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The wars within us Pt 3 Our fleshly lusts war against the soul and the Spirit

This is our third and final study on the wars that take place in each one of us. In our previous teaching we established 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. In this study we consider a further two points– (i) Fleshly lusts war against the soul and (ii) the flesh lusts against the Spirit.

A little more detail on our two points–

1. Fleshly lusts war against the soul

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Pet.2: 11).

God’s solution– Abstain from fleshly lusts

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts...” (1 Pet.2: 11).

2. The flesh lusts against the Spirit

“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other...” (Gal. 5:17).

God’s solution– walk in the Spirit– Gal.5:16– “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”

Illustration

Many on the street that stop for a chat are tormented with fleshly lusts that war against their soul and spirit– so they struggle with sin, feeling snared or trapped.

Some say they are Christian, like I would have done when I was going to a Presbyterian church for 16 years, but I was no different to those in the world. I will often share my testimony, then preach the gospel and they accept they are lost. But in their searching for a way out of their snare will listen to the message of hope.

Others say they are saved, but have little idea of the scriptures and the armour of God. For these struggling brethren– the discipline necessary to change from serving sin, and yielding their members to unrighteousness is so overwhelming they often listen, and then several months or years later they stop again, with the feeling of torment– only, by then, they are also overcome with discouragement and shame.

Question of the scriptures

What is the common solution to the flesh warring against both our soul and Spirit?

Answer from the scriptures

The common remedy to the fleshly lust warring against the soul and Spirit is–

[22] Abstain from all appearance of evil.

[23] And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thes.5: 22, 23}.

Let us remember to take a double–prong approach and–

* abstain from ALL appearance of evil, including the lusts of the flesh, and

* feed the Holy Spirit that is in you– with the word and prayer– walking in the Spirit– and you will to **not** fulfil the lusts of the flesh. After all, you are what you **feed** on!