

68. (from LSO, Wednesday, September 24, 1997)

Subject: Will I ever be able to stop repeating the same nagging sin over and over?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: Does the desire to be like one's "old self" and repeating the same, seemingly obscure sins ever diminish, or is it always a raging spiritual battle? --Jess

Dear Jess: Since we have our old natures until we die we will have to expect that there will always be a fight between the old and the new. Paul experienced this (Rom. 7:15-25) and wrote about it (Gal. 5:17-23), and even at the end of his life he called himself the "foremost" or "chief" of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). Some of the sins we fight against will be conquered, but as we grow in physical and spiritual age, some new battles will appear. But I also think that we may be plagued by some of the same sins all our lives in order to make us realize how dependent we are on His power. If you had no fight, then it might indicate that you are making no progress in the Christian life. But that you are fighting is a good sign. Keep on doing it, and don't be discouraged if some of the same sins bother you again and again.