

Conquering the Spiritual Tug of War Together Service

Vanessa we will use this several times during the service

Big Idea

“Even when we fall, Jesus helps us all!”

Romans 7:14,15,19, 24,25

¹⁴ “...The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.

¹⁵ I don’t really understand myself...

¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don’t.

I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin

²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. (NLT)

I. Everybody struggles

Illustration

Tug of War

- A. Have you ever felt like this?
 1. Even grownups know this feeling.
 2. Apostle Paul knew this feeling.

- B. This effects everybody

Illustration

- How many love Jesus?
- How many do things that are wrong?

Application

- Look around.
- Isn’t that weird.

Romans 7:15,19

¹⁵ I don’t really understand myself...

¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don’t.

I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

Romans 7:14

¹⁴ “...The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.”

Kids know this feeling

- You promise to obey... then argue anyway.
- You say you won't hit your brother... then boom.
- You decide not to complain... then complain all morning.

Adults know this feeling

- “I won't lose my temper.”
- “I'll be patient.”
- “I'll stop worrying.”
- “I'll spend more time with God.”

But sometimes we still fail.

“Even when we fall, Jesus helps us all!”

Illustration

- The Cookie Jar
- Imagine Mom says:
“Don't eat the cookies before dinner.”
- Now suddenly...
those cookies become the most important thing in the universe.
- Why?
Because something inside us pulls us toward wrong choices.

Application

- That's what Paul is describing in Romans

“Even when we fall, Jesus helps us all!”

I. Everybody struggles**II. There is a battle inside of us.**

- A. Paul describes a war inside of us.
 1. A war in the heart.

Illustration

- This is not a war of tanks and soldiers.

- This is an inside war.

I Peter 2:11

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. (NLT)

Examples:

- Tell the truth OR lie?
- Forgive OR hold a grudge?
- Share OR be selfish?
- Pray OR ignore God?

C. There is a war in going on inside of each of us.

D. The battle does not mean you don’t love God.

1. The struggle itself does not mean you don’t love God.
2. The struggle shows the battle is real.

Illustration

- Dead fish float downstream.
- Living fish swim against the current.
- Christians fight sin because God is working in them.

“Even when we fall, Jesus helps us all!”

I. Everybody struggles

II. There is a battle inside of us.

III. We cannot win the battle by ourselves.

Romans 7:24-25

²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin

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A. Unpack

1. Notice what it doesn’t say.
 - a. “What rules will rescue me?”
 - b. “What good works will rescue me?”

2. He says:
 WHO will rescue me?
 Who will free me?

Vanessa offset them for aesthetics

Salvation is not about trying harder.

Salvation is about trusting someone greater.

Romans 3:23-24

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight.

He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Illustration

Stuck in Quicksand

Imagine being trapped in quicksand.

The harder you pull yourself out,
 the deeper you sink.

You need someone outside the pit to rescue you.

That's what Jesus does for us.

Kids need Jesus.

Parents need Jesus.

Grandparents need Jesus.

Pastors need Jesus.

Nobody outgrows the need for grace.

Audience Participation

"Can we save ourselves?"

"No way!"

“Who rescues us?”

“Jesus!”

“Even when we fall, Jesus helps us all!”

- I. Everybody struggles
- II. There is a battle inside of us.
- III. We cannot win the battle by ourselves.

IV. Jesus is our victory.

Romans 7:24-25

²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin

²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. (NLT)

“Even when we fall, Jesus helps us all!”

Conclusion