

# **LUST OF THE FLESH, LUST OF THE EYES**

## **AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE**

By Daniel Clark

*I Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (KJV)1*

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life are spiritual entities or forces working in this physical world. They are demonic or dark entities and because the words demon or dark spirits stir up imaginations that are distorted the first issue to be addressed is one of defining a spirit. Not all spirits are dark, evil or demonic. God is a spirit. He is a spirit of Love, Light or enlightenment. Those who have not accepted the gift of salvation are people yet having dead spirits and those who have been saved declaring Jesus as Lord have had their spirits connected to God who is life. Angelic entities connected to and in service to God are called angels. Angelic entities that have lost the connection to God no longer serving Him are demons or spirits of darkness.

Although the term spirit has been made complicated the reference is very easily understood when someone says, "The holidays are approaching and you can sense the spirit of thanksgiving". Such statements are made about other holidays as well as the condition of a person's attitude. "He or She is in good spirits today." The same can be said about dark spirits like, " He or she is depressed." Halloween is coming and you can sense an oppressive spirit." In these terms the word spirit is pretty well understood but the use of the word demon conjures up an image of a powerful ghostly being that can have it's way

with you at it's will. The image is one produced by horror films and scary stories. To the average person the image is completely twisted out of shape and distorted. God has an order and that order is revealed in His inspired word, the Bible. John 10:1, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that enters not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.* (KJV)<sup>1</sup> God created angels to serve Him but the angel Lucifer became prideful and rebelled getting one third of the other angels to follow him in the rebellion. God creates by calling things into existence and His gifts and callings are without repentance so what has been created will not be uncreated. God, who is full of life, separated the rebels by casting them down into the physical dimension but they have no authority even in this dimension. The order of God is for the physical man or woman to enter this world through the gateway of the womb. The order of God for the living spirit is for the man or woman possessing a dead spirit to choose life and do so by making Jesus their Lord. Everyone who is a living spirit has had the liberty to accept life or deny it. But, it is only those who have come by way of the womb that have rightful authority in the physical realm. That means even an unsaved man or woman has more authority than any disembodied spirit. Even God Himself will not withhold the human's freedom of choice. Evil or demonic spirits will try and exercise themselves in this realm but the only way for them is to influence a man or woman who posses the authority. Therefore the most power demon, fallen angel, is subject to any man or woman because they have come by way of the womb.

Now that the myths of spirit entities have been dispelled lets define some words. One of the words that the church has a religious connotation to it is the word lust. Immediately the mind jumps to inappropriate sexual desire.

Inappropriate sexual desire does fall under this heading but it is not the whole definition of lust. This is how Strong's defines the word:

*lust #1939 epithumia (ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah);*

*from 1937; a longing (especially for what is forbidden):*

*KJV-- concupiscence, desire, lust (after).*

If the desire is for something that your body wants like chocolate or the thrill of skydiving it is experiencing the lust of the flesh. In my own life I have experienced this lust while snowmobiling or motorcycling as the wind pressed against my face and the exhilaration of speed excited me, at work when I was able to accomplish the seemingly impossible or when I prayed for someone and saw him or her healed. The lust was in the desire for more of it so my carnal nature would be satisfied. In this scripture the word flesh is used instead of carnal nature but Strong's defines flesh in this way:

*Flesh #4561, sarx (sarx);*

*probably from the base of 4563; flesh (as stripped of the skin), i.e. (strictly) the meat of an animal (as food), or (by extension) the body (as opposed to the soul [or spirit], or as the symbol of what is external, or as the means of kindred), or **(by implication) human nature (with its frailties [physically or morally] and passions), or (specifically) a human being (as such):***

*KJV-- carnal (-ly, + -ly minded), flesh ([-ly]).*

These definitions certainly apply to sexual desires and imaginations and in these thoughts alone pose a major obstacle for mankind. I read somewhere the

average man has a sexual fantasy every six seconds and the average woman has one every eleven seconds. The estimates are probably nonsense designed to support some carnal theory supporting permissiveness but even if it is a thousand percent off the mark the indication still points to this as a principal distraction. In occupying the thoughts of men the thing being displaced is mindset of the Spirit. Therein lies the danger because the mindsets of the Spirit are always focused outward and are always about bringing life, increase and abundance. All lust thoughts are about selfish things and selfish things are focused inward.

