



## ROOTED

Connect with God  
Connect with the church  
Connect to your purpose  
Fall 2018 Message series

Today's Topic: The Enemy Is Real

As we continue along in our ROOTED message series today, we come to a very important discussion on sin, Satan and strongholds. We are in a real spiritual battle and this is a topic that must be disclosed.

Paul's example from Romans 7:21-25

*God created things that had free will. That means creatures which can either go wrong or right. Some people think they can imagine a creature which was free but had no possibility of going wrong; I cannot. If a thing is free to be good... it is also free to be bad. And free will is what made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible... is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having. C.S. Lewis*

Paul painted for us a picture of conflict that is within all believers in Romans 7. It's an ongoing conflict of a believer's mind (and heart) that serves God versus the flesh that serves the law of sin. Here are some aspects of this battle:

God didn't create this situation we are in.

Rebellion caused by free-will created sin.

Satan and his evil forces are real.

Satan's nature and activities are meant to destroy God and hurt us.

Satan is the ruler of the earth, he has power. But he is defeated.

We can claim victory in Jesus as 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 says; *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*



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Sin are bad choices that “misses God’s mark.” The mark is the standard of perfection established by God. We aren’t good enough on our own, we need Jesus. We cannot defeat Satan on our own strength.

There is no middle ground in this battle. Either you love God or you love the world.

The battlefield is difficult! Love and pride are emotions to control. Free will must be guarded. Inside of us live two natures, the flesh and spirit. Which one will we follow?

The flesh and the spirit “they are not good roommates.” The damaged self still wants to gratify its desires while the spirit wants to draw close to God.

Repetitive sins can be signs of strongholds in our lives. Strongholds are willful indulgence in sinful acts, purposeful rebellion against God’s ways. It’s a position where Satan can exploit and force his way back into a person’s life.

How do we fight this battle?

- 1) Suit-up; put on the Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-18
- 2) Pray and confess; 1 John 1:9 says; *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*
- 3) Repent, turn from sin. Acts 3:19; *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,*
- 4) Don’t go at it alone, ask for accountability. James 5:16 says; *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

Release strongholds, give them to the Lord...

**Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus. I recognize the power You have given me by the shed blood of Jesus to demolish spiritual strongholds in my life. I confess that I have given a foothold to sin and I renounce the stronghold of \_\_\_\_\_. I claim the truth of \_\_\_\_\_ by the authority of the Name of Jesus Christ. Through Your power, I take back the ground I surrendered to the enemy. I pray You will enable me to trust and obey Your Holy Spirit so that this area of my life will be in conformity to the image of Christ. Amen.**

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