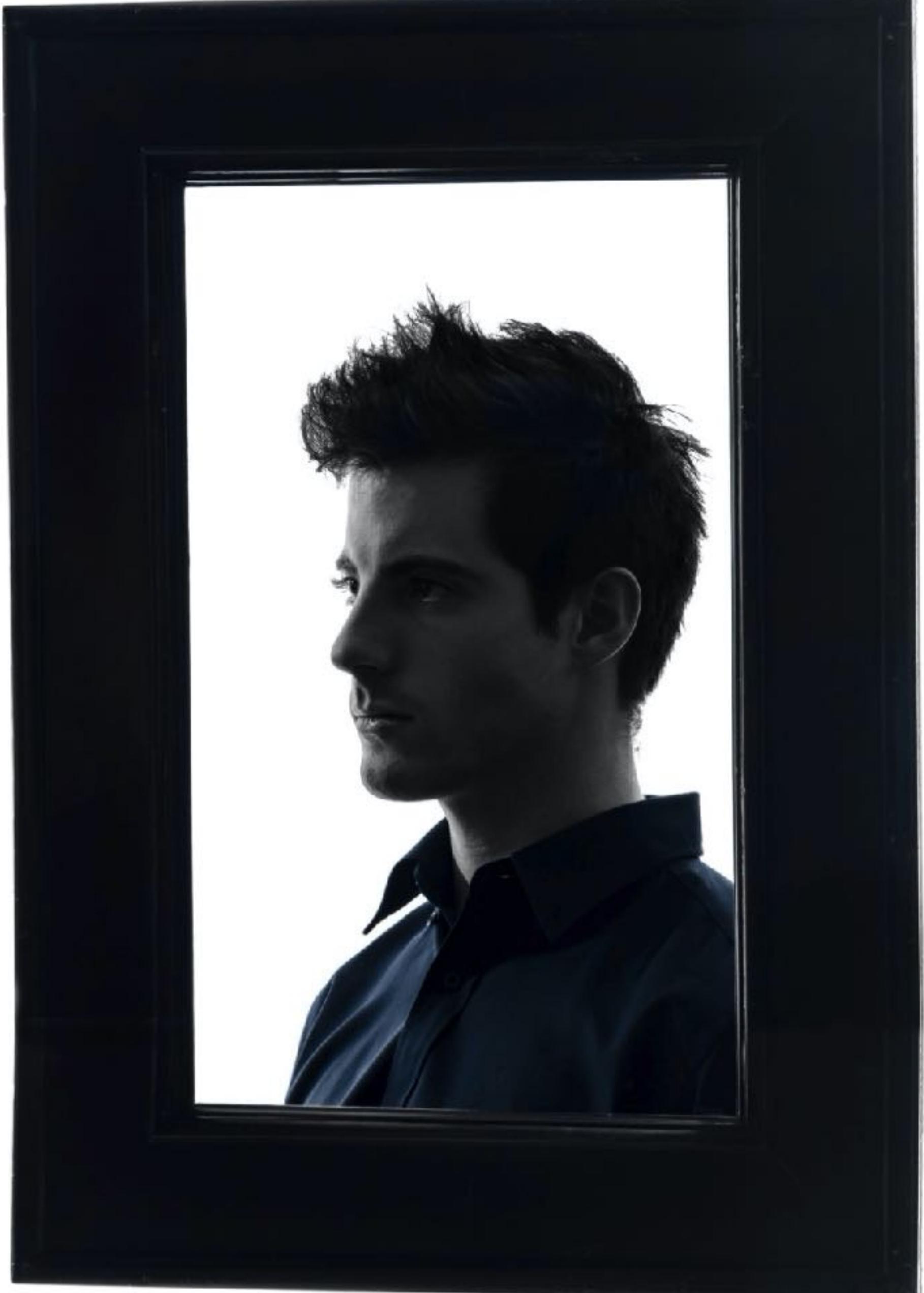


My True Self

Pastor Steve Lee
May 3, 2020





But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and
prayed. (Luke 5:16)



One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. (Luke 6:12)



