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## A Recognition of Weakness

Romans 7.15-25

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### “More than I married

**P**astor John confided his weakness to his close friend. “I’m totally committed to my wife. We’ve been married for years, and I really love her. But, I’m just not attracted to her any more.” His friend Pete began to set him straight. “But you don’t understand,” John objected. “There’s forty more pounds of her than what I married. It’s really a struggle. And then there’s Cynthia, my church secretary. She’s so sweet.”

The time came for clear thinking. “Pastor, you’re not playing on an even field. When you see your wife in the morning, she’s not yet brushed her hair or teeth; she has no make-up on. But when you see Cynthia, she’s all done up. You see her with no ‘flaws’ sticking out. Now this is what you need to do. First, realize, that you are at the end of your rope, you’re broken, and you can’t solve this on your own. Confess to God your weakness. Ask him for help in seeing the beautiful wife he gave you. Concentrate on her good points. And as far as Cynthia... get yourself another secretary. Don’t even put that stumbling block in front of you.”

### Reflection

One vital aspect of brokenness is realizing your weakness, admitting it, confronting it, and taking any steps necessary to deal with it. Know that you are a weak human vessel, and that in your own strength you are not capable of living morally. Then ask God to give you the strength you lack. When you develop an “I am undone” attitude, God can work well with you, because you are constantly aware of your need for him.”

The Apostle Paul knew this well. He said that the good that he wanted to do, he never seemed to be able to do. And that which was wrong which he didn’t want to do, he kept doing. He too, fought his flesh, and found himself broken before the Lord.

### Accountability and Application

Have you ever struggled with feelings and/or thoughts that are contrary to your good intentions? Do you attempt to solve them on your own, hiding them from all so that you will still appear “together” before a watching world?

## Romans 7.15-25

<sup>14</sup>We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. <sup>15</sup>I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. <sup>16</sup>And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup>For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>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.

Prayer: Lord, I am undone, immorality plagues me. Help me with the struggles which I alone cannot face.