

SERMON MESSAGE FOR JANUARY 19/20, 2019

Pastor Dennis Keating

PILGRIM

Why the Struggle Is Real!

Romans 7:14-24 (p. 965)

THE KEY INSIGHT → Our struggle is caused by the sin _____
_____ us. (James 1:14-15)

ITS PRESENCE ...

1. _____ our lives. (7:14)
2. _____ our understanding. (7:15-16)
3. _____ our will. (7:17-21; Mark 14:38)
4. _____ our behavior.

The 1st Step Toward Growth:



Come to _____ yourself. (Matt. 5:3)

Have a question or comment about the Pilgrim series?

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FROM JANUARY 19/20, 2019 SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SERMON-BASED LIFE GROUPS

Personal preparation: Read the passage, review your outline, and think through the questions. With your group, watch the video blog together.

CONNECTING

1. Considering your own personal struggles with sin, how do you feel reading about Paul's conflict?

GROWING

2. The key to understanding our struggles comes by understanding the *sin principle* and its relationship with our *sin nature*.
 - What do you learn from the following verses about the *sin principle* — Rom. 7:17, 20-21, 23, and 25?
 - What do you learn from the following verses about how our *sin nature* is influenced by the *sin principle* — James 1:14-15?
 - Does knowing all of this help you in your walk with Christ and your struggle with sin? How so?
3. Unfortunately, the ability of the *sin principle* to do damage to our lives is quite pervasive. What does it mean, and what are some implications from the fact that it:
 - Contaminates our lives?
 - Confuses our understanding?
 - Conquers our will?
 - Controls our behavior?

SHARING

4. What is one area in your walk with God for which you would like your group to pray for you this week?

January 19/20, 2019
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(For Scripture references an fill-in the blanks)

THE KEY INSIGHT: Our struggle is caused by the sin **principle within** us. (James 1:14-15)

"... and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death." James 1:14-15

"All I do know is that as we age, the weight of our unsorted baggage becomes heavier ... much heavier. With each passing year, the price of our refusal to do that sorting rises higher and higher. Long ago the defenses I built to withstand the stress of my childhood, to save what I had of myself, outlived their usefulness, and I've become an abuser of their once lifesaving powers. I relied on them wrongly to isolate myself, seal my alienation, cut me off from life, control others, and contain my emotions to a damaging degree. Now the bill collector is knocking, and his payment will be in tears." Bruce Springsteen

ITS PRESENCE ...

1. **Contaminates** our lives. (7:14)

"Dear God: So far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that; but in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and then I'm going to need a lot more help. Amen." Unknown

2. **Confuses** our understanding. (7:15-16)

3. **Conquers** our will. (7:17-21; Mark 14:38)

"... the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Mark 14:38

4. **Controls** our behavior.

The 1st Step Toward Growth: Come to **the end of** yourself. (Matt. 5:3)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3