



Am I having an out of body experience?

By Derek Kiser on June 10, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Romans 7

In seminary they had us write in third person. I personally found it difficult. Here is what that would look like: "The author of this devotion struggles with the very things he is writing about in this devotion. He wishes he would just quit sinning." If I were to write the entire devotion that way, you might think something was wrong with me. In Romans 7:7-25, Paul describes an experience where he knows the right thing to do but sees himself doing the very sinful thing he hates.

I can identify with Paul as I am sure many of you can. We often know the right thing to do in a situation. We may even plan on doing the right thing, but when looking back, we realize we did exactly the opposite. Our problem is, even though we are believers we are sinful and we will continually fight sin until Jesus takes us home. Paul states this in a somewhat confusing way, but ends with the best possible conclusion in verse 24, "*Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*" If we are all honest and know ourselves well, we understand how sinful our hearts are and how bad off we would be if left on our own.

We all should see this dilemma solved in only one way, shown in verse 25, "*Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!*" I know I am a sinner. Each time I sin in ways I thought I would not or even said I would not, I should look to God's grace and understand this is exactly the point. I cannot please God on my own. Only in Jesus Christ can I ever be holy before God.

PRAYER: God, help me today to live a life understanding Your grace and holiness when I fall short. Please help me follow You and not my sinful desires.

TOMORROW'S READING: Romans 8

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