

# WEEK 9

## DAY 2

### MAIN POINT:

Without Christ, you will never fully recover. With Christ, all things are possible.

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

“For I know that nothing good dwells in me; that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.”

(Romans 7:18)

# FREEDOM IN TOTAL DEPENDENCE

**PRAYER:** Dear God, help me to more fully understand my need for you. Show me that you love me even in my brokenness and want to help me live in freedom.

One of the biggest lies many of us believe is that, at our core, “we are good people.” A second lie that many of us believe is that we should be strong enough to manage our behavior and move past brokenness on our own. As a result, we have a false sense of security and refuse to admit when we are weak.

Often, it is not until we have lost total control of life or feel broken beyond repair, that we realize how desperate we are. Even when we want to do good, we fail. When God opens our eyes to our sinfulness, we begin to see the painful truth. Romans 7:18 tells us, “For I know that nothing good dwells in me; that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.” We are not good. We cannot do good on our own.

Thankfully, God loves us despite our sin. He sent Jesus, his Son, to help. Jesus demonstrated God’s love for us by dying for our sins while we were still sinners (Romans 5:6-8). Then, he demonstrated his power over sin by rising from the grave and offered us a relationship with him so that we can rely on his strength to do good (Romans 7:4). On our own we will never be free, but when we rely on Christ we will flourish.

Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

Freedom comes when we fully surrender our lives and wills to Christ. Jesus is enough. When we decide to live in full dependence on him, everything begins to change. We no longer need to control every circumstance. We gain an eternal perspective that gives us hope. We can stop keeping score of our “good” and “bad” deeds, and instead rely upon Jesus. Some of the changes Christ makes in us come quick. Other changes take time. But, Jesus is always there offering us new life through his life.

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**APPLICATION:** Write down one doubt that you have about Jesus or his ability to bring you freedom. Then, write down something about yourself that you would like Christ to change. Finally, ask him to change you (on his time) and to erase your doubt (by his methods).