



SERIES: DEEPER LIFE

All That Is in the World

Life Reference: I John 2:15-17

Focus Verse:

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4).

According to I John 2:16, all that is in the world may be summed up in three categories:

1. The lust of the flesh
2. The lust of the eye
3. The pride of life

All sin comes under one of these headings.

What Is Lust?



As used in our key passage, lust means “desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden” (Strong’s Concordance). The verse goes on to emphasize that these things are “not of the Father.” There is a distinct separation between these desires and things that please Him.

Why must the child of God guard against these things? According to Mark 4:19, these things choke out the Word, making it unfruitful in our lives. The Word cannot do its work in our lives when lust—desire for what is forbidden—is present. We become unproductive and do not grow in our walk with God.

- “And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

James 1:14-15 speaks of a progression when we allow ourselves to be enticed by lust. It becomes a downward spiral.

- “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Life Reflection:

How would you define the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life?

What are the dangers of each?

The Lust of the Flesh

The Bible uses the term “flesh” frequently to describe that within us that opposes the Spirit of God. It becomes a daily battle for the spiritual man overcomes the flesh. The Spirit gives us the power to conquer our desires and sinful inclinations.

- “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” (Galatians 5:16-17).
- “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:7-8).
- “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof” (Romans 13:14).



Lust of the flesh desires the forbidden rather than the wholesome desires of the Spirit. The person who falls into this trap is preoccupied with gratifying physical desires.

Life Reflection:

Give some examples of things you feel would be the lust of the flesh.

The Lust of the Eyes

This obviously refers to what is seen, or what we *want* to see. The eyes enjoy things of beauty or riches. This is the allure of materialism. It can then lead to greed and envy. When we covet those things we see, it is the lust of the eyes.

- “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15).

Life Reflection:

Give some examples of things you feel would be the lust of the eyes



The Pride of Life

The temptation with the pride of life is to direct our own destiny and to rule our own world. This person may be obsessed with his own status or importance. Satan tantalized Eve concerning the forbidden fruit and told her that “the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:5).

- “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).
- The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts” (Psalm 10:4).

Life Reflection:

Give some examples of things you feel would be the pride of life.

Biblical Examples of These Temptations

Satan will tempt us with all three types of lust as he endeavors to destroy us, but we can overcome.

Let’s compare his temptation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-6) and the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). In what ways did Satan use the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life in each situation? List the specific temptations in the chart below and then compare the ultimate outcome in each circumstance.



THE TEMPTATION	ADAM AND EVE	JESUS CHRIST	THE OUTCOME
Lust of the Flesh			
Lust of the Eyes			
Pride of Life			

Life Response:

John 17:12-14 lets us know that we are in the world, but we are not of the world. God will give us the power to live above evil and the temptations that come our way.

- "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil" (John 17:15).
- "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

Most Christians take the approach of denying the flesh to bring the power of the Spirit. The more positive way is to seek to walk in the Spirit and the flesh will be denied through neglect.

Our Victory

In all our daily choices, we either "sow to the flesh" or to "the Spirit" (Galatians. 6:8). "The flesh" is the part of us that wants to live and act independently of the Lord. As humans, we have to deal with the pull of this attitude. The Holy Spirit frees us from slavery to the flesh and God begins to change us so we can turn from the deceptive lure of living for self and start to live according to the



truth of His Word. The choices we make contribute to the process of transformation.

All that is in the world will end. Our hope is not based upon the things of this life. If we walk in the Spirit and overcome the flesh, we have the promise of living eternally with the Lord.

- “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you” (Romans 8:11).
- “And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (I John 2:17).

My Prayer:

Dear Lord, I pray that my life will be controlled by Your Spirit so that I will not be enticed by the things of this world. When I am tempted, help me to make right choices. Give me strength to recognize Satan’s lies and resist his lure. Open my eyes to any attitudes and desires that do not please You. Hide Your Word deep in my heart for it will keep me from sin and lead me in right paths.

Bible study written by Gwyn Oakes.

