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**The Spider And The Spirit**  
**Romans 7: 14-25**  
**Dr. John A. Wells**

One of the toughest passages in the Bible is in Romans 7. It goes like this: *“I don’t understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I can’t. I do what I don’t want to - what I hate... But I can’t help myself, because I’m no longer doing it. It is sin inside me that is stronger than I am that makes me do these evil things.”*

On the surface, this looks like a great big “cop out” for our sinful actions. It can lead to the notion, “the devil made me do it.” We are not accountable because we can’t help it. However, this passage literally drags us to the grace of God. Let me tell you a quick story.

There was an old deacon in a church who concluded with the same prayer at every Wednesday prayer meeting. “And, Lord, clean all the cobwebs out of my life.” That repetitious ending was finally too much for one of the other men at the prayer meeting. After the deacon again ended with the same words, the other man jumped up and shouted, “Lord, Lord, don’t do it! Kill the spider!”

The spider is like our sinful nature. The cobwebs are the sins that entangle us and cloud our lives. The Apostle Paul says the Law (Commandments) has only one purpose - to see the cobwebs clearly. When we see the cobwebs, we eventually shout; “Lord, kill the spider!” The problem is that the spider never goes away. Instead, God freed us from the judgment resulting from the cobwebs (Grace) and gives us His Holy Spirit to fight daily against the spider. The good news is that God’s nature is stronger than the spider’s, and He will one day completely destroy it.

We can lose the battle two ways - staying helpless or denying the cobwebs. We can win because of Grace and the Spirit. The fight goes on daily. Grace tells us the outcome. The Spirit grants the strength to win. Have a winning week and read Romans 8.