

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

Living Godly in a Corrupt World

Part II – from the lesson: Victory Over the Flesh

Text: 2 Peter 1:3-11 NIV

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4** Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in (*partakers of*) the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires (*through lust*).

Note: We are to make every effort to maintain our freedom from the corruption in the world through evil desires. Live by faith – and add to our faith: • goodness • knowledge • self-control • perseverance • godliness • mutual affection (kindness) • charity (love).

It is important to recognize what (and **how**) information and other influences enter our lives --- that prevent us from living godly; doing what pleases God.

5 Basic (Human) Senses: Sight, Hearing, Touch, Taste, Smell (*see•hear•touch•taste•smell*)
Our senses receive information. Our minds process what we receive. Our emotions and desires respond. The flesh (*may*) suggest what it wants you to give it. Our “will” is in the position of decision and chooses what to do next.

These God-given senses help us: recognize beauty and danger; receive instructions; build relationships; enjoy food; perform work; interact with the world around us. They are not our enemies but rather gifts. However, the information coming through them sometimes wake up desires that we must learn to submit to God.

The Holy Spirit, living in and operating in us, empowers us to choose what pleases God. The flesh (fallen, self-centered, unregenerated inclinations and proclivities) seek satisfaction without submission to the Spirit.

Romans 6:13 Paul commands the believers: *“Do not present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”*

Romans 8:5-14 NIV [12 *Therefore brothers and sisters, we have an obligation--- but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.*] - Believers: **we don’t owe the flesh anything! However**, living in sin (sinful living) builds up our debt: *for the wages of sin is death (eternal) – Romans 6:23 – but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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By Evangelist Donna Sneed

EXAMPLES:

When offense enters through what we hear: *someone disrespects you, speaks harshly toward you. Your ears receive what is said. Your mind interprets it as disrespect – then, hurt and anger rises. **Flesh:** pushes retaliation: “say something back! Embarrass them. Make them feel your pain.”* In that moment, we (our will) can agree with the flesh, or be led by the Holy Spirit. **Proverbs 15:1** – “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”

When an image wakes up sexual desire: The eyes see an image. The mind replays it. The body responds. **Flesh:** “look again; search for more; send a message; create an opportunity..” The first look (exposure) may be accidental, but to keep on looking, creating, and sending messages becomes a matter of choice. **Job 31:1** – “I made a **covenant with mine eyes**; why then should I think upon a maid?” We cannot prevent things from showing up, but we can refuse the second look, close the application, block accounts, leave environments, and bring the thought under the authority of Christ who has made a way of escape (**1 Corinthians 10:13** – *God is faithful....when you are tempted, he will also provide a way of escape so that you can endure it.*)

[Overeating (through smelling, tasting); drinking, shopping, endless scrolling on social media; sleeping to avoid responsibilities; gossip (through the ears); comparison, competition, overspending; peer pressure (music, videos, conversations, group chats, trends, friendships)]

Good news!

We can **interrupt the process** of what enters our lives through our senses!!

1. Renew the mind and store the word: **Psalm 119:9-11**
2. Don't just walk away from sin – **walk in the Spirit**. Say **yes (submit)** to Holy Spirit – in prayer, worship, Scripture, truth, forgiveness, service, accountability, and the way of escape.
3. Answer with the written word: Jesus (Matthew 4) answered temptation with three words: “It is written.”
4. Remember, you have an Advocate (1 John 2:1) who has taken His seat at the right hand of the Throne (Hebrews 8:1) and who has delivered us from the power of darkness. We have been translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son (Colossians 1:13); made new creatures and made partakers of the divine nature.

Final thought: We will encounter and be tempted by lust, anger, addiction, pride, fear, sexual sins, bitterness, deception and other works of the flesh (Galatians 5) but we do not have to agree with (and be pulled by) them. **Jesus offers new life.**