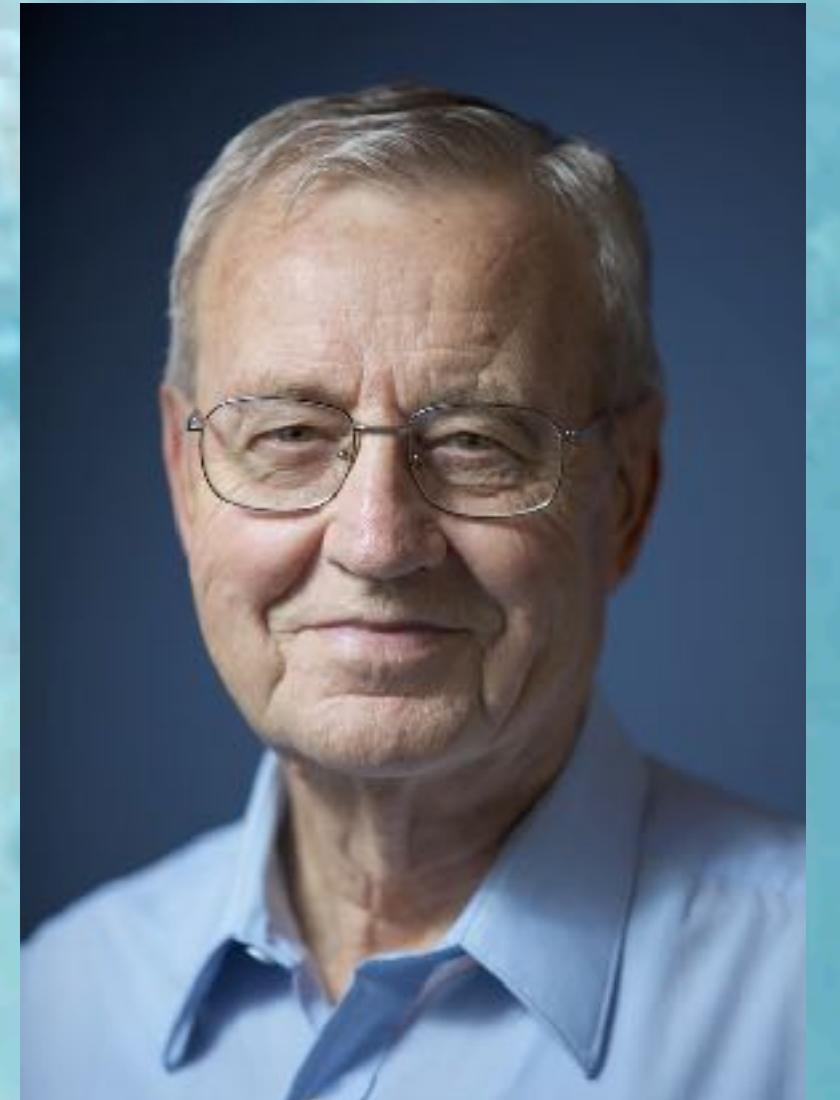
When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. (Matt 14:13)



Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone (Matt 14:22-23)



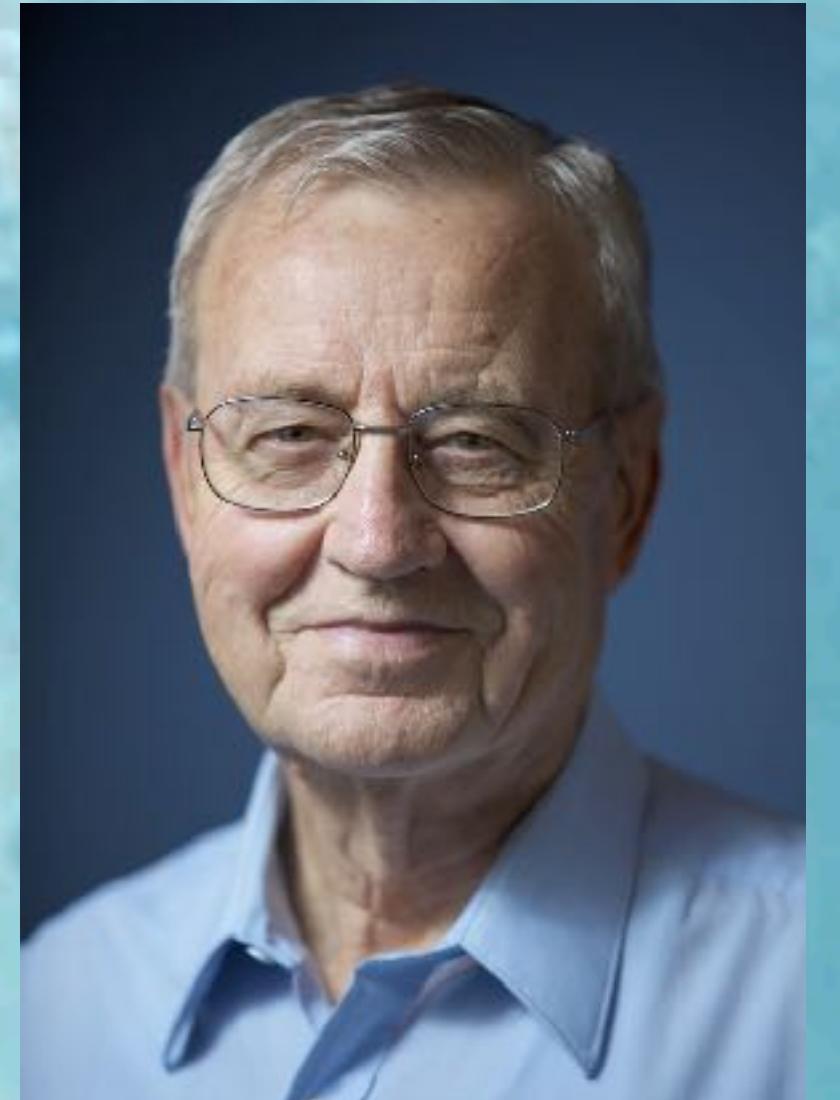
Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. (Mark 1:35)



