

fell big time; but the just man rises up again (See Psalm 51, Proverbs 24:16).

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil 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. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 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.**

[Many Scripture verses warn the Christian to battle against the sin of lust—Psalm 101:3, Job 31:1, Genesis 39:7-12.]

This is the way of life that I am still learning. We hope, we pray, we join together in our daily battles. At the fundamental level, our daily battle is a battle against unbelief in the word of God.

So let us wipe away the mud that blurs our eyes and **get washed up by the water of the word of God.** Keep our eyes fixed on the precious and very great promises of God. Take up the Bible, ask the Holy Spirit for help, lay the promises up in your heart, and fight the good fight—to *live by faith in future grace.*



WHEN I AM TEMPTED TO LUST

WHEN I FEEL THE URGE TO LUST, I fight the good fight of faith with the promise of God in 2 Peter (1:4) that **He has "given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."** It is my responsibility to remind myself that His word is powerful to give me escape from the corruption of my flesh, from the temptation of lust.

I have been given the privilege to share in the divine nature—this is an astounding statement! I am in Christ and He is in me—what a mystery! He conquered this kind of temptation and He is victorious. Since I am in Him I can conquer lust, too! Because the Scripture reminds me that "they that are Christ's **have crucified the flesh** with the affections and **lusts**" (Galatians 5:24).

When I feel the ugly desire of lust, I fight the good fight of faith with the words of Jesus Himself in Matthew (5:28-29) "That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And **if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."**

I need to understand that I need to do everything I can to *put to death* lust. Do everything I can to *flee from youthful lusts*. Do everything I can to *abstain from fleshly lust* even if it means

gouging my eye out to remove the window through which I look and lust! Jesus said, *it's a matter of life or death—it's a matter of eternal destiny—that's how grave it is.*

When I am tempted to lust, I'm reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "**Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart**" (2 Timothy 2:22) and what He said to Titus, also, "**denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world**" (Titus 2:12).

The mature and wise Apostle Peter wrote, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly **lusts**, which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11). I must heed this imperative in my life when I start to feel the urge to lust.

The tenor of the Scripture is that if I don't fight lust that I won't go to heaven. This truth is found throughout the New Testament writing beginning with Jesus when he said "it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell" (Matthew 5:29). The Apostle Paul also reiterated that those who practice this sin "**shall not inherit the kingdom of God**" (Galatians 5:16-21). The real issue is not that I will succeed perfectly in demolishing this sin, the real issue is that I determine and resolve to fight it! King David and many other saints