

THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

Message 6: THE BATTLE FOR HOLINESS

Romans 7:21 (NIV)

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

Part 1: What I Need to **Know** About This Battle

The arena of the battle is my _____.

Mark 7:21-23 (ESV)

²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

What is the "heart"?

The _____ as it reasons, discerns and judges

The _____ as they like or dislike

The _____ as it chooses or refuses

What do we know about our hearts?

Jeremiah 17:9-10 (ESV)

⁹The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
¹⁰"I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

1 Corinthians 4:3-5 (ESV)

³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

What do I need to do about my heart, then?

First, _____

Psalms 139:23-24 (ESV)

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

2 parts to this prayer:

Romans 6:11-14 (ESV)

¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves **dead to sin** and **alive to God** in Christ Jesus. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

*To experience practical, everyday holiness, we must accept the fact that God in his infinite wisdom has seen fit to allow this daily battle with indwelling sin. But God does not leave us to do battle alone. Just as He delivered us from the overall reign of sin, so He has made ample provision for us to win the daily skirmishes against sin.
- Bridges, pp. 68*

We have hope because we are _____ to sin and _____ to God!

That means ...

We are united with Christ in his _____.

Ephesians 3:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ ... that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith ...

We have the _____ living in us.

Romans 8:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Philippians 2:13 (ESV)

¹³ ... it is **God who works in you**, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

We have hope because God _____ He will do it!

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (ESV)

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (ESV)

¹² ... may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Next week:

Part 2, A Personal Battle Plan for Holiness