

**Romans 7:24-25**  
***“Our Only Hope”***

**I. Paul acknowledged his own struggles.**

- A. V.14-16 – a slave to sin – Rom. 6:16
- B. V.17-18 – completely sinful & ignorant of how to be good – Rom. 3:9-18; Prov. 1:7.
- C. V.19 – stubbornly sinful – Is. 53:6.
- D. V.20 – inhabited by sin – Gen. 8:21; Eccl. 9:3.
- E. V.21-23 – battleground for sin – Gal. 5:17; James 4:1; 1 Pet. 2:11.

**II. Paul acknowledged his own condition.**

- A. **Romans 7:24** – *“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”*
  - 1.) Acknowledging his own sinful struggles led Paul to acknowledging/realizing he couldn't do anything about them. He was powerless. No answer/solution. He couldn't deliver himself.
    - a.) *A main reason Christians remain frustrated with sinful struggles isn't necessarily the sin itself, but the repeated failures in overcoming the sins we recognize & despise!*
    - b.) *And the main reason we continue to struggle repeatedly is b/c we continue to fight them in our own flesh.*
      - i.) ***“Before we can stand before satan, we must bow before God.” – Warren Wiersbe***
      - ii.) *Until we submit to God's authority & power we'll continue to experience the natural defeat of our flesh.*
      - iii.) ***It's not just acknowledging our sinful struggles & condition to God, we have to wholeheartedly surrender control of them to God. The battle is the Lord's!***
        - 1.) Moses – Ex. 14:14; David – 1 Sam. 17:47; Jahaziel – 2 Chron. 20:15

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**B. Our struggles reveal 3 things about our own condition:**

- 1.) Who/what we naturally are: ***“O wretched man that I am!”*** – (Miserable; detestable – Rev. 3:17).
  - a.) Mark 7:17-23(Matt. 12:33-37); Isaiah 6:5
- 2.) Our own limitations: ***“Who will deliver (to rescue from danger; like a wounded soldier) me from this body of death?”***  
NLT – *“Who will deliver me from this life dominated by sin and death?”*
  - a.) Matt. 26:41; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:50; Phil. 4:13 > John 15:5.
- 3.) Our only hope: ***“I thank God, through Jesus Christ my Lord!”***
  - a.) Jer. 17:7; Ps. 130:7.

**III. Paul acknowledged his only hope.**

**A. V.25 – *“I thank God, through Jesus Christ my Lord!”* – 1 Cor. 15:51-57**

- 1.) Paul had to reach the point of acknowledging his own sinful struggles & his own sinful condition; who he really was, before he could acknowledge/find/recognize his only hope/solution.
- 2.) ***Before we can obtain the grace of God, we must first come to the realization of our own sinful condition:***
  - a.) Can't be saved until acknowledging you're lost.
  - b.) Can't be healed until acknowledging you're sick.
  - c.) Can't be forgiven until acknowledging you're offense.
  - d.) Can't be set free until acknowledging you're a slave.
  - e.) Can't find hope until acknowledging you're hopeless.
    - i.) ***“If you don't acknowledge sin, you won't value grace. If you don't value grace, you won't seek the forgiveness and rescue it provides.”*** – Paul Tripp
    - ii.) Luke 18:9-14
- 3.) *We obtain the grace & hope of God by turning from our sin & turning to the Author of salvation & forgiveness!*