

Once upon a time

Romans 7:14-24

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

In this passage of scripture, Paul is talking about his old man. The person he was before he meet Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior. He honestly exposes the struggle to do the right thing. Even today, I know for me personally, it's still not easy to always do the right thing. Inside rages a battle between the flesh and the Spirit. As we try to follow the Lord, our flesh kicks and screams demanding to be reckoned with. But it is at that moment, we must put our foot down. "Once upon a time" I might have just been a wretched sinner, but that's not who I am now... I'm saved by grace. "Once upon a time" I used to indulge in the things of this world, but not anymore. "Once upon a time" I might have done this, or been a part of that, but that was the old man! I'm no longer the man I once was. And lest that I should boast, it is not in me but by the saving power of Jesus Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Paul admits, it was miserable trying to follow the "Laws" before he meet Jesus. He follows up with... "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God..." We all struggle, but just remind your flesh, "That might have been once upon a time, but no more!"