

Fleshly Lusts War Against The Soul

Yirmeyah Tan, 13 March 2026

Shalom.

Today my topic is 'Fleshly Lusts War Against The Soul'. Let me begin by quoting from **1Pe 2:9-12** –

1Pe 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

1Pe 2:10 *Which in time past were not a people but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

1Pe 2:11 *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.*

1Pe 2:12 *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

Let me begin by the concept of the soul. What does the Bible say about the soul? We refer to the first book of the Bible in **Gen 2:7** –

I. The Soul

Gen 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

Next, turn to **Isa 53:10** –

Isa 53:10 *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: **when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin**, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

1. The Hebrew word for soul is 'nephesh'; the Greek word is 'psuche'
2. The soul is immortal because it resulted from the breath of life from YAHWEH
3. Man is a tripartite being- spirit [breath from God], soul and body
4. When we die the spirit returns to God:
5. The soul will then either go to Heaven or to Hell after judgment.

We find this in **Ecc 12:7** –

Ecc 12:7 *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

In **Luk 23:46** and I use the English Standard Version (ESV) for clarity –

ESV Luk 23:46 *Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, **“Father, into Your Hands I commit My spirit!”** And having said this He breathed His last.*

6. Yeshua also has a soul!
7. Note that Yeshua's soul became an offering for sin: He descended into Hell and suffered the torment on our behalf for 3 days and 3 nights.

We see what Peter quoted in **Act 2:27** –

Act 2:27 *For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One see corruption.*

Let us note from our study of the Bible, that there are 3 enemies of the soul.

II. 3 Implacable Enemies

It was Thomas Aquinas who used the words 3 implacable enemies of the soul to describe:

1. The world
2. The flesh
3. The Devil

Implacable means you cannot appease them: cannot come to terms with them.

Which of the above would you count as the number 1 enemy of the soul?

III. Number One Enemy of the Soul

Most preachers would identify the Devil as our Number 1 enemy.

1. Actually, it is the enemy within us that is Number 1. I refer to our carnal nature of sin which the Bible calls the Flesh.
2. It is the Flesh that causes us to conform to the world in its perverse values, attitudes and goals.
3. It is the Flesh that causes us to succumb to the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life.
4. Interestingly, the Bible uses the same Greek word 'sarx' to describe the human body and the carnal nature that we inherited from Adam.
5. The carnal nature uses our body, with its passions, appetites and desires to sin. In another video I shall show you how the crucifixion of Yeshua dealt with our carnal nature, the Flesh.
6. It is our carnal nature that responds to temptations from the Devil.

In the passage that I quoted at the outset from 1Pe 2:9-12, Peter was not just addressing anybody. He was not addressing the heathen. He was addressing what the Bible calls the elect, the chosen of Yahweh.

Look at **1Pe 1:1-2** –

IV. Peter is Addressing the Elect

1Pe 1:1 *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,*

1Pe 1:2 ***Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.***

Look at the qualifications for the elect: sanctification of the Spirit, obedience to God, sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. How would such people have carnal desires of the flesh that war against the soul? What can be done? What is the root of the problem? Before then, Peter also referred to the same group of people [the elect] as a chosen generation. This is something that we should always bear in mind because lots of Christians think that only the Jews, the Israelites were the chosen nation of Yahweh. But when Christ came, those who come to Christ become a chosen generation and a chosen nation of Yahweh as well. This is affirmed by **1Pe 2:9-10** –

V. A Chosen Generation

1Pe 2:9 *But ye are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

1Pe 2:10 *Which in time past were not a people but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

Note the 4 attributes that Peter listed of the elect:

- a. Chosen generation
- b. Royal priesthood
- c. A holy nation
- d. A peculiar people

The question is, do we live up to all these labels that should define us? Before then, let's look at the reference by Peter to us as aliens and strangers in **1Pe 2:11** –

VI. Aliens & Strangers

1Pe 2:11 *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

This is the very subject of this video. Our citizenship is in heaven. That is what Peter means. Paul wrote in **Php 3:20-21** