

## Know thyself Pt 3: The Power of Lust

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>*

2 Cor 2:11 *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."*

Reflection: "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.

If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat.

If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, You'll succumb in every battle."

Sun-Tzu "The Art of War" 5th century BC

Satan knows our nature, and uses that knowledge to deceive, distort & delude, in an attempt to draw us away from God and ultimately defeat us. Not only does he seduce us into rejecting God's wisdom and ways (Gen. 3 → Rev. 20); He also motivates us to embrace his wisdom, contaminated by evil, perversion and rebellion. Jms 3:15,16 *"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, Devilish!*

*(daimoniō' dēs: demonic) For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work,"*

**We've already discussed how:**

- Our limited perspective leaves us questioning orders and complaining about ordeals.
  - Our propensity for Perversion Produces: Distortion; Subversion; Deception; & Rebellion
- Notice how these propensities caused Israel to drift away from God and move toward *"Fellowship with devils"* (1 Cor. 10:20) 1 Cor 10:5-7 *"...They were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters..."*

These verses reference two separate (yet similar) episodes in Israel's journey that illustrate this propensity for perversion and how Satan uses it to "overthrow us".

*This morning we'll look at the first of these events and the Power/Perversion behind it.*

**They *"lusted after evil things"* 1 Cor. 10:6**

### 1. "Lust" is a Pre-existing (Human) condition.

A. Lust (English) is defined as a strong desire *(for sex, food, fame, satisfaction, etc)*

- 1) Physical / Emotional Desire is a God given drive that is designed to draw us toward healthy (interdependent) relationships with our God, others, and even ourselves.
- 2) Desires can become subverted and perverted.

B. Notice how the Old Testament portrays Lust

- 1) 1st Reference Ps 78:18 "tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust." (nephesh)  
It's translated soul 475x, life 117x, person 29x, mind 15x, heart 15x, body 8x, Will/Desire 4x
- 2) Ps 78:30 *"They were not estranged from their lust.."* (Ta'awâ: desire, delight, satisfaction)
- 3) Ps 81:11-12 *"But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: (sherirût': imagination, twisted obstinacy {from shôrêr': a hostile adversary}) and they walked in their own counsels."* (mô'êšâ: purpose)
- 4) Pr 6:23-26 *"reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart;"*  
(Ĥāmad: desire 11x, covet 4x, delight 2x)

C. Notice how the N.T. describes Lust (epithumeo (v): desire 8x, lust 4x; covet 3x) from:

- 1) Epi (preposition) to Superimpose *(time, place, order, priority, or direction: "To set your heart upon"*
  - a) This means that lust seeks to superimpose (prioritize) its agenda onto (or over) our hearts in order to corrupt them! (Pr. 4:23)
  - 2) Thumos (n) Passion.
    - a) Translated wrath 15x; fierceness 2x, indignation 1x.
    - b) from thyō: Meaning to rush. Translated kill 8x, sacrifice 5x

This implies that when we "rush" to satisfy our lusts, *we end up sacrificing something of value!*

## Conclusion: If lust (*English/Hebrew/Greek*) involves desire:

### 1) What does this have to do with our Sacrifice?

- a) What/who we truly desire, *we sacrifice for!* Gen 22:2 *"Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, ...; and offer him there..."*
- b) Sacrifice is a type and method of Worship! Vs 5 *"I and the lad will go yonder and worship"*
- c) Our sacrifice proves our priorities/devotion. Vs 12 *"now I know that thou fearest God..."*

### 2) What's the effect if that desire becomes perverted?

- a) Since lust comes from the root words epi (superimpose) and Thyo (to rush {to sacrifice/ kill}); Our lusts (desires) become "perverted" when Satan (or others) superimpose their agenda over God's design.
- b) This gives Satan ground/ influence. 1 Cor 10:20 *"the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, (thyo) they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."*

### 3) Desire (even for good things) can become perverted by:

- The subject. (Who's behind the enticement) (Satan: Mt. 4:1-11; Self: James 1:13-16)
- The object. (What/who we want/desire) Prov 6,7
- The objective (Why we desire it) James 4:3
- The timing. (When we want/desire it) Heb. 13:4
- The method. (*How we seek to satisfy that desire*)

(David/Bathsheba 2 Sam. 11; Amnon and Tamar 2 Sam. 13)

## Application:

The more we rationalize our perverted desires, the more influence we give Satan in our lives.

Jms 3:15 *"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly (epigios), sensual (psychikos), Devilish!"*  
(*daimoniō' dēs: demonic*) (See Ro 1:22-28)

Satan (adversary) has had thousands of years to perfect using the world (1 Jn 2:15,16) and our own human weakness (James 1:13-16) to distract, distort, delude, and deceive us, in an attempt to ultimately defeat us. Thankfully we're not alone!

Ro 8:28-31 *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* See Heb. 13:5,6

He's given us his power and promises: *"that through these we might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."* 2 Pt 1:3

1 Jn 4:4 *"Ye are of God... and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

1 Jn 5:4 *"this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."*

## What are you doing to grow your faith?

Eph. 6:11,12

*"Put on the whole armor of God, That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

