

**fruit for God.** 5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. 6 **But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit** and not in oldness of the letter. NASB

He further explains that sin is alive because of the Law, which he also refers to as “*the commandment.*” Because the Law affords the opportunity to sin by transgressing it, the weakness of the sinful nature succumbs to it and we die, this of course a reference to Adam, and all of us in our transgression and resulting physical death. And even though the Law is “*holy and good,*” yet we violate it becoming sinners and reap the just penalty of death as a result. This of course is affected through “*sin*” which is in us, and responds to the opportunity to transgress, “*effecting my death.*” His point is, the Law is not to blame, but rather, sin which is within us, and through its passions, **causes us to transgress the Law**, resulting in death (God’s judgment against sin).

**Romans 7:7-13** - 7 What shall we say then? **Is the Law sin? May it never be!** On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.” 8 **But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind;** for apart from the Law sin is dead. 9 And I was once alive apart from the Law; but **when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died;** 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 **for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me.** 12 So then, **the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.** 13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! **Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good,** that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful. NASB

Then he digs into **the nature of the warfare** that is taking place in us. He explains that **sin is present within us**, that “*sin indwells me.*” Indeed **SIN** and **EVIL** are within us and “*present in me,*” says Paul. In fact Paul says, “*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh,*” making the point that “*the flesh,*” or **sinful nature of Paul (and us) is entirely EVIL.** In contrast to the flesh is the “*inner man,*” in whom Paul says that it “*delights in the Law of God,*” which is “*spiritual,*” and joyfully wishes to “*practice*” the Law and “*do good.*” But he explains there is a **sinister warfare constantly being waged against us** by “*indwelling sin,*” and this warfare is “*in the members of my body,*” that is, these mortal “*bodies of death.*” Here see that the “*Law is spiritual*” v-14, but our physical “*bodies of death*” v-24, are subject to the power and temptation of sin, and there is a **war being waged in our hearts and minds** v-23. Our inner man delights in God’s Law and desires to “*do good,*” yet is encumbered by the “*flesh*” v-17 and weakness of the physical body v-23, and this creates a **massive spiritual warfare which is constantly being waged** in the Christian life.

**Romans 7:14-25** - 14 For we know that **the Law is spiritual;** but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for **I am not practicing what I would like to do,** but I am **doing the very thing I hate.** 16 But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good. 17 So now, **no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me.** 18 **For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh;** for **the wishing is present in me,** but the doing of the good is not. 19 For **the good that I wish,** I do not do; but I practice the very **evil that I do not wish.** 20 But if I am doing **the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.** 21 I find then **the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.** 22 **For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,** 23 but I see a different **law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.** 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from **the body of this death?** 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! **So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.** NASB

See in this section Paul’s key points about spiritual warfare.