
The Spiritual Fight

Victory Life Church — Pastor Jacob Sheriff

Part 4 - "Disordered Desires" – Sunday May 22nd, 2022

1 John 4:1-6 (ESV) Beloved, **do not believe every spirit**, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is **the spirit of the antichrist**, which you heard was coming and **now is in the world already**. Little children, you are from God and **have overcome them**, for **he who is in you** is greater than he who is in the world. They are **from the world**; therefore they speak **from the world**, and **the world listens** to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know **the Spirit of truth** and **the spirit of error**.

"The devil's strategy: deceitful ideas that play to disordered desires that are normalized in a sinful society."¹ ~ John Mark Comer

1 John 2:15-17 (ESV) 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. 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. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

The Flesh: "the corruption that sin has introduced into our very appetites and instincts."² ~ Eugene Peterson

James 1:12-15 (ESV) Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and **he himself tempts no one**. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed **by his own desire**. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Our **strongest** desires are not always our **deepest** desires.

¹ John Mark Comer, *Live No Lies*

² Eugene H. Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*, commemorative ed. (Downers Grove, IL InterVarsity, 2000), 113.

1 Peter 2:11 (ESV) Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to **abstain** from the **passions of the flesh**, which wage **war** against your soul.

James 4:7 (ESV) **Submit** yourselves therefore to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you.

John 8:31-34 (ESV) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you **abide in my word**, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**” They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.**”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ESV) For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to **destroy strongholds**. We destroy **arguments** and every **lofty opinion** raised against the **knowledge of God**, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ**,