



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Baptism** – Our next baptism is Sunday, October 22nd at 3 pm. The Bible teaches that baptism is an act of obedience after making a commitment to Christ and allows a believer to declare to the world their heart-felt commitment to Christ. Join us for this month's Baptism Sunday as we celebrate the proclamation of faith of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Register on the App or contact the office with questions.
- **Pumpkin Party** – A Pumpkin Party Carnival for our Southwinds families and their friends. Enjoy 30+ Carnival Games with candy, inflatables, yummy food and fun activities. Come dressed up. Totally FREE event. Wednesday, Oct. 25, 5-7:30 pm.
- **Life Group Facilitators Needed** – Life Groups is looking for additional facilitators for our upcoming Winter Session. If you are thinking about or have thought about being a facilitator or co-facilitator, please click [here](#) to complete the application. For more information contact Talanna Williams: twilliams@southwinds.org or Chris Martinez: cmartinez@southwinds.org.

MY STORY

Discuss a time when you did something that you thought was going to be easy but turned out to be hard.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Have a Volunteer Read: Romans 7:13-25 (ESV)

What does Romans 7:13-25 teach us about the depth and breadth of indwelling sin?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 7:15-17; Isaiah 40:8, Galatians 5:1

Point #1: All Christ-followers face a LIFELONG STRUGGLE AGAINST SIN.

“So this flesh (sinful nature) is on the inside. This indwelling sin seeks to keep us from loving God and loving his ways. The problem is inside, not outside. This is what we experience every time we say... I want to walk in Jesus' ways, I believe his ways are best, I want the path of flourishing, I want to walk in line with the grain of the universe and experience the peace and assurance that comes by knowing and belonging to God.” – **Michael Nolen**

What can you share about how you've experienced this internal battle of sin desires?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 7:18-20 (ESV)

Point #2: In ourselves, we cannot WIN THIS STRUGGLE.

“There's nothing redeeming about the flesh. 'For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.' – Romans 8:18. It's the enemy on the inside. The flesh creates a radical systemic impairment that results in an inability to do what we ought. By nature, we have a radical, spiritual disability. Our flesh is spiritually incapacitated and powerless, which is what that word inability means. Again, he (Paul) is not excusing himself, but he's highlighting the latent power of indwelling sin. The question is... why? Why is he highlighting our natural inability? Here's why... Until we understand this reality, we will always and forever be looking for a remedy in all the wrong places. Until we realize we are naturally unable to make ourselves right with God, we will continue in our pride and self-righteousness.” - **Michael Nolen**

Why does a robust view of sin lead to praise, not paralysis, for the Christian?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Read: Romans 7:21-24 (ESV)

Point #3: To win this struggle, we need OUTSIDE HELP.

“But once the Holy Spirit gives us new life, takes out our hearts of stone, gives us hearts of flesh... We receive new desires and life becomes complicated. Our deepest, spiritual desires for God are in conflict with fleshly, corrupted desires for sin. And so Paul concludes... Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (Romans 7:24, ESV) Wretched means distressed or miserable. Paul is not wallowing in guilt here. He's not preoccupied with his failure. This is not low self-esteem. He's just being realistic about the condition he's in due to his lingering fleshliness. It is only wise for us to come to the same conclusion as him. Because only when we do... can we get the help we really need. Only when we see our wretchedness, our fleshliness... that's on the inside... Can we sing... Amazing Grace... How sweet the sound... that saved a wretch like me.” – **Michael Nolen**

Paradoxically, in what ways is this passage encouraging?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 7:25 (ESV)

Point 4: Knowing we have ultimate victory changes how WE FACE OUR STRUGGLE.

“If we are to know God and enjoy God and increase in the knowledge and love of God, and understand all that God is for us in Jesus... we must deeply and profoundly understand our natural inability to make ourselves right with God and our natural inability to walk in his ways.

If you are a follower of Jesus, recognizing your fleshliness should not lead you to despair. And it should not lead you to paralysis.” – **Michael Nolen**

How does coming to terms with our fleshliness fuel our love and faith in Jesus, and make us a more humbled, awe-filled, hopeful, loving, evangelistic people?

APPLICATION

“Growth in grace means growing in your awareness of your need of grace, not getting to a place where you feel it’s no longer necessary.” – Michael Nolen

How can having a great understanding of grace make you a more loving person to others?

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS