



Paul's Behavior Problem: Spiritual Combat: Renovating the Soul, Rom 12:2; the Power to Move Mountains; Divine Good v. Human Good, James 1:13-15

1. These are wheel-tracks of wickedness which have been facilitated. Volition can easily be swayed to choose these paths of least resistance.
2. Recovery from lost battles may be accomplished by applying the first problem-solving device of rebound.
3. However, capacity to piece together a significant string of victories demands spiritual growth and the application of doctrine to experience.
4. Victories are only possible by applying what you know to the circumstances of life.
5. Such an inventory is impossible to possess without the enabling power of the Holy Spirit Who, through the Grace Apparatus for Perception, has taught the believer biblical problem-solving devices.
6. PRINCIPLE: God only provides such information in the Bible:
 1. The Holy Spirit teaches the information to the positive believer.
 2. The Holy Spirit counsels the believer to do the right thing under recall.
 3. The Holy Spirit enables the believer who follows His guidance to parlay right decisions into right actions.
7. No matter how facilitated a wheel-track of wickedness may be, the Holy Spirit grants to the positive believer the enabling power to override it.
8. This accomplishes the renovation of the soul mandated in:

Romans 12:2 - Stop being molded to this age but be transformed by the renovation of your thought, that you may prove what the will of God is ...

9. The believer must make the choice to change the way he thinks. This is Operation Μετανοέω, *Metanoëō*: literally "to perceive after" which refers to a change in the way one thinks in his soul.
10. The mentorship of the Holy Spirit will consistently reveal to the positive believer how the desires of God come into conflict with his own norms and standards.
11. And when these differences become crystal clear, the believer is challenged to renovate his soul by changing the way he thinks.
12. When the positive believer makes this choice to change and places his faith in the veracity of the Word, then the Holy Spirit will enable him to accomplish God's will.
13. Faith is said to be powerful enough to move mountains and the most difficult to ascend are those that have been built up in the stream of consciousness and facilitated as wheel-tracks of wickedness.
14. But as the believer learns doctrine the Holy Spirit retains these thoughts as wheel-tracks of righteousness in the neural pathways of the brain.
15. Even though these do not start out as paths of least resistance, the Spirit's enabling power will assist the positive believer to accomplish acts which are not habitual.
16. However, should the believer choose not to utilize the Holy Spirit's enabling power, he may well desire to serve and please God but will not be able to do so.
17. Instead, he not only sins and performs human good and evil, he also keeps on practicing these things.
18. It is this kind of production which is classified by Paul as wood, hay, and stubble in 1 Corinthians 3:12 and referred to by James in his epistle as operational death:

James 1:13 - Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted from the source of God"; for God is incapable of being tempted from the source of evil and He Himself does not tempt anyone.



v. 14 - But each person is always tempted when he is consistently towed about [static present of ἐξέλκω, *exelkō*: lit: “one boat towing another”; came to mean “to allure”: the trend of the sinful nature links up with the ἐπιθυμία, *epithumia* (feminine gender)] by means of the lust pattern and enticed with bait [δελεάζω, *deleazō*: “to lure”; “to entice”].

James 1:15 - Then lust, having conceived [συλλαμβάνω, *sullambanō*: lit: “to receive seed”; aorist tense for a point in time: many cohabiters, few pregnancies; lust only becomes sin when its seed is fertilized by negative volition (male gender)] gives birth to sin [τίκτω ἁμαρτία, *tiktō hamartia*: sin is delivered: volitional consent] and sin having been delivered alive consistently gives birth [static present of ἀποκνέω, *apokueō*: “to deliver (out from the womb) to death [θάνατος, *thanatos*: operational death].

19. We were able to illustrate this passage by analyzing the metamorphosis of the ichneumon wasp. Here we demonstrated how the female invades an ant bed and utilizes an exogenous caterpillar as a food supply for its parasitic larvae. It was a gruesome but very instructive visit into entomology where we learned the humbling truth that when you choose to sin, the body begins to systematically devour the soul.
20. Thus we conclude that *knowing* the desire of God does not necessarily imply that one will *perform* the desire of God.
21. Knowing solutions to life’s problems only solves half the problem. The other half involves trusting the power of the Spirit to execute what you know.
22. But when a positive believer makes decisions to execute facilitated wheel-tracks of righteousness it results in several areas of divine-good production:
 1. Deployment and application of the ten problem-solving devices in defense of the soul.
 2. The ability to make good decisions from the position of strength that knowledge of the Word of God provides.
 3. Facilitation of one’s neural network of righteous wheel-tracks provides a high inventory of ideas by which spiritual growth may continue with alacrity.
 4. This leads to the development of wisdom which enables the believer to endure evidence testing.