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The wars within us Pt 2 our lusts war in our members

This is our second study on the wars that take place in each one of us. In our previous teaching we established two points– (i) There is a law in our members warring against the law of our mind, and (ii) God’s solution is– we bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. In this study we consider two points– teaching we will consider two points– (i) our lusts war against our members and (ii) God’s solution is– submit to Him and not our flesh, and resist Satan.

A little more detail on our two points–

1. Our lusts **war** in **our members**

“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” (Jam.4: 1).

2. God’s solution– submit to Him and not our flesh, and resist Satan

Within the context of James 4: 1– submit to God and resist the devil

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (Jam. 4: 7).

Yield your members as instruments of righteousness unto God (Rom.6: 13, & 19).

Illustration

An example where lusts war in a person’s members (outside of the scriptures) is evident in Lord of the Rings– Part 2, in the creature Gollum. Who since his younger years when he found the ring of power, lusted for it. He was envious of any one else that had the ring (his precious), and it was the war between his lusts in his members (eyes and heart) which was the cause of his attacking Frodo and Samwise Gamgee.

Questions of the scriptures

- i) How do fightings begin with wars in us– between our lusts in our members?
- ii) Why is it necessary to have a three–prong response to effect a defence against the lusts that war in our members?

Answers from the scriptures

i) Fightings and wars are caused by the lusts that war against each other and the two lusts identified in Jam.4: 1–4 are envy and pride, and then we read that pride breeds division: see two examples– “Only by pride cometh contention...” (Prov.13: 10) and “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife...” (Prov.28: 25).

ii) Satan is the catalyst for our lusts, our envy, as he no doubt was with the elders of Israel that crucified the Lord of glory. Then their pride, arrogance, envy and jealousy kicked in which was of their lusts warring. Therefore, when we–

- a) submit to God
- b) mortify, crucify (die to) our lusts, when we yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God– we subdue our lusts warring against themselves,
- c) then, when we resist the devil he flees from us.

Fire requires three elements– heat, fuel and oxygen. Take away one and you have no fire. But with spiritual things there is a need to address all three points– our intimacy with the Lord Jesus, our lusts that war in our members and Satan.

Do not think you are immune, do not make excuses, but when you see evidence of the lusts warring– with pride, envy, and jealousy coming out, your defence is– abide in Christ, pray to God for help to mortify your members, and crucify the affections and lusts, and resist the devil that he would flee, and never give up doing so!