



## 3.11 – Controlling the Human Desires & Appetites of the Flesh.

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(Scriptures from KJV unless noted otherwise)

### Foundation Scripture:

#### Gal 5:16-17

<sup>16</sup> *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the **flesh lusts against the Spirit**, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: **so that you cannot do the things that ye would.** (KJV)*

The Word of God says that when we are “Born again” we are more than conquerors but often we don’t experience this, we are being defeated more often in our Christian life – why?

### 1. The Battlefield of the Mind

You must learn how the devil, your enemy operates.

You must find out exactly where he is going to attack if you are to win the battle.

#### Hebrews 12: 1-3

<sup>1</sup> *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, **lest you be wearied and faint in your minds.** (KJV)*

- The Soul is the **mind, will and emotions**.
- As long as we live in a mortal body, **the mind is the place** where the fight with Satan will be won or lost – **your mind is the battlefield**.
- People have made the **mistake of thinking** Satan's attacks come in the realm of the spirit.
- Jesus defeated him once and for all where the spirit realm is concerned. The battle is in the mind (the realm of the Soul) – **the area of making decisions**.
- The spirit is “Born Again” but **the “Mind” must be renewed over a period of time**.

As a believer, when you are operating in the realm of the spirit your mind, which is in the realm of the soul, is not in charge.

- Satan has **lost his authority in the spirit realm** – he cannot fight you there but he fights you in the natural, soulful realm.

### 2. Defeat by Deceit

#### 1 Cor. 10:13

<sup>13</sup> ***There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.** (KJV)*



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- Even in this realm he has no authority but **he uses a weapon called “Deception”** to get you to use your God given authority to defeat yourself.
- He will try to do it by **gaining control of your mind** by bombarding you **with destructive thoughts** and put **pressure on your emotions!**
- He starts by **planting a little seed** in your mind for he knows if the seed stays it will grow and become an action.
- Satan will try to control the believer **through the “FLESH” – the natural, human appetites and desires.**

### 3. Lasciviousness: The First Point of Attack

To help you begin to understand how this strategy works, I want to draw your attention to a peculiar word found in the New Testament.

The word is "**lasciviousness.**" scripturally speaking, it keeps very bad company.

#### Mark 7:20-23

<sup>20</sup> And he said, That which comes out of the man, that defiles the man. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, <sup>22</sup> Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, **lasciviousness**, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and defile the man (KJV)

#### Gal 5:16-21

<sup>16</sup> This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that ye would. <sup>18</sup> But if you be led of the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,** <sup>20</sup> Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (KJV)

The actual meaning of lasciviousness is "**no restraint or un-restrained**"

- The devil's **first and most important point of attack** on the life of a believer (as well people who are not believers).
- He knows that if you're going to live a godly lifestyle you need **to control the desires of the flesh** by bringing the flesh in submission to your spirit.
- Through “Lasciviousness” he starts to **apply pressure to your flesh**, causing **its appetites to grow stronger** so you will let go of restraint.
- He finds the weaknesses of your flesh and applies pressure **a little at a time** until he has control.
- The signs of “Lasciviousness” are always the same, **little by little**, you find yourself losing control.

Just as all sins have a common beginning, they also have a common end.

**17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness (Lasciviousness), to work all uncleanness with greediness.**



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- The **ultimate goal of Satan is to use “Lasciviousness”** to bring you again into **total slavery to sin**.
- The plan is to pressure you into **yielding to the weaknesses** of the flesh until those **weaknesses begin to dominate you**.

#### 4. Starts with a Thought

Satan's strategy **begins by planting a thought in your mind** where he has access to, it **may seem simple and harmless** but it is a seed that will grow and produce a harvest.

- Satan wants us to **entertain it – meditate on it**.
- We should **restrain that though by comparing** it to the word of God.

The Book of James tells us bluntly that if any man can control his tongue, he can control his whole body. **Your tongue is the rudder of your life**. It determines your course; and no matter how hard you try to stop it, **it's eventually going to start repeating those thoughts** you've been entertaining in your mind.

- One of the most deadly **results of unrestrained**; thinking is doubt. **Doubt is a direct result of lasciviousness**.
- Doubt comes when you allow yourself to indulge in **thoughts that are contrary** to the Word of God.

#### Example:

- Bible says, 'By His stripes I am healed'.
- I'll tell you what, I sure don't feel healed. My back hurts and my head hurts and I'm just sure I'm catching the flu. How could I be healed when I feel this bad?"
- You fail to restrain the thoughts that are contrary to it. You simply allow them to flow through your mind, and before you know it, **they've crippled your faith** and made it feeble.
- That's when Satan moves in on you with sickness and disease after you have robbed yourself of faith because of not restraining those thoughts.

It's a deadly sequence and **it works the same way** every time. Satan **plants the thought**—which **gives birth to the words**—which **gives birth to the actions and events** around you.

- **Unrestrained thoughts** lead inevitably **to unrestrained words** which lead inevitably **to an unrestrained life** - and an **unrestrained life is doomed** to destruction.

#### 5. Countering the Attack

The counter attack against Satan's plan of “Lasciviousness” we find in.

#### 2 Cor. 10:3-6

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: <sup>4</sup> (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) <sup>5</sup> **Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;** <sup>6</sup> And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. (KJV)



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- You can foul up the devil's whole strategy **by taking charge of your thoughts** and bringing them in line with the Word of God.
- Take **authority and bind those thoughts** and throw them out by the words of our mouth.

#### Mat 6:31 (KJV)

<sup>31</sup> Therefore **take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?** (KJV)

- **Don't take the thought by "Saying it"** – it then goes into our spirit by saying it!

#### Phil 4:8

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, **whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.** (KJV)

- **Replace the wrong thoughts with** what God says in His word.

**1<sup>st</sup>** - The first thing you must do to counter the devil's attack is make a quality decision that you're **going to believe the Word of God** with your heart and not just your head.

- If you want to be the champion on the battlefield of our mind, you must literally **reprogram it** the Word of God.
- You cannot be lazy, it must be a continual daily process.
- When you became born again your spirit became a new creation but the mind was not and it must be renewed by the Word of God and that is your part to do!

#### Gal 5:16-17

<sup>16</sup> This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, **and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.** <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: **so that you cannot do the things that you would.** (KJV)

- There is a battle in the early days of our conversion as our spirit is renewed and wants the things of God while the mind is still as it was – carnal.

#### Rom 12:2

<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (KJV)

- The Word of God has power in it and when put into the mind, **has the power to change** old patterns and thoughts.
- Lasciviousness **works in two ways**, it causes the flesh to be unrestrained and at the same time causes you to restrain the godly promptings of our spirit.
- Lasciviousness **allows your flesh to run wild** while at the same time **puts your spirit into bondage**.



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### 6. Looking to Jesus

Now that you've begun to see just how vital the Word is to your victory, let's look again at the instructions we saw earlier in:

#### Hebrews 12:1-2

<sup>1</sup> *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (KJV)***

- Get rid of the sin by looking at Jesus!
- We see Jesus through the Word of God.
- If we are going to have victory in our Lives we must do it with the Word of God – must be 1<sup>st</sup> place in our lives.

**To have victory in the “battlefield” on the mind – you must decide with the Holy Spirit to bring all of your thoughts into obedience to Jesus and the Word of God.**

**Jesus is Lord!**