

Finishing Well

Lesson #2

Victory Over Amalek

January 13, 2021

A general was explaining his strategy for capturing a strong enemy city. He said, "I have four columns approaching the city. I have a column approaching from the north, a column from the south, a column from the east, and one from the west. But my most valuable column is my fifth column." When asked where the fifth column was, the general replied, "My fifth column is inside the city." The general had people inside the city who were loyal to him. He counted on them to open the gates and deliver the city to him.

When things go wrong, most of the time religious people blame unseen demons around them. Little do we know that Satan isn't our only enemy. Satan has a "fifth column" inside of us that cooperates with him in his battle against us. What is Satan's "fifth column"?

It is our sinful nature which the Bible calls "the flesh."

The "flesh" is not my body, but my sinful nature that dwells in my body.

It is out of control, self-indulgent, fat, lazy, evil and full of pride.

John Owen "Indwelling sin [the flesh] in the believer is the old man who must be killed, with all his faculties, properties, wisdom, craft, subtlety, and strength.

Its power, life, vigor, and strength must be destroyed and slain by the cross of Christ."

Knowledge is always the key to victory in the Christian life. You cannot have victory without knowledge. Knowledge is the key to everything.

Hosea 4:6 God says, "My People are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."

If the devil never darkened your door, you could still be destroyed for lack of knowledge because the flesh could overtake you.

Gal. 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

I Cor. 10:11-12 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Take heed that you do not fall.

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Biblical Pictures Of The Conflict Of Our 2 Natures - The Flesh Versus The Spirit.

God promised Abraham and Sarah a son > Got impatient > Developed their own plan

Gen. 16:15 And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael. Abram was 86. Son born under bondage.

Gen. 17 God reiterates His promise to Abraham. Son of promise from Sarah.

Gen.17:18-19a And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac

Consider: God waited until Abraham and Sarah were forced to cease from their own efforts in trying to help God.

Gal. 4:22-23 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid [man's scheming = bondage], the other by a freewoman [God's miracle = freedom]. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

Gal. 4:28-31 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. ²⁹But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

Nevertheless, what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: [bondage; the flesh] for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free

Ishmael

1. Born of the Flesh
2. Born of the Bondwoman
3. Born first
4. Persecutes Isaac
5. Must be cast out

Isaac

1. Born of the spirit - Miracle
2. Born of the free woman
3. Born last - CONFLICT BEGINS

Bondage

Freedom

Attempting to be self-sufficient	Accepting supernatural work of God
Justify myself through my own efforts	Resting in God's promises
Desiring to retain control of my life	Desiring God's will in my life
Enslaved to pride that destroys my inheritance	Owning being adopted as an heir
I've Got This	Abba Father, Save Me

Application: The Holy Spirit is to perform a continuous work of grace in me. Ishmael, my old nature, my flesh, must die. Isaac, my new man, the spirit, must live. Isaac is the only HEIR.

Biblical Pictures Of The Conflict Of Our 2 Natures - The Flesh Versus The Spirit.

Problem: Ruled by the inner man - the flesh - the sin nature > Who is Amalek?

1. Grandson of Esau [sold his Firstborn Birthright for a morsel of food - Gen. 36:12]

- Ruler of the household under and for the father
- Priest of the family
- Double portion of the father's estate

2. A positional standing as the firstborn > no guarantees > could forfeit!

- Esau despised his birthright [LXX] = thought it of no real value = paltry, a mere trifle
- A single meal for fleshly [temporary] satisfaction

Esau = type of the old, carnal nature > more interested in self than the spiritual

Amalek = inherited sin nature from Adam

3. Amalek feared not God. When other nations hesitated to harm God's chosen ones, his evil example induced them to join him in the battle. "Like a robber he waylaid Israel";

"like a swarm of locusts"; "like a leech eager for blood"; "like a fly looking for sores to feed on"; hurried over hundreds of miles to intercept Israel's march.

4. Amalek means "warlike." They were not noble warriors - never fought a fair fight. Associated with cruelty and cowardice- called a "people that lick up." Abused the helpless
5. There was no mention of Amalek as long as Israel was in bondage.
6. Amalek was the first nation to attack Israel as they began their journey.
7. Amalek's first attack was after Israel had been delivered from Egypt [sin].
8. Amalek's purpose: Prevent Israel making progress to Canaan [Promised Land; Inheritance]

Our Flesh compared to the type:

Gal. 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like:...

