SOFTWARE & TECH

Two Of Me The Struggle With Sin By David Wilkerson

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Introduction: The Unseen Battle Within

Every believer who has walked with God for any length of time knows the painful reality described powerfully by David Wilkerson in his classic work, **"Two of Me: The Struggle With Sin."** This is not a book about easy victory or shallow platitudes. It is a raw, honest, and deeply biblical exploration of the internal civil war that rages inside every child of God. Wilkerson, the founder of Teen Challenge and a man of profound prayer and vision, does not shy away from the uncomfortable truth: there are, in a very real sense, two natures fighting for control within the Christian. The struggle with sin is not a sign that you are lost; in many ways, it is evidence that you are truly alive in Christ. This article will unpack the core themes of this transformative work, examining the reality of the old nature versus the new nature, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the path to genuine, lasting victory. We will explore why the struggle with sin is so intense, how we often misunderstand God's grace, and what it truly means to walk in the freedom that Christ purchased on the cross.

Understanding the Core Conflict: Two Natures at War

David Wilkerson draws heavily from the Apostle Paul's agonized cry in **Romans 7:15-25**: "For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do." This passage serves as the theological backbone for **"Two of Me: The Struggle With Sin."** Wilkerson explains that the Christian is a unique being—justified by faith, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, yet still residing in fallen flesh. This creates a tension that cannot be resolved by mere willpower or religious discipline. The "old man," the nature inherited from Adam, does not improve with age or effort. It is, as Paul declares, "crucified with Christ." But the experience of that crucifixion is a daily reality, not just a past event. Wilkerson asserts that the believer must learn to reckon themselves dead to sin but alive to God. This reckoning is not mental gymnastics; it is a Spirit-empowered alignment with the truth of the Gospel. The struggle is real, but it is also a sign of spiritual life. A dead man does not fight. The fact that you are fighting sin is an indication that the new nature is alive and active within you.

The Deception of the "Soft Gospel"

One of the most piercing sections of Wilkerson's writing addresses the modern tendency to downplay the severity of sin. He warns against a "counterfeit grace" that allows believers to live in complacency. **"Two of Me: The Struggle With Sin"** rejects the idea that God is simply a celestial grandfather who overlooks our rebellion. Wilkerson calls for a return to the fear of the Lord—not a slavish terror, but a reverent awe that understands the cost of sin. He points out that the same grace that saves us is also the grace that trains us to say "no" to ungodliness. Many modern teachings, he argued, focus so heavily on the finished work of Christ that they ignore the ongoing work of sanctification. This book serves as a corrective, reminding us that the struggle with sin is a mark of authentic faith, not a failure of it. We are called to "work out our own salvation with fear and

trembling," not because our works save us, but because genuine faith produces a genuine fight against sin.

The Reality of the Flesh: Why We Still Sin

Wilkerson does not offer easy answers or "five-step" formulas for instant perfection. Instead, he delves into the stubborn persistence of the flesh. He explains that the flesh is not just a collection of bad habits; it is a principle of rebellion that operates independently of God. Even after conversion, the flesh remains. It is not eradicated; it is condemned and destined for destruction, but it is still present. **"Two of Me: The Struggle With Sin"** teaches that the flesh can never be educated or reformed. It must be denied, mortified, and kept in the place of death. Wilkerson uses vivid imagery to describe this internal war. He speaks of the believer as a battlefield where the Spirit and the flesh clash daily. The victory is not in eliminating the flesh's presence but in refusing to let it rule. This is where many Christians become discouraged. They expect that after a certain level of spiritual maturity, the struggle with sin will diminish. Wilkerson argues the opposite: the closer you get to the light, the more you see the dirt. The struggle may intensify, but so does the grace to overcome.

The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Battle

If the flesh is the problem, the Holy Spirit is the solution. Wilkerson emphasizes that the Christian life is not lived by imitation but by inhabitation. We do not merely try to copy Jesus; we allow the Spirit of Jesus to live through us. In **"Two of Me: The Struggle With Sin,"** the work of the Holy Spirit is central. He is the one who convicts of sin, not to condemn, but to cleanse. He is the one who produces the fruit of self-control, which is the direct antidote to the works of the flesh. Wilkerson encourages believers to learn the discipline of walking in the Spirit. This is not a passive experience but an active dependence. It means learning to recognize the voice of the Spirit and obeying it instantly. It means confessing sin quickly and receiving the cleansing that is always available. The struggle with sin is not meant to be faced alone. The Holy Spirit is the "Helper" Jesus promised, and He is more than capable of winning the battle if we yield to Him.

