

Conquering the Lust of the Flesh

August 20, 2017

1 John 2:15-17 ESV

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life--is not from the Father but is from the world.

17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

LUST OF THE FLESH

The compulsion to strive after SUCCESS, SECURITY and SATISFACTION in the flesh (self-effort) apart from God.

SUCCESS - *We hate failure for 3 reasons:*

1. *humiliation*
2. *not getting our way*
3. *how failure appears to others*

- **GOD'S DEFINITION and MEANS OF SUCCESS is FOOLISHNESS TO MAN.**
 - *How can Abraham become the father of many nations when he and Sarah are too old to conceive?*
 - *How can Moses deliver Israel when he is banished from Egypt shepherding in the back wilderness?*
 - *How can Joseph's dream come true when he is a slave in prison?*
 - *How can the walls of Jericho fall with no battle plan, just by walking around the city?*
 - *How can David become king of Israel when the current king is hunting him to kill him?*
 - *How can 5,000 people be fed with 5 loaves and 2 fishes?*
 - *How can Lazarus be healed if Jesus tarries two more days?*
 - *How can Jesus be Israel's Savior and Deliverer by dying?*
- **SUCCESS WITH GOD is measured by OBEDIENCE, NOT (apparent) RESULTS nor CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Matthew 16:21-23 ESV

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."

23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

- **LASTING SUCCESS that PLEASES GOD NEVER COMES BY the WILL, WISDOM, STRENGTH or ABILITY of MAN, ONLY FROM GOD.**

Ecclesiastes 9:11 ESV

11 Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time (*eth - event, experience, occurrence*) and chance (*pega - incident, occurrence, happening*) happen to them all.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV

23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

- **SUCCESS is found ONLY IN THE WILL and PURPOSES OF GOD, NEVER IN THE WISDOM and STRENGTH OF MAN.**

Proverbs 16:9 ESV

9 "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps."

Proverbs 19:21 ESV

21 "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand."

John 5:19-20 ESV

19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

John 12:49 ESV

49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment--what to say and what to speak.

Romans 12:1-2 NASB

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Matthew 25:21 NASB

21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

- **The PATH to GOD'S SUCCESS.**

Proverbs 3:1-7 ESV

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,

2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

- 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.
5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

SECURITY - we strive for security in PROTECTION and PROVISION

Matthew 26:52-54 ESV

- 52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.
53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?
54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

You are much safer to surrender to the will of God than to trust in the wisdom and strength of man.

Psalms 20:7 ESV

- 7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

2 Chronicles 16:1-10 ESV

- 7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you.
8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand.
9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."
10 Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.

Psalms 91:1-10 NASB

- 9 For you have made the LORD, my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place.
10 No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent.

Matthew 6:24-34 ESV

- 24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.
25 Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?
26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?
27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?
28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,
29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?
31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.
33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
34 Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

SATISFACTION - we pursue SATISFACTION through PLEASURE and SELF-GRATIFICATION

Matthew 4:1-4 ESV

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.
3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."
4 But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 ESV

1 I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity.
2 I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?"
3 *I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine--my heart still guiding me with wisdom--and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life.*
4 *I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself.*
5 *I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees.*
6 *I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees.*
7 *I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem.*
8 *I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.*
9 *So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me.*
10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.
11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

Psalms 36:7-9 ESV

7 How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
8 They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

John 4:31-34 ESV

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."
32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."
33 So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?"
34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."