

## *Rivers of Living Water*

### *It is a Life of Repeated Defeat*

*“For that which I do I know not: for not what I would, that do I practice: but what I hate, that I do” (Rom. 7:15, R.V.).*

*“For the good which I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I practice” (Rom. 7:19, R.V.).*

Romans 7 is some one's spiritual biography. It was no doubt Paul's. But could it not have been yours and mine as well? It is the revelation of a true desire and an honest attempt to live a holy life, but it is surcharged with the atmosphere of deadly defeat; a defeat so overpowering as to burst forth in that despairing cry for deliverance.

*“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Rom. 7:24).*

Who of us has not uttered it? We have made countless resolutions at the dawn of a new day or of a New Year regarding the things we would or would not do. But our hearts have been repeatedly heavy with the humiliating sense of failure. The things we steadfastly determined to do were left undone, and those we solemnly resolved not to do were repeatedly done. Sins both of commission and omission, like evil spirits, haunt our bedchamber and rob us even of the balm of sleep. We have