

Warring Magnets

by Daniel Broyles

As a child, did you ever try to get two magnets to stick together? If so, then you remember that magnets will only stick together if you have them facing the right direction. If you have the same sides facing each other, then it is impossible to get them to stick together. They will always war with one other, no matter what. On the other hand, as soon as you flip one magnet over, you get that satisfying “click”. In fact, if at least one of the magnets is strong, it can become almost impossible to pull them apart.

Have you ever felt like that in your own life? There are times in our lives that seem like we are at war with ourselves. It is like our hearts and the lives we actually live are the same sides of a magnet that will not go together, and no matter how we try, they will not click. This becomes wearisome to the point that, sometimes, we feel like just giving up. We know something is wrong, but we cannot figure it out. Would it comfort you to know the apostle Paul felt that exact same frustration? In Romans 7:14-15, Paul wrote, “...For, I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.”

What are we missing?

Why can't we get our life magnets to work?

It is because we are warring with the purpose for which we were created – obeying God. In the Old Testament, Jacob took advantage of his brother, Esau, and traded him a bowl of soup for his inheritance, and later, stole his lifelong blessing. It is no wonder that Esau hated him so much that he wanted to kill him! Jacob feared Esau from that time forward and was sent away. Later in Jacob's life, God tells him to go to the land of Canaan where Esau resides. We can read in Genesis 32

that Jacob is wrestling with himself on how to go about passing through Esau's land and wavered in his confidence about this travel. While alone, Jacob goes out and encounters a man, and they begin to wrestle (Genesis 32:24-32). After striving with the man all night, Jacob is injured by a simple touch. It is then revealed that Jacob had been wrestling with an angel of God. Jacob was warring with the command God had given him because of his fear of his brother. When he changed his will to align with God's will, he was blessed by God, and his brother welcomed him with open arms. In the New Testament, Paul recounts the story of when Jesus spoke to him. Jesus said to Paul, “It is hard for you to kick against the goads,” (Acts 26:14). A goad was used to encourage a stubborn ox to move in the right direction. The more an ox kicked the goad, the more painful it was for the ox. Jesus is teaching Paul the same lesson that Jacob learned in the Old Testament. Fighting against God's will is as difficult as it is pointless. As our Creator, He knows what we need and what we need to do to be fulfilled on this earth.

Trying to make God's will change to bind with our will is like forcing warring magnets together; it will result in nothing but internal war. However, just like the magnets, when we make the decision to align our will with God's will, a bond is formed. We gain peace from this bond with God and become even stronger than we were before. Are you weary of warring against our Father? Are you tired of kicking against the goads? We can help you form that bond that brings peace and strength. Let us show you how.



DANIEL BROYLES

**Are you searching
for contentment?**

We can help you find the peace of mind that only comes from a relationship with God. Email us at MyWestEndChurch@gmail.com