement in Romans 7:15. He said, *"I do not understand the things I do. I do not do what I want to do, and I do the things I hate."* The Apostle Paul had the mind to do what was right. However, he **DID NOT** have the heart to do what was right. Romans 12:2 teaches us that we are transformed by the renewing of our mind.

Your mind becomes renewed when you **STUDY** the Word of God. As your mind renews itself with spiritual insight, wisdom and revelation, you will attain the ability to discern the difference between right and wrong. **BEFORE** the Apostle Paul was preaching the Gospel, he was a murderer. He **DID NOT** have the ability to discern righteousness. He was not aware of Jesus teachings. He was educated by Jewish leaders who taught him ritualism.

The Apostle Paul's background led him toward fighting a war within himself. Acts 22:3 says, "*I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in the country of Cilicia, but I grew up in this city. I was a student of Gamaliel, who carefully taught me everything about the law of our ancestors. I was very serious about serving God, just as all of you here today.*"

The Apostle Paul's understanding of God was wrong. It was based on religion, not relationship. When he was converted on the Damascus road, his heart changed. However, his mind remained the same. This conflict created a war within himself. After his encounter with Jesus, the Apostle Paul understood righteousness yet, still doing the wrong thing.

GOD TOUCH MY HEART

In the toughest battle of the Apostle Paul's life, he said something very powerful in Romans 7:17. He said, "*But I am not really the one who is doing these hated things; it is SIN LIVING IN ME that does them.*". The sin that was

LIVING IN Paul was preventing him from walking in righteousness. At this point the Apostle Paul had not been filled with the Holy Spirit.

The book of Romans was written **BEFORE** Acts. Romans was written in 57AD. Acts was written in 62AD. During 57AD the Apostle Paul was **NOT** filled with the Holy Spirit. There was a period of five years of the Apostle Paul **LIVING WITHOUT** the Holy Spirit. This powerful man of God was conflicted within himself for five years. Think about that!

The Apostle Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 9:17. The scripture says, *"So Ananias went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit."*

When you **ASK** the Holy Spirit to come in your life He will give you the power to live righteously. When the Holy

Spirit **LIVES IN** you, sin must submit to His power. As you **HONOR** the Holy Spirit, sin dies. As you **LISTEN** to the Holy Spirit, sin dies. As you **TALK** to the Holy Spirit, sin dies. As you **OBEY** the Holy Spirit, sin dies. **WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS YOUR LIFE, THE CONFLICT WITHIN YOU WILL END!!!**

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