

# Romans 7:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

## Analysis

**For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing**—Ouk oikei (οὐκ οἰκεῖ, "does not dwell") indicates permanent absence. En emoi, tout' estin en tē sarki mou (ἐν ἐμοί, τοῦτ' ἔστιν ἐν τῇ σαρκὶ μου)—Paul's parenthetical clarification is vital: "in me, that is, in my flesh." He doesn't say nothing good dwells in him absolutely, but qualifies: nothing good in sarx (σάρξ, "flesh")—the remaining sin nature.

**For to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.**—To thelein parakeitai moi (τὸ θέλειν πάρακειταί μοι, "the willing is present with me") versus to katergadzesthai to kalon ouch heuriskō (τὸ κατεργάζεσθαι τὸ καλὸν οὐχ εὑρίσκω, "the accomplishing of good I don't find"). Regeneration renewed the will; sanctification progressively empowers performance. This gap between renewed desire and imperfect execution characterizes Christian life pre-glorification.

## Historical Context

Paul's careful distinction between 'me' and 'my flesh' reflects his understanding of union with Christ creating new identity while remaining corruption lingers. This isn't Greek dualism (body bad, spirit good) but redemptive-historical realism: believers are 'in Christ' (new) while still 'in Adam's legacy' (flesh). Complete deliverance awaits resurrection.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing that regeneration renews the will while sanctification progressively empowers performance help you persevere?
2. What evidence do you see of 'willing' being present even when 'performing' falls short?
3. How might confusing identity ('in Christ') with experience ('in flesh') lead to false guilt or false confidence?

## Interlinear Text

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οἶδα	γὰρ	ὅτι	οὐχ	οἰκεῖ	ἐν	ἐμοί	τοῦτ'	ἔστιν	ἐν	τῇ
I know	For	that	no	dwellmeth	in	me			in	G3588
G1492	G1063	G3754	G3756	G3611	G1722	G1698	G5124	G2076	G1722	

σαρκί	μοι	ἀγαθόν·	τὸ	γὰρ	θέλειν	παράκειται	μοι
flesh	my	good thing	G3588	For	to will	is present	with me
G4561	G3450	G18		G1063	G2309	G3873	G3427

τὸ	δὲ	κατεργάζεσθαι	τὸ		καλὸν	οὐχ	εὑρίσκω
G3588	but	how to perform	G3588		that which is good	no	I find
G1161		G2716			G2570	G3756	G2147

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 51:5** (Parallel theme): Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**John 3:6** (Parallel theme): That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**Romans 7:25** (Parallel theme): I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

**Galatians 5:17** (Parallel theme): For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

**Job 14:4** (Parallel theme): Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

**Genesis 6:5** (Parallel theme): And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

**Galatians 5:24** (Parallel theme): And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

**Titus 3:3** (Parallel theme): For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

**Philippians 2:13** (Good): For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

**Romans 7:19** (Good): For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.