1. Our flesh is warlike.
2. Our flesh lusts or wars against our spirit after we are born again.
3. Our flesh was not a problem before we were redeemed because IT WAS BOSS.
4. Our flesh is a hindrance to a successful Christian walk and growth in Christ.

New Beginning: Eph. 4:22-24, 30 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; [Rom. 12:2] transformed by the renewing of your mind] And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Israel's Deliverance from Bondage & Redemption

1. At the Red Sea, Israel was told in Ex. 14:13-14- "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.

The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

This pictured Israel being delivered from bondage by Christ. They Did NOTHING.

2. When we are redeemed, it is a gift provided for us. We do NOTHING but believe and receive by grace through faith. The faith is a gift from God.

I Cor. 10:3-4 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; ⁴ And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

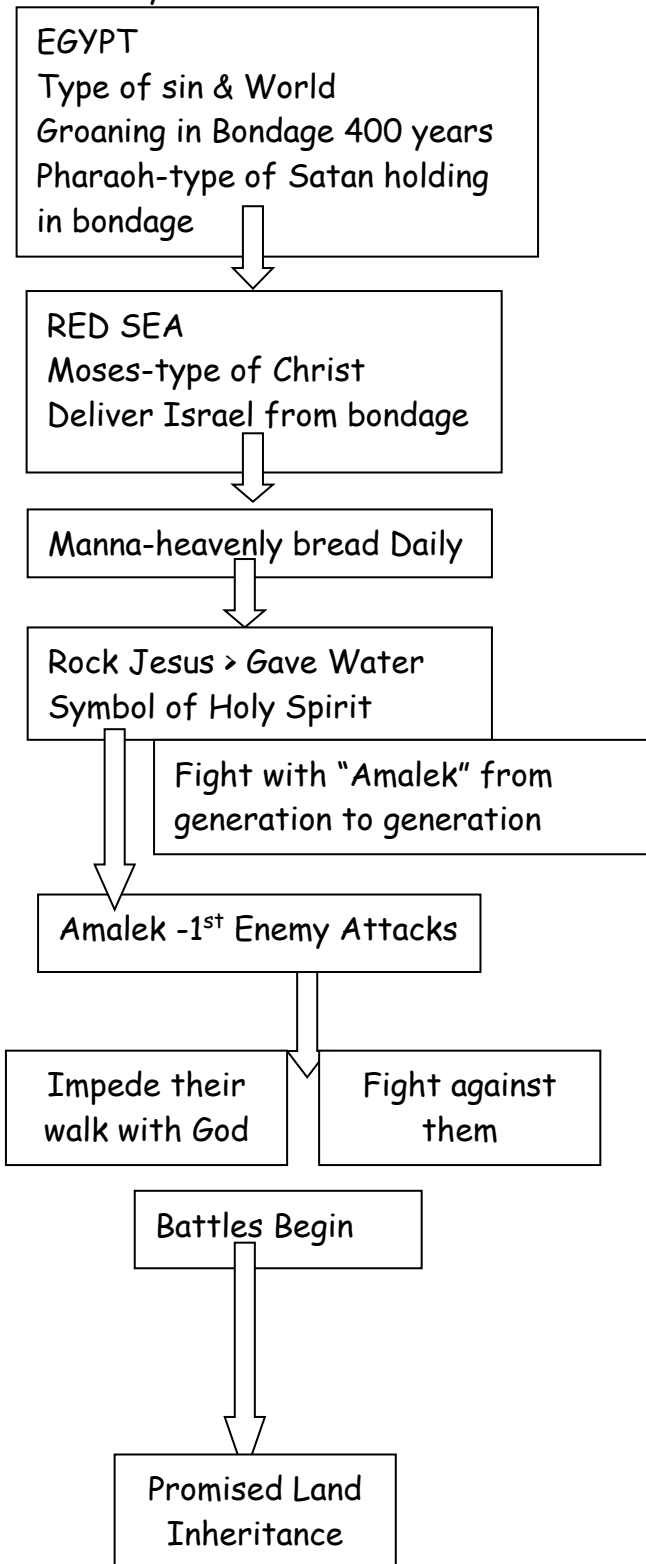
Ex. 17:6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink.

