

HELP, I'M OUT OF CONTROL
Greater Reward – Part 1
January 4, 2026

Romans 7:15 (NLT) “I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate.”

Romans 7:18b-19 (NLT) “I want to do what is right, but I can’t.
¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.”

Romans 7:24 (NLT) “Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?”

Discipline is choosing what you want most over what you want now.

Desires don't determine who you become.
Disciplines determine who you become.
Desires don't determine what you do.
Disciplines determine what you do.

Willpower doesn't work.

Romans 7:24a (NLT) “Oh, what a miserable person I am!



It's not something that you're missing but it's someone.

Romans 7:24b-25a (NLT) “Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.”

John 8:34-36 (NIV) “Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.’”

It is not about behavior modification.
It is about Spiritual Transformation.
It starts with identity.

Romans 8:1-4 (NIV) “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Romans 8:14 (NIV) “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”

Romans 8:16 (NIV) “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

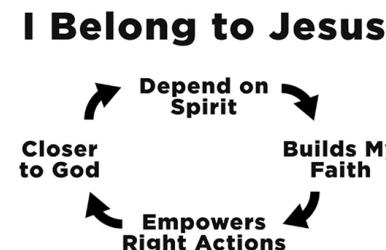
Philippians 4:13 (NIV) “I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

It's the Holy Spirit that gives you the strength to choose what you want most over what you want now.

Galatians 5:16 (NIV) “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

sark – flesh: sinful nature, sinful desires
peripeteo – walk:
as a continuous regular action, a habitual way of life



Identity drives actions and actions create results.

The Holy Spirit teaches us discipline if we walk by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Self-control is discipline.

You need the Spirit of God all the time.
God's Holy Spirit in you helps you choose what you want most over what you want now.