



## [Romans 7:15-25](#)

(15) I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. (16) And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. (17) As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. (18) I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. (19) For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. (20) Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. (21) So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. (22) For in my inner being I delight in God's law; (23) but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. (24) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? (25) Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

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Though converted for about twenty years when he wrote Romans, Paul comments in verse 17 that [sin](#) sufficiently strong enough to pull him in the wrong direction still remained in him. In verse 18, he leaves no doubt that sin was still in him. In verse 19, he admits to occasional sin, and in verse 20, he again states that sin still existed in him, and in verse 21, that evil was present with him. In verse 23, he says that a war raged within him between the law of sin and the law of his mind, and he mentions these two again in verse 25.

The evil that lived in him was the remnant of what he had absorbed of Satan's world before his [conversion](#) on the road to Damascus. The law of his mind was his new heart from [God](#) that he desired so strongly to rule his life. The war was between the remnant of Satan's world and his new heart. [Galatians 5:16-17](#) confirms this last thought:

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

Each influence on his mind was communicating to him. This is why we cannot physically escape Babylon. It has left its mark on our perspectives, attitudes, and characters; we carry it with us regardless of our location. Nevertheless, our escape from Babylon *can be accomplished* because, if it could not, God would not have commanded us to do it.

We achieve it by choosing to allow the law of our mind to triumph against the law of sin and death, even though to do so may require many painful sacrifices during the battle. Where does one find the strength necessary to make the sacrifices required? What might we need to supply us motivation?

First, we need to consider a vital promise. Paul proclaims in [Philippians 4:19](#): "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by [Jesus Christ](#)." This assurance could just as easily be read as, "He shall supply all our need gloriously!" It is full of exuberant expectation.

What do we need? We need [faith](#) in the fact that God is, that He is indeed with us personally and individually, and that His Word is true and absolute. In addition, we need vision and [hope](#) regarding the value of what is to be gained or lost through making the right choices. We need much more, but certainly not least, we need [God's love](#) for Him and fellow man.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**

**[Communication and Leaving Babylon \(Part Three\)](#)**

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