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

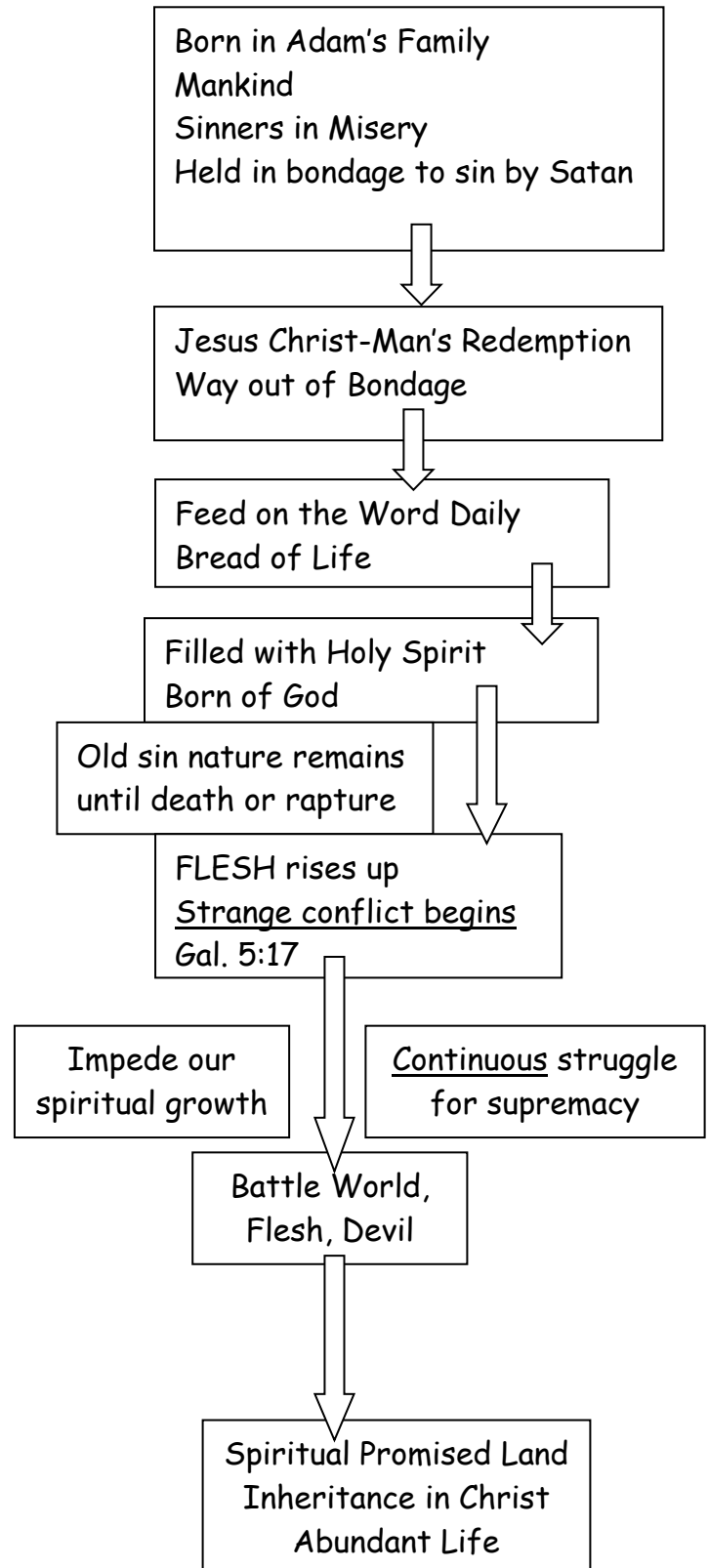
³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Deut. 6:23 Then He brought us out from there [Egypt], that He might bring us in [Promised Land-inheritance], to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.

Journey Across the Wilderness



Our Path of Faith & Trials



Amalek's First Attack on Israel: Ex. 17:8-16

1. After the Israelites have received the manna [Bread of Life] and living water from the rock, THEN Amalek came and fought them in Rephidim. [Ex. 17:8]

- The Flesh is seeking at all costs to bar the onward journey of God's redeemed people, through the wilderness, into the land of promise, their inheritance.
- It was not God's purpose that His people should remain at the place where the rock was smitten.

In Deut. 1:6-8 Moses reminded them: The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount. Turn and take your journey and go...Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- Get down, get on and get in! It was Amalek's ambition to prevent their success.

