

## **Not Disqualified**

*“You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.” (Rom. 6:22, NIV)*

The other day I was talking with a co-worker about matters of the “flesh.” Paul says that “nothing good” dwells in his flesh (Romans 7:18). Our mind desires to serve God, but our flesh? Well -flesh has other ideas. I have always been amazed how our flesh refuses to respond to God’s ways and how we find ourselves doing the very things we don’t want to!

I know you know what I am talking about. Suddenly, you find yourself filled with attitude or resentful thoughts, or you find yourself doing something you thought you’d already overcome.

*“I’ve tried everything and nothing helps. I’m at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn’t that the real question?” (Romans 7:24;MSG).*

It’s there, lurking beneath the surface. Stubbornness, dishonesty, closed-mindedness, unloving, judgmental, and anger. The flesh thrives on instant gratification. In order to beat the flesh at it’s own game, you must be willing to submit that area completely to God in order to overcome it!

Part of your flesh’s tactic to continue operation is denial. The power of flesh is that it deceives you. Denial is self-protection that keeps you from changing the behavior because it is easier to deny the problem/weakness than it is to change.

Unfortunately, part of the protection is thinking about things that contradict the truth of God’s Word hindering one from changing the behavior. In other words, you let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do. Be honest, a lot of times you are your own worst enemy!

The great news is your past doesn't disqualify you from God's service. To Him, where you came from doesn't have to dictate where you go or how you are used by Him. So whatever happened yesterday is just that, yesterday! Today is a new day.

Therefore, don’t fool yourself, rather run to Jesus and the freedom found in Him!

Rev. Dr. Gina Cobb  
April 10, 2018