

Lenten Devotional
Bible Reading – Romans 7: 14-25

“...²³but 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. ²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord!...”

Today’s passage talks of the wretchedness inside of us which eventually manifests in outward evil acts. We all struggle with temptations and each one of us may be subject to different weaknesses. For some it is haughtiness, for others it is impure deeds, or addictions to drugs and alcohol, or uncontrollable anger, or unethical greed, or false idols. Whatever our sins may be and however we attempt to trivialize or justify our own shortcomings, sin is always sin in the eyes of the Lord. Humanity simply reeks full of it. As the great preacher Jonathan Edwards aptly put, we are all merely “sinners in the hands of an angry God” and a day of reckoning beckons.

Yet there is hope for us! No matter how many times we have failed, how hopeless the future may seem and how badly we have disappointed others, today’s passage provides us with the greatest of hopes-Jesus Christ. Let us confidently remember the great promise in Philippians 4:13-- “I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me.” What a grand promise this is. In the midst of our struggles, we have only but one things to do. It is not to justify our weaknesses as reasonable human struggles and further indulge in them, it is not to seek the counsel of the world, and it is not to label our battles as unwinnable ones. Rather, we are to simply go to the Word and simply obtain the strength needed to fight. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee”(Psalm 119:11). So let us gaze upon God and receive the strength from him. He will provide us the strength and the necessary grace to face whatever is in front of us. We see this in Christ battling temptation in the wilderness, in Joseph overcoming temptation during his servitude, and in Apostle Paul experiencing the divine grace to overcome his thorn in the flesh.

Dear Sisters and Brothers, there is hope even in the midst of our bleakest battles. So let us deem our struggles as blessings. They make us realize the power of God. They make us rely on God and only on Him. They allow us to intimately experience the miraculous touch of Jesus.