

Deliverance from Fleshly Lusts

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Hello! This is Dorothy -

All of the apostles begin their epistles by laying a solid foundation of Gospel truth. They have this solid foundation, so that upon it there may be erected a super-structure of exhortation to practical Godliness. Similarly, Peter, in writing the epistles, mellowed what he had learned as a fisherman by opening, throughout these chapters, basic doctrinal truth. He brought them in such a way that they were so clear. Then he continued to speak to those to whom he was writing, his dearly beloved, in practical matters. So, in **1 Peter 2:11**, we read - **Beloved, I implore you as aliens and strangers and exiles [in this world] to abstain from the sensual urges [the evil desires, the passions of the flesh, your lower nature] that wage war against the soul.** Fleshly lusts are destructive to the inner life. They attack and conquer. Have you ever met somebody who has been bitter, bitter, bitter? Before you know it, they are very ill. The face not only shows all wrinkles, but, underneath, you can sense something is eating at their system. These are the lusts of the flesh if they are not conquered in Christ Jesus.

We read on in this passage that many people have been led into captivity. When a Christian, by his fleshly lusts, is led into captivity

by Satan, it totally impairs his energies. It cuts off any moral strength as purity is lost. He is defeated; he is depressed; and he is isolated. This war against the souls implies hindrance and opposition to Christian progress as well as actual injury when fleshly lusts are yielded to. You know how that can bring disease and despair and death all around you. No temptation has taken any one of us, but such as is common to man or such that God cannot deal with. God is able to give you deliverance, to keep you from being overcome. Every command of God carries a promise at its heart. This loving entreaty for a better, purer life hides a divine undertaking that you shall yet be more than a conqueror, putting your foot on flesh and self and reigning whereas, now, you groan in slavery.

Oh, dear listener, it's possible even for you to abstain from fleshly lusts, because God is able to keep you. In **Galatians 5:24**, we read - **And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with affections and lusts.** If you are willing to choose death as a definite path for all that is selfish, fleshly, worldly, and of the devil, you will understand that you have already died in Christ Jesus, our Lord, when on the Cross He yielded up His spirit to His Father. For the believer, we need to reckon ourselves as dead, available to the Holy Spirit to come with fresh infilling of His resurrection life within. See yourself in that grave where Jesus lay, with a heavy

stone shutting your way from all you hold dear. When you count all things dross for His sake, you will win Christ. Death to self opens the gate of life. Having been crucified with Christ, you will discover His life will flow in and through you triumphantly. Now walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. It is the positive power of possession in His fulness which alone can answer all the believer's needs. When the presence and power of the Holy Spirit fills our life, our soul loses taste for harmful things, which we previously enjoyed. In fact, it detects them when they are still in the distance, and shuts at their approach. Satisfied with the provision of the Father's house, it turns with disgust from the husks of the swine trough.

In **1 Peter 2:12**, we read - **Conduct yourselves properly (honorably, righteously) among the Gentiles, - those who know not Christ- so that, although they may slander you as evildoers, [yet] they may by witnessing your good deeds [come to] glorify God in the day of inspection [when God shall look upon you wanderers as a pastor or shepherd looks over his flock].**

We are strangers and pilgrims. Consider who you are if you are born again. Be delivered from fleshly lust. *To this end, Lord, we pray by thy Holy Spirit at this moment You will bring conviction where conviction is needed and response where response is needed, that Jesus Christ be glorified in and through our lives.*

In His precious Name. Amen.