2. Israel had just been released from 400 years of slavery.

They were not familiar with war and weapons. They were no match for Amalek.

Consider: As new believers, we are no match for the vicious attacks of the flesh. We are to have "no confidence in it," make "no provision" for it, "not to yield our members to its service." [Rom. 13:14]

- After we are born again and filled with the Spirit [new nature], we begin to read our Bible, pray and start growing. We are new babes in Christ. THEN the FLESH shows up and begins warring against our redeemed spirit. Holy Spirit is vitaly essential for our spiritual lives.

II Pet. 1:4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

- At the moment of salvation, I am sealed with the Holy Spirit whose purpose is to establish the sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ in the area of my mind, will and emotions so that my body might become the temple of the living God.
- There is IMMEDIATE resistance on the part of the FLESH. [Gal. 5:17a] The flesh contests every attempt of the Holy Spirit to lead me on to spiritual maturity.
- Standing across my pathway from the very outset of the Christian life is Amalek!

Deut. 25:17-18 REMEMBER what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, ¹⁸ how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.

Amalek's Tactics Deut. 25

1. They attacked the feeble and weak; those who are too weak to keep pace in the desert. Attacked the stragglers - ill and young.
2. Subtle and cowardly
3. "He laid in wait for him in the way."
4. "He set upon the feeble, the faint and weary, first."

I Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Gal. 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Remedy for faintness or weariness:

Isa. 40:29-31 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."

Adrian Rogers: 4 L's of waiting: Loving Him; Looking To Him; Living for Him; Longing for Him;

5. I Sam. 15:2 "The hindmost of the host became his prey."

- Those who were furthest away from their leaders. What is the remedy?

John 15:4-5 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Moses' orders to Joshua: Ex. 17:9-10 Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek.

Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

¹⁰So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Note: Israel will now fight battles as God's redeemed people.

God's Provision to Fight Amalek: Ex. 17:9-12 The respective actions of Moses and Joshua reveal the provisions God has made for them and for us to combat the flesh.

1. Israel's success against Amalek was determined by the uplifted hands of Moses [symbolic of prayer] and the rod of God's power.

- Uplifted rod = confess total dependence on the authority and power of God

I Tim. 2:8 "I will therefore pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

Ex. 17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. [Note: not a physical battle]

Deut. 34:7 Moses to the very day of his death did not lose his natural strength.

So it is in spiritual warfare. When we fail in prayer, the flesh prevails.

Luke 18:1 "Men ought always to pray and not to faint."

2. Moses was not left to himself in this life and death struggle. Aaron and Hur supported him, they held up his hands. Moses could never have continued without this support.

Ex. 17:12 But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

As believers, it is time to put on our armor and use our spiritual weapons.

God's Provision For The Believer To Fight The Flesh

1. We have an advocate within and above.

- Aaron was the head of Israel's priesthood as a type of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us.

Heb. 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- Hur means "light" or "illumine" which is a type of the Holy Spirit who helps us with our infirmities.

Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Ex. 17:13 So Joshua defeated [discomfited] Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. There is no way we can eradicate or destroy the evil sin nature in us.

We must use the Sword of the Word against our flesh.

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

We need to employ prayer and the Word to fight the flesh.

Ps. 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Results of Amalek's first attack on Israel: Ex. 17:14-16

1. God provided the victory for Israel.
2. Victory over Amalek is GOD GIVEN. It cannot be won; it can only be received by the appropriation of faith.

Ex. 17:14-16 Write this for a memorial in a book and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. And Moses built an altar and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi: For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

The New Testament shows us that the Spirit of God in us is always at war against the flesh—as long as we live in this world--and until our present bodies are redeemed. Why?

- A. So we will have a deeper realization of the havoc sin has wrought in man.
- B. Realize the total depravity of man without God
- C. Seek a deeper dependence on God and humble ourselves before Him
- D. Thankful for His marvelous grace that saves us from hell
- E. We would appropriate His grace in our lives and learn that His strength can be made perfect in our weaknesses

God promised He will one day blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

In the confident assurance of faith Moses anticipated God's final victory by erecting an altar and calling it "The Lord, our Banner."

Consider: Amalek, a type of the flesh, provides a great reminder of the day when the sinful nature will be no more. Our full salvation purchased for us at the cross involves a new body.

Phil. 3:21 the Savior shall "change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself."

No more selfishness, no more sinfulness, no more Amalek! All traces of Amalek blotted out!

ALL of the flesh [our natural life] is worthless as far as God is concerned.

Rom. 12:7 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

We usually deal with the "bad" side of the flesh when we become believers. That is we generally begin to live "socially acceptable" Christian lives by giving up our drug dealing, fornication, our lying, cheating, stealing and getting drunk on weekends. We deal with the obviously "bad" side of the flesh, but we inevitably ignore the "best of the flesh."

After all, we have all sorts of wonderful personality traits, talents and resources developed by experience in the world--these we are happy to devote to God's service. The flesh loves to sing in the choir, to preach--in fact the flesh can be very religious! This means we all tend to try to please God by our self-effort, by our religious performance-oriented living, by "trying harder." Flesh may be defined as "self-effort"--attempting to live the Christian life by our own efforts. The flesh is always self-seeking and self-serving. The flesh is rooted in pride.

"Self-Effort" always leads to failure: We think we need God only for the crises and rough spots in the road. But the harder we try to live Christian lives on our own, the more we fail.

Eternal loss or eternal gain: At the judgment seat of Christ, all that we have done in the energy of the flesh will be lost. Only those things the Spirit has done through us [by faith] will survive. The "Exchanged Life The missing secret becomes clear: the Christian life can only be lived by Jesus Christ Himself! Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor [try too hard] and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [Matthew 11:28-29]

What we give up

Reference

What we get

Our sin	II Cor. 5:21	Christ's Righteousness
Wrath of God	Rom. 5:1	Peace With God
Condemnation (Hell)	Eph. 2:6, 19	Father's House -Heaven
Death	Gal. 2:20	Life
The Old Man	II Cor. 5:17	The New Man
Law	Rom. 7:4-6	Grace
Our Weakness	I Cor. 12:9-10	His Strength
Our Impurity	Heb. 10:21-22	His Purity
External Morality	Eph. 1:4	Holiness of God
Self-Strength	Isa. 40:31	God's Power
Tribulation	Eph. 2:14	Peace
Defeat	I Cor.15:57	Victory
Sorrow	John 15:11	Joy

Paradoxes: Authentic Christian living involves a constant set of paradoxes:

- Submit yourself to death and you will live.
- Cling to your life and you will lose it. Lose your life and you will save it.
- Become a slave to Jesus and you will be truly a free truly person,
- Die to self and you will find yourself.

A.W. Tozer: To have found God and yet still pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love, scorned indeed by the too easily satisfied religionist, but justified in happy experience by the children of the burning heart.

The world produces conformity, stifling individuality. Christ living in us does exactly the opposite. He unfolds and fills out all our gifts, talents and abilities. We become the whole (holy) men and women we were intended to be by His original design and plan.

A.W. Tozer "The cross is the symbol of death. It stands for the abrupt, violent end of the human being. The man in Roman times who took up his cross and started down the road had already said goodbye to his friends. He was not coming back. He was not going out to have his life redirected. He was going out to have it ended. The cross made no compromise, modified nothing, spared nothing. It slew all of the man completely and for good. It did not try to keep on good terms with its victim. It struck swift and hard and when it had finished its work the man was no more. In coming to Christ we do not bring our life up on to a higher plane. We leave it at a cross. The grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die.

In The Saving Life of Christ, Ian Thomas writes 'There are countless Christians fighting a battle that is already lost, trying in their own strength to overcome the subtleties of sin. That is a battle you can fight all your days, but I tell you now, you can never win! It is a battle already lost, lost in the first Adam... Victory over the flesh is not attained but received.

Gal. 5:16 Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

Now the devil loves to invert truth and turn it into a lie, and probably what he has been saying to you is this: "Try not to fulfil the lusts of the flesh, and then you will walk in the Spirit" as though the latter was a reward for the former.

He knows that in this way, he will keep you preoccupied with yourself, instead of being preoccupied with Christ. There is nothing quite so nauseating or pathetic as the flesh trying to be holy!... Is that what you have been trying to do? You have been trying not to fulfil the lust of the flesh, in order to walk in the Spirit - fighting a battle already lost.

God's Word: "Walk in the Spirit" in an attitude of total dependence upon Him, exposing everything to Him, "and you will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh."

THEN you will enjoy through Him the victory that Christ has already won.

Gal. 5:16 Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.