Practical Steps in the Struggle with Sin

While **"Two of Me: The Struggle With Sin"** is deeply theological, it is also intensely practical. Wilkerson does not leave the reader in despair. He offers concrete paths to victory. These steps are not mechanical, but they are biblical and time-tested.

Honest Confession and the Fear of the Lord

The first step, according to Wilkerson, is to stop pretending. We must come out of denial and admit the reality of the struggle with sin. secret sin is a cancer that destroys faith. Confession is not just a ritual; it is a weapon. When we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is not a license to sin, but a lifeline for the struggling. Alongside confession is a healthy fear of the Lord. Wilkerson writes passionately about the holiness of God. We must recapture a sense of awe that deters us from casual sin. This is not the fear of punishment, but the fear of grieving the One who loves us perfectly. This reverential fear is the beginning of wisdom and a powerful guard against temptation.

The Discipline of Reckoning and Surrender

Wilkerson teaches that we must "reckon" ourselves dead to sin, as Paul commands in Romans 6. This is a mental and spiritual act of faith. We declare, based on God's Word, that the old nature has been crucified with Christ. We are no longer slaves to sin. This is not pretending; it is believing. When a temptation arises, we can say, "That is not who I am anymore. I died to that." This act of faith is followed by a moment-by-moment surrender to the Lordship of Jesus. Wilkerson insists that there is no victory without a surrendered will. We must present ourselves to God as instruments of righteousness. This surrender is not a one-time event but a daily choice. In **"Two of Me: The Struggle With Sin,"** surrender is the key that unlocks the power of the resurrection

life.

Fleeing Temptation and Pursuing God

Finally, Wilkerson emphasizes the balance of fleeing and pursuing. We are commanded to flee from youthful lusts and to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace. The struggle with sin is not a passive waiting for God to zap us with holiness. It requires active effort. We flee by removing ourselves from situations that tempt us. We pursue by immersing ourselves in prayer, the Word of God, and fellowship with other believers. Wilkerson was a man of the Word and of prayer. He knew that the battle is won in the secret place. A believer who neglects their prayer life will be powerless in the struggle with sin. The discipline of spending time in God's presence transforms our desires and strengthens our spirit.

Finding Hope in the Struggle: It is Not About Perfection

One of the most liberating messages in **"Two of Me: The Struggle With Sin"** is that God's goal for us in this life is not sinless perfection, but faithful dependence. The struggle itself, when faced with faith, produces character, humility, and a deeper love for Christ. Wilkerson warns against the trap of despair. Many believers, when they stumble, believe that their walk is over or that God is angry with them. This is a lie from the pit of hell. The righteous man falls seven times and rises again. The struggle with sin is not a sign of defeat; it is the context for victory. Every failure, when confessed and surrendered, becomes a stepping stone to greater grace. Wilkerson points to the cross as the final answer. At the cross, sin was judged, and love was demonstrated. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us to live a life that is pleasing to God. It is not about trying harder; it is about trusting more.

The Promise of Final Freedom

David Wilkerson does not leave us in the middle of the battle. He points us to the end of the story. One day, the struggle with sin will be over. When we see Jesus face to face, we will be made like Him. The old nature will be gone forever. The flesh will no longer be a problem. This is the blessed hope of the church. Until that day, we fight. But we fight from victory, not for victory. Christ has already won. Our job is to enforce that victory in our daily lives by faith. **"Two of Me: The Struggle With Sin"** is a battle cry for the weary warrior. It is a book that tells the truth about the war while pointing unwaveringly to the Victor. It is a message that every generation needs to hear. The struggle is real, but the grace is realer. The battle is hard, but the prize is eternal.

Conclusion: Embracing the War to Know the Peace

David Wilkerson's **"Two of Me: The Struggle With Sin"** remains a timeless and essential resource for anyone who desires to live a holy life in a fallen world. It strips away the pretense of easy religion and calls us to the rugged path of the cross. The internal conflict between the old nature and the new nature is not something to be ashamed of; it is the proving ground of our faith. We are called to acknowledge the reality of the flesh, depend entirely on the Holy Spirit, confess our sins quickly, and fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. The struggle with sin is a lifelong journey, but it is a journey that leads to greater intimacy with God. Do not be discouraged by the battle. Let it remind you that you are a child of God, born of His Spirit, and destined for glory. Take up the weapons of your warfare—prayer, the Word, confession, and faith—and stand firm. The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. The struggle is real, but the victory is certain.

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