Dallas Willard

*(The Spirit of the
Disciplines)*

Solitude, like all of the disciplines of the spirit, carries its risks. In solitude, we confront our own soul with its obscure forces and conflicts that escape our attention when we are interacting with others. Thus, [quoting Henry David Thoreau] “Solitude is a terrible trial, for it serves to crack open and burst apart the shell of our superficial securities.



Dallas Willard

*(The Spirit of the
Disciplines)*

It opens out to us the unknown abyss that we all carry within us... [and] discloses the fact that these abysses are haunted." We can only survive solitude if we cling to Christ there. And yet what we find of him in that solitude enables us to return to society as free persons.



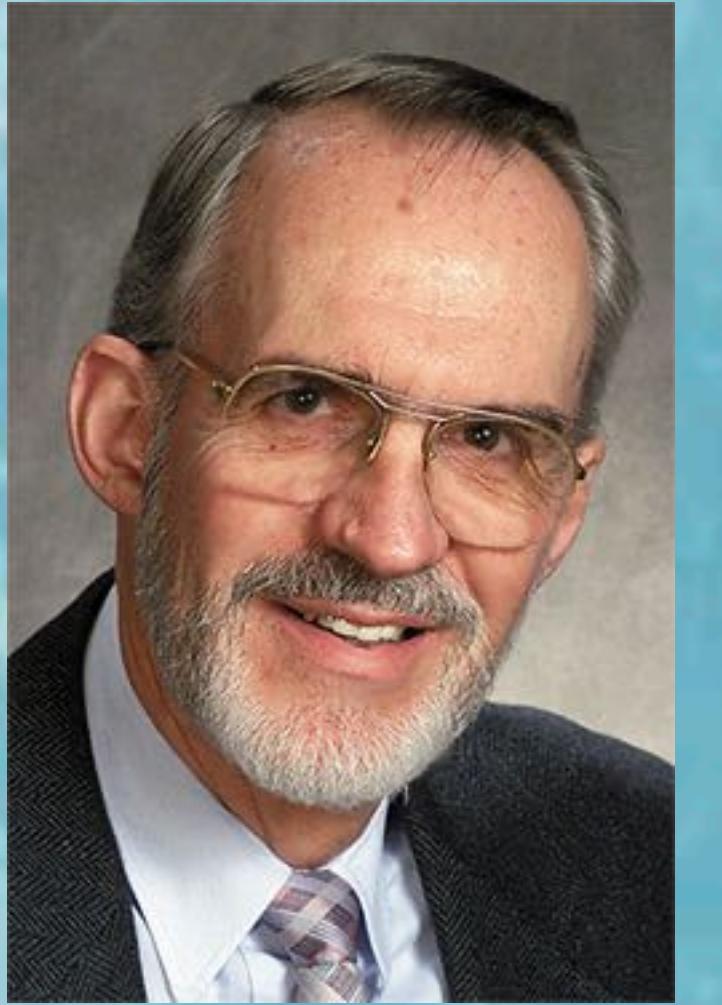
Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wants to be my
disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow
me. For whoever wants to save
their life will lose it, but whoever
loses their life for me will find it.



Galatians 2:20

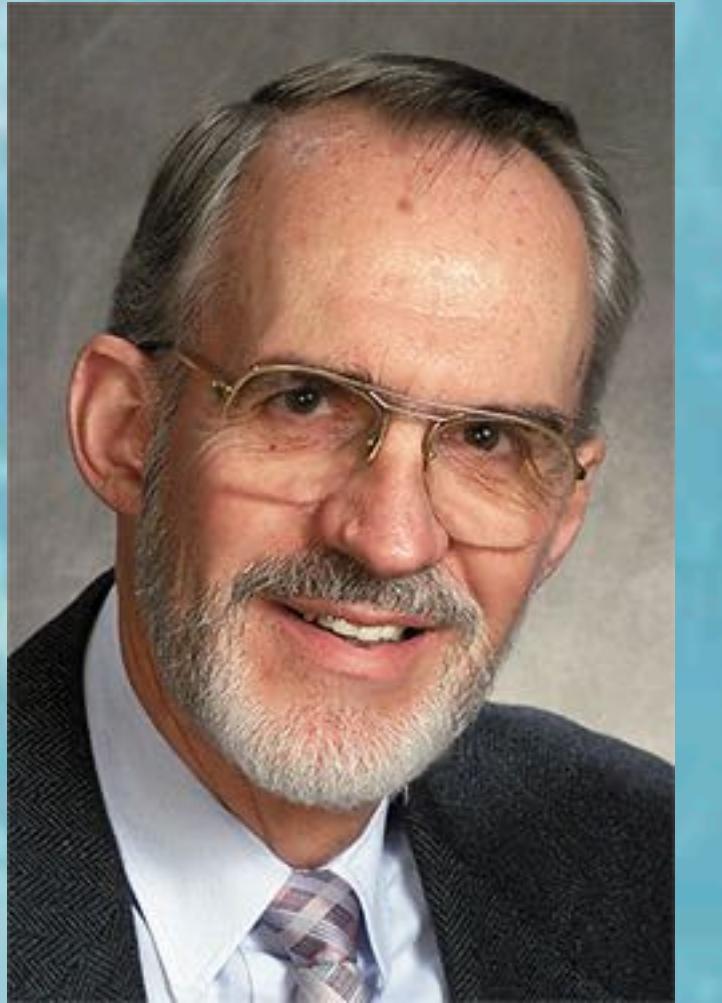
I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



**Robert
Mulholland**

*(Invitation to a
Journey)*

Our cross is not that cantankerous person we have to deal with day by day. Our cross is not the employer we just can't get along with. Our cross is not that neighbor or work colleague who cuts across the grain in every single time of relationship. Nor is our cross the difficulties and infirmities that the flow of life brings to us beyond our control.



Robert Mulholland

*(Invitation to a
Journey)*

Our cross is the point of our unlikeness to the image of Christ, where we must die to self in order to be raised by God into wholeness of life in the image of Christ *right there at that point*. So the process of being conformed to the image of Christ takes place at the points of our unlikeness to Christ, and the first step is confrontation.

Romans 7:14-25

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have

Romans 7:14-25

the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law;

Romans 7:14-25

but I see another law at work in me,
waging war against the law of my mind
and making me a prisoner of the law of sin
at work within me. What a wretched man I
am! Who will rescue me from this body
that is subject to death? Thanks be to God,
who delivers me through Jesus Christ our
Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a
slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a
slave to the law of sin.





Dave Goetz

*(Death by
Suburb)*

The struggle of the self to disentangle itself from illusion is the real journey within. . . . The imperfect life is the only life worth living. It is, in fact, the only life that anyone really lives. . . . when you're outraged at your self, disgusted at your behavior, you must let it hurt. The hurting is part of the dying. . . . the frustration I have with myself for what I



Dave Goetz

*(Death by
Suburb)*

did shows how much self-love I have. I'm shocked at my behavior. ... that's the real problem—the outrage at what I said. ... I think I'm more righteous than that. ... You're not. You're self-righteous, and that's your big problem. So let it hurt. You know you've made some progress ... when you stop being shocked at your stupidity.

SUMMARY

In silence we hear the noisiness of our soul, which helps us understand and acknowledge the depth of our sin struggle.