*Lust of the eyes #3788, ophthalmos (of-thal-mos'); from 3700; the eye (literally or figuratively); by implication, vision; figuratively, envy (from the jealous side-glance):*

*KJV-- eye, sight.*

If the desire is for something you saw like a new car or new clothing it is a lust of the eyes. Particularly if someone else has it and you want it.

The pride of life is defined thusly:

*# 212 alazoneia (al-ad-zon-i'-a);*

*from 213; braggadocio, i.e. (by implication) self-confidence:*

*KJV-- boasting, pride. And,*

*#979 bios (bee'-os);*

*a primary word; life, i.e. (literally) the present state of existence; by implication, the means of livelihood:*

*KJV-- good, life, living.*

If you can brag about your accomplishment, there is a pride of life issue involved. The mind-set of I can take care of it falls into this category. Without much thought I can think of a half dozen situations where people have disregarded God and attended to the problem themselves. Moreover, that is without counting myself. If I add my own pride of life errors into the mix, the number immediately doubles without having to hardly think about it.

How many demons are there in the earth? I do not know but they probably out number us humans by quite a bit and many of them probably move from person to person because in many cases the influences they bring are temporary. It does not really matter how many there are for two reasons. First, they are out numbered two to one by Gods angels and second they are without any authority of their own. How often have you seen a wave of anger get a hold on someone and then loose its influence on him or her? Sometimes the demonic spirit will attach itself tightly to someone and can be seen as the person exhibits a continually angry disposition. The spirit entity is like a wind or breath. It cannot be seen by the physical eye and has no physical substance but is very real. In fact, the things of the spirit are very real and the things of the physical realm or dimension are temporary. Our bodies are by God's design the earthly temple of the Holy Spirit. Our spirit beings are in His image, according to His likeness and by design purposed to merge into His Spirit through Christ Jesus until we become one with Him. John 17:20-23, "*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their*

*message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (NIV)*

The spirits identified here are worldly or demonic. They have been cast down into the physical world. They will try to gain influence in the world by affecting human thoughts. That is the only way they have of expressing themselves in this physical place. They are stuck here without any way of expressing themselves. They are full of darkness and cannot comprehend or understand the light of God. John 1:3-5, *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (KJV)*

These disembodied spirits are outlaw spirits, thieves and robbers, and once having tricked someone into allowing access to their authority by getting them to act on some ungodly thought the demon will try to keep that person in a continuing state of deception thereby gaining continual access to their words and actions. In this way, the demonic spirit can release his influence into the world. The very world God created and gave man dominion over. According to James, that spirit can obtain an access point for every other demonic entity if it can get the person to enter into strife. James 3:16, *For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. (KJV)*

The three spirits in 1 Jn. 2:16 will attempt to get the person to walk out from under God's covering by seducing them away from the order God established in the earth for His children. God will not follow anyone to provide him or her a covering it is up to us to get under the cover He has provided in the order He has already established. Americans probably have more trouble staying under God's covering than people raised in other parts of the world because we tend to think God's kingdom is a democracy but it is a kingdom and there is only one King. The very last thing you want is for God to release you from your designated position in the kingdom and most of those who call themselves Christians have never even asked the Lord where that position is so they could get into it. People often talk about their being released by God from some place or assignment. Jesus released Judas, at the last supper, telling him to go and do what he had to and you saw what happened to him. Caution must be taken regarding the things God releases you from. It is one thing for God to release you from an assignment. Such releases come for people who have learned or developed in the thing God placed them there to learn and the release is not really a release but a reassignment. That is often part of moving from faith to faith or glory to glory. It is a part of your development. But, to be released from God's hand because you made a choice to refuse His development plan for you is simple rebellion and carries a tremendously high price. In King Saul's case, he was rejected from being king any longer. 1 Sam 15:23, *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.* (KJV)<sup>1</sup> We are all called to be kings and priests. You do not want to be refused to be a king or priest.

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and it is in that vessel you are communing with God but you have a designated place in the body of Christ and if you are not in the proper place within the body as a whole the whole body suffers from the lack of your specific gift and it would be to your advantage and the advantage of the church as a whole for you to ask our Father where the right place for you is and go there. An independent spirit is a spirit in rebellion refusing the order the established by the king. Man was not purposed to be independent of God but to be in common union, (Communion), with Him.