

Only Human

By Neal Breeding

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Scripture Reference: *Romans 7:15-25, 8:2*

Scene setup: Candy is sitting on a bench, depressed. Kelly walks by and stops to visit with her. Kelly is sincerely trying to find out what is wrong with Candi, because she wants to help.

Kelly: Hey Candi, what is going on?

Candi: Nothing *(said with a very depressed tone)*

Kelly: Are you ok? You seem a little down.

Candi: I'm ok, I guess.

Kelly: Why are you down?

Candi: I don't know?

Kelly: Is it because you just broke up with your boyfriend last month?

Candi: No, that isn't really it, I mean, I miss having someone, but he wasn't good for me. He didn't bring me up and help me, and I have a peace about not being with him, so I don't think it is that?

Kelly: Did you get in a fight with your parents again?

Candi: No, I mean, they irritate me all the time, but that is what parents are suppose to do, right? We haven't really fought about anything major lately.

Kelly: Do you know what has you down?

Candi: I can't explain it, and I don't think you would understand anyway?

Kelly: Try me? You never know?

Candi: Well (*pause*), (*said with frustration*) I don't know how to explain it, I just feel like my life is out of control and that there is nothing I can do to regain control.

Kelly: Have you been smoking and drinking again?

Candi: A little, but not as much as I use to. I feel lonely, but I don't want to date anyone. I don't want to drink or smoke, but I end up doing it anyway. I don't understand why I do the things I know that I really don't want to. You know, the things that I know are just going to make me more depressed. They don't bring me peace, maybe I forget about the way I feel for a little while, but the feeling always comes back. I guess you must think I am crazy and stupid.

Kelly: Not really, just human. Candi, we aren't perfect, and we are going to make mistakes, and things that we once did are always easy to do again.

Candi: Yea, you are right (*said still in a depressed tone*), I am so far from perfect, and it is hard to stop drinking and smoking and cussing once I've started again. I am so stupid for doing this to myself! (*said in an angry tone*)

Kelly: Let me ask you something else.

Candi: What?

Kelly: How are you quiet times going with God?

Candi: What quiet times? I can't remember the last time I have spent any "real time" with God. I mean, I still am going to church, and I pray before I eat, but a real quiet time, I don't remember the last time I've had one. I don't think God would have anything to say to me anyway.

Kelly: It can be rough. There are some weeks the only time I talk to God is on Sunday. And the Sundays like that, I feel so guilty in church. I promise myself I am going to do better, and might for a day or so, but then I fall back into the old routine.

Candi: *(said in a lighter tone, realizing someone does understand)* Yea, and then I feel worse for failing again. I know that God loves me, and I know that I am a Christian so why do I struggle so much to do the right things?

Kelly: You know, we aren't alone when we feel like this.

Candi: What do you mean, I know God is here, and that loves us, and no matter how far we run from us, he is always just one step away from us. But taking that step is so hard sometimes!

Kelly: Yes, but Paul felt the way we do sometimes. "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."

Candi: That sounds just like I feel.

Kelly: I know, he also wrote: "For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing."

Candi: Sounds like Paul was as frustrated as I am. So what did he do?

Kelly: First he realized that it is our sinful nature that tempts us to do the things we don't want to do. But as Christians, we have the Spirit of God in us, so there is a conflict within us between our sinful nature and the spirit of God. Paul said "When I want to do good, evil is right there with me"

Candi: I feel exactly like that. There is this battle going on inside of me between the things I want to do and the things I know I don't need to do.

Kelly: It is hard, I won't lie to you. As Christians, with the Holy Spirit living with in us, we are set free from the law of sin and death. (*Romans 8:2*) We have the power over our sinful nature to do what is right, what we know is right.

Candi: It sure doesn't feel that way some times.

Kelly: I know what you mean, but God gives us each other, fellow Christian friends who understand what we are going through. He gives us

friends for us to lean on in times like these. We can help each other by being accountable of the things we know we should not be doing. But we can also help each other be accountable of the things we know we should be doing.

Candi: I understand. *(pause)* Will you help me?

Kelly: Yes, why don't we pray right now.

Candi: Ok,

Kelly: God, you know our hearts, and the love we have for you. You know the disappointment we feel, when our relationships fail, when we run away from you, when we resort back to those sins in our lives that we had given up at one time. I just ask you to take those feelings of disappointment away and replace them with your peace. I ask you in those times we are feeling so lonely, that you will just wrap your loving arms around us and give us a hug, and hold us, so tight we can feel your presence. Help us be accountable to each other, and let us grow closer to you. Forgive us for failing you over and over, and let us grow stronger through our weaknesses. In your name. AMEN

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