

May 01/02, 2010  
Taming the Dragon You

**All of us deal with a “dragon” inside of us called “our sinful nature” that is hard to control. To be our best for Him we need to learn how to tame it and win the daily struggle we have with it.**

*Romans 7:18-8:4*

**1) There is a real, daily battle within that we can win, but we must understand who we are in Christ and stand in His victory over sin. If we don’t believe we can win in Him, we will cave in to sin and live defeated lives characterized by guilt, shame, fear and satanic condemnation.** *Romans 8:2; Romans 6:5-11; Colossians 3:3-5*

**2) A critical key to victory is choosing what or who controls our minds. That’s where the battle rages and is lost or won.**

*Romans 8:5-11; Romans 12:2; Psalm 1:1-3*

**3) We also cooperate with the Holy Spirit by identifying our “signature sin” and why we are most vulnerable to it. The unique pattern of this sin is often related to our unique personality and giftedness.** *Hebrews 12:1; James 1:13-15*

**4) Managing your life well helps you win when tempted by sin and Satan, and improves your consistency of living your best life for Him.**

**a) Heart management: What is going on in my heart?**

*Proverbs 4:23; Luke 6:45*

**b) Hurt management: Are there any unresolved hurts?**

*Ephesians 4:31-32*

**c) Pressure management: Am I putting myself or others under unrealistic expectations and unnecessary pressure? Am I trying to do too much or demanding too much from others?**

*Romans 14:13; Romans 15:7*

**d) Desires management: Are my desires for material things, achievements and relationships appropriate, or a substitute for what God wants me to want?**

*Psalm 37:4-5*

**e) Body management: Am I taking good care of me?**

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

**When we sin we fall short of God’s glory...but it is not the end of the story! Forgiveness abounds and so does grace and wisdom to start again to become your best you for Him.** *Jude 24-25*

**Discussion Questions:**

**1.** In what ways do you battle with the dragon in you? What would you honestly say is your “signature sin”? Why do you think you are vulnerable to it?

**2.** Read through the battle Paul describes in Romans 6-8. What keys to victory do you see from what he wrote? How well do you do focusing your mind on the right things?

**3.** Review the different aspects of life management that help protect us from our own signature sin. What aspects of this management do you do well, and which aspects do you need to improve?