



Family Devotion #25
For the Week of March 18, 2018

Beloved,

In our recent studies of the book of Romans chapter 7, we have been learning about the struggle between the old sin nature and the Spirit. The old sin nature is defeated but still lurks around. The spiritual man is empowered to do the will of God by the Spirit. Paul wrote about this struggle in his own life, *wretched man I am!*, he cried. When a believer takes his or her eyes off of the Lord and gazes at the allurements of the world, he or she may become a carnal Christian, that is not living fully for the Lord in the power of the Spirit who lives within. In this case a person is still saved, once saved, always saved, however, they are not being obedient to the Lord.

On the other hand there is the spiritual believer. John MacArthur writes, *The spiritual believer is sensitive to sin because he knows it grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30), because it dishonors God (I Cor. 6:19-20), because sin keeps his prayers from being answered (I Peter 3:12), and because sin makes his life spiritually powerless (I Cor. 9:27). The spiritual believer is sensitive to sin because it causes good things from God to be withheld (Jer. 55:25), because it robs him of the joy of salvation (Ps. 51:12), because it inhibits spiritual growth (I Cor. 3:1), because it brings chastisement from the Lord (Heb. 12:57), and*

because it prevents his being a fit vessel for the Lord to use (2 Tim. 2:21). The spiritual believer is sensitive to sin because it pollutes Christian fellowship (I Cor. 10:21), because it prevents participating properly in the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:28-29), and because it can even endanger his physical life and health (I Cor. 11:30; I John 5:16). John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Romans 1-8, p. 380.

Please go over these verses with your family. Explain the concept of eternal security of the believer. As you proceed with this study continually point out a believer's need to be sensitive to sins that may be grieving the Holy Spirit who indwells them. In our sermon on Sunday, the text was Romans 7:14-25. During this message I spoke on how sin tries to creep back into the believer's life, like someone who quit smoking years ago, and realizing that after a meal they have a powerful urge to smoke again! Then there is presumptuous sin, this is knowing what is right and what pleases God and going ahead putting your will in place of the expressed will of God! Then remember, in Psalm 19 the Bible states that there can be sin in our lives that we are not even aware of!

Remember, the answer of how to live the victorious Christian life is found in verse 25 of chapter seven, the answer is found in Christ alone!

Blessings!