

Breaking Bad

Two Truths About Wandering In Confusion:

Exodus 14:1-12

- ✓ The Christian life is a **really hard** life.
- ✓ Our old life will always **pursue us**.

Five Keys To Breaking The Cycle:

Exodus 14:13-18

- ✓ **Stand firm**.
- ✓ Choose **faith** in the midst of **fear**.
- ✓ Don't consider our **enemy** as an **option**.
- ✓ **Stand firm**.
- ✓ Never underestimate the power of **simple obedience**.

Yes, But How?

Romans 5:8-10 Romans 7 & 8

If the Christian life is a dog fight...
the dog that **wins**, is the dog we **feed the most**.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 28, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging or interesting in this week's teaching?

MY STORY

1. This weekend we read Romans chapters 7 and 8. Did one chapter catch your attention more than the other? If so, explain.

2. Romans 7 gives us a helpful picture of the "struggle within" and relief that we too can be real about our struggles. This kind of gut level honesty isn't always easy to admit to ourselves or share with others. How have you seen the ability to do this ebb and flow in your own life?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we saw how God spoke clearly to the Israelites assuring them that he was there even though the Egyptians were pursuing them. His answer to them was to "stand firm" and "be still." The following verses add various actions and attitudes to what it means to do this. As you read each one, how does it help your understanding of what it takes to stand firm?

1 Corinthians 15:58 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 10:12 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹³ Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.¹⁴ Do everything in love.

2. Most of us can relate to our own "conflict within" that Paul speaks about in Romans 7. Romans 8 is the great news of what God's Spirit has done for us and the hope we have to "break the cycle" of going back to our "old life." It's such a powerful chapter we'd like to make sure you set aside some extra time to "be still" and read through the entire chapter. As you read, jot down (and underline if you can) any phrases or verses that give you hope or encouragement in your journey in following Jesus and "Breaking Bad".

Looking back at what you just wrote, is there one phrase or verse that is important for you to focus on this week?

3. Chris shared an illustration in his own life about the effects of what we “feed” or “don’t feed” our soul. How does Philippians 4:8 help us work through what to filter and allow in our life?

Philippians 4:8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Can you think of any ways this verse or its applications might be taken out of context or create legalism?

What are some potential filters in the following categories? Can you think of any filters you’ve added or changed in the past? Are there any changes you’d like to consider moving forward?

Media

Talk

Relationships

Other

TAKING IT HOME

Is there anything from this week’s sermon or study that you need to remember or apply?

Prayer Requests:

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