

Focus on God

The life of a Christian centers on service to God and the people we encounter. The many events of every day become a jumble of sanctified living and sin. The best of intentions can quickly become the worst of outcomes. Sincere plans can be thwarted, and frustration can follow on the heels of successes. Christians troubled by the ongoing conflict turn to the only source of real peace and comfort- God's Word.

As the Apostle Paul reflected on his life, not just his Pharisee upbringing, but also his sinful lapses as a Christian, he recognized the power of his sinful nature to torment him. Did he believe Jesus was his Savior? Yes, he had met Jesus on the road to Damascus and thus began a long journey of learning what it meant to be a follower of Christ.

† **Romans 7:24-25** *What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Paul became a life-long learner of God's will. As fanatical as he had been as a Pharisee, he now became even more so as a believer in Jesus. As he grew in faith and understanding of God's love, Paul also became more aware of his own failings. Instead of taking pride in his life, he now saw how he failed to live up to God's demands of perfection. While he wanted to lead a perfect life for Christ, he found he couldn't. He couldn't shake off his sinful nature, which previously patted him on the back for his pride.

In faith, he wanted to be without sin, but he couldn't. As he said, the good he wanted to do just didn't happen, and the evil he didn't want to do, well, he did that. (**Romans 7:15-23**) Hence his proclamation and cry for help, and his recognition of the only source of help- God his Savior.

So it is for us. We recognize the work God has begun in us. When we fail, we turn to the one who has saved us. In him we find true comfort and reassurance of his love. Live in him, with him, for him.

Your life is not your own. Your life is your personal ministry to God.