

Pastor Ron Case  
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## **“The Struggle Within”**

*“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”*  
*(Galatians 5:17)*

### **Royal Rumble in Rebekah**

**Genesis 25:21-23** – (21) “And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. (22) The children struggled together within her, and she said, ‘If it is thus, why is this happening to me?’ So she went to inquire of the LORD. (23) And the LORD said to her, ‘Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.’”

### **What the Miraculous Birth Brings**

**Genesis 25:24-26** – (24) “When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. (25) The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau (*rough, exertion, to do*). (26) Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob (*to trip up, restraint*). Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.”

## **The New Birth Initiates a New Battle**

### **The Enduring Trial**

“For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.” (Romans 7:22-25)

## **How to Trip Up the First Nature:**

### **(1) Fight the Good Fight of Faith**

**“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38)**

**(2) “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)**

### **(3) Remember the ways of the Flesh tend to be Fast, Fantastic & Fallacious**

**(1) Remember the ways of the Spirit tend to be Slow, Steady & Sure**

#### **(2) Don't Go at it Alone**

**“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”  
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)**

**“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” (James 5:16)**

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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