

Romans 7:23, Spiritual Warfare; Summary

Regeneration of the soul has no impact on the members of the body, and therefore the first husband is still hanging around. Volition which expresses positive volition will respond to the principles of God. However, volition which is led astray will respond to the principle of the sinful nature that is resident in his members.

Until you admit you have the enemy within, you will always be vulnerable to a coup d'état. Failure to orient and adjust to this reality means that you are constantly being defeated while at the same time your arrogance deceives you into thinking that you are spiritual, serving God.

Romans 7:23 - But I see a different kind of principle in my body parts **[brain]** laying siege in a campaign against the principle of my mind **[nous]** and so making me a prisoner to the principle of the sinful nature which is located in my body parts **[brain]**.

Before we summarize this verse, it is important for us to be reminded of a parallel passage on this subject of warfare for control over the soul:

Galatians 5:16 - Always walk **[peripateo]** by means of the Holy Spirit **[mentorship]** and you will never submit to the temptations of the lust pattern **[epithumia]**.

Galatians 5:17 - For the desires of the flesh are those which are opposed by the Holy Spirit and the desires of the Holy Spirit are those which are opposed by the flesh. The two are in constant warfare against each other **[antikeimai: adversary, antagonist, opponent; noun form: enemy]**, with the result that you cannot do the thing you desire to do.

Summary of Romans 7:23

Volition is the characteristic of the soul which must be corrupted in order for the sinful nature to reestablish its original status of power and authority. When your volition is tempted by the sinful nature's lust patterns, you are unprepared if all you have is doctrine in your *nous*.

Only when you are filled with the Holy Spirit with doctrinal defenses stationed on the FLOT Line of the soul are you prepared to do battle. Successful defense against lust-pattern attack only comes from long-term memory traces in the cerebral cortex.

While filled with the Holy Spirit, these wheel-tracks of righteousness cannot be defeated in the spiritual conflict. However, when volition is led astray by the temptations of the lust pattern, then any doctrinal thought available in the conscious mind is reduced to *gnosis* status and is therefore ineffectual.

There it becomes the target of deception, demon influence, and false doctrine. Doctrine in the *nous* is easily defeated and the believer is again captured and held hostage to his first husband.

It is God's intent for us to become spiritually self-sustaining. Acquisition of divine thought in the *kardia*, initiated by positive volition and executed by the power of the Holy Spirit, is what develops this spiritual self-sustenance. However, the system does not permit divine truth to enter directly into the stream of consciousness without volitional consent. This means that divine truth academically understood must be considered by the volition while in the *nous*.

As part of the mentality of the soul, the *nous* is linked with the association cortex of the brain. Doctrine responded to by faith in the *nous* is then transferred by the power of the Holy Spirit into the *kardia*. There it is distributed to the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness and stored as long-term memory traces in the cerebral cortex of the brain.

The sinful nature has great success in preventing this transfer from occurring by means of its lust patterns, trends, and available wheel-tracks of wickedness. Failure to make the transfer of truth from the *nous* to the *kardia* results in spiritual ignorance.