

DEALING WITH THE ROOT

WALK IN THE SPIRIT Galatians 5:16

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” Galatians 5:16.

1. Thank God now for forgiving you for every sin you just confessed.
2. Ask God to fill you with His Spirit that you may not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
3. Obey the promptings and leading of the Holy Spirit in all areas of your life.
4. Thank God that the blood of Christ is sufficient to cleanse from all sin and overcome the enemy. See Hebrews 9:14; Revelation 12:11.
5. Thank God and recognize that “Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” I John 4:4.
6. “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” I John 5:4. Thank God for increasing your faith as you abide in His Word.
7. Maintain regular daily secret devotion in prayer. See Matthew 6:6; I Thessalonians 5:17.
8. Daily, offer up thanksgiving and praise to God in all situations. I Thessalonians 5:16-18.
9. Give thanks to God in the midst of and for your trials and temptations. See Ephesians 5:20 and James 1:2-4.
10. Invest time in memorizing and daily meditation on the word of God. See Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 119:9-11.

“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day” Psalm 119:97.

Jesus gave commandment regarding what place God should have in our hearts:

*“And Jesus answered him, The first of **all** the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with **all** thy heart, and with **all** thy soul, and with **all** thy mind, and with **all** thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these” Mark 12:29-31.*

He also gave commandment what should have no place in our hearts:

*“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” I John 2:15-17.*

The world system is dominated with three root sins: the **lust of the flesh** (the desire to experience); **lust of the eyes** (the desire to possess); and the **pride of life** (the desire to be first). From these root sins spring all manner of corrupt fruit.

The Apostle Paul said in II Corinthians 5:14, *“The love of Christ constraineth us.”* As you work through the following questions, allow the Spirit of God to reveal to you anything that hinders you from loving and serving God with all your heart. Ask Him to cleanse and forgive you, then fill you with the power of the Holy Spirit and a fervent love for Him. *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” Psalm 139:23-24.*

LOVE NOT THE WORLD I John 2:15

1. Is your time primarily concerned with the pursuit of worldly goals, pleasures, or things? See Mark 8:36.
2. Can you honestly say like the Psalmist “There is none upon earth that I desire beside thee?” See Psalm 73:25.
3. Are your thoughts and affections set on things above rather than things on earth? See Colossians 3:1-3.
4. Do you seek the approval of the world and worldly people?
5. In service to the Lord do you seek for the praise of men or the praise of God? See John 5:44; John 12:43; I Thessalonians 2:4.
6. Is there anything in your life that God would look at as friendship with the world? See James 4:4.
7. Do you neglect private devotional time in the Word of God and prayer?
8. Do you love the Word of God more than gold or silver? See Psalm 119:72,97,127.

THE LUST OF THE FLESH I John 2:16

1. Do you give your mind over to immoral, lustful fantasies? See Matthew 5:27-28.
2. Do you allow your eyes to look on lustful things? "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes" Psalm 101:3.
3. Do you pay more attention to your outward appearance than the condition of the inner heart? See John 7:24.
4. Do you indulge yourself in fleshly thoughts, words, or jokes? See Ephesians 5:4.
5. Do you daily seek to put "on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof?" Romans 13:14.
6. Do you feed your fleshly appetites through ungodly magazines, TV shows, videos, cable, or the Internet? See Philippians 4:8.
7. Are you willing to cleanse your home of anything that causes you or your family to stumble in this area? See II Corinthians 7:1.
8. What influences do you need to remove from your home?
9. Are there fleshly appetites over which you do not have victory?
10. Are you willing by the grace of God to put these to the cross? See Galatians 5:24.

LUST OF THE EYES I John 2:16

1. Do you covet other people's things? Are you content with such things as you have? See Hebrews 13:5. *"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" I Timothy 6:10.*
2. Are you coveting and laboring to be rich? Are you storing up treasure in heaven and laboring to be rich toward God? See Proverbs 23:4; Matt 6:21-23; I Timothy 6:9.
3. Do you measure your success by how much money or possessions you or others have? See Joshua 1:8; Luke 12:15.
4. Do riches and rich people impress you? Are you more impressed with God or people?
5. Do you neglect your family by spending too much time at work?
6. Do you equate riches with godliness? Do you see that "godliness with contentment is great gain?" I Timothy 6:6.
7. Are you trusting in uncertain riches for your future security or are you trusting in God? See I Timothy 6:17.
8. Are you a giving person toward God's work and toward others?
9. Do you love and esteem the Word of God more than gold and silver? See Psalm 119:72,97,127. How is this manifest in your life?

THE PRIDE OF LIFE I John 2:16

1. Do you have a proud look? See Proverbs 6:17.
2. Do you think you are better than others? Do you esteem others better than yourself? See Luke 18:9-14 and Philippians 2:3.
3. Do you measure yourself in comparison to others or in comparison to the righteousness of Christ? See II Corinthians 10:12.
4. "Knowledge puffeth up" I Corinthians 8:1. Do you tend to think you know more or are smarter than other people?
5. Is God first in all your thoughts and decisions? Are you consumed with your own needs and wants? See Psalm 10:4; Matthew 6:33,34.
6. Like John the Baptist, are you seeking to decrease, that He might increase? See John 3:30.
7. Are you obsessed with being first? Do you yield your rights and look to be "last of all, and servant of all?" Mark 9:35.
8. Are you contentious and argumentative? "Only by pride cometh contention" Proverbs 13:10.
9. Humble people pray and seek the face of God. Proud people neglect the secret prayer closet. Do you neglect secret prayer with God? See II Chronicles 7:14.
10. Do you humbly receive the conviction of the Holy Spirit or do you resist and rebel against it?
11. Is there bitterness in your heart toward anyone? *"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled" Hebrews 12:15.*
12. Do you have bitterness toward your mate? See Colossians 3:19.
13. Do you speak bitter words or think bitter thoughts toward family members or others you come in contact with? See Ephesians 4:29-32.
14. Does pride keep you from being a forgiving person?
15. List below those you feel bitter toward and ask God for forgiveness.
16. Next, choose to forgive those toward whom you hold bitterness. Pray and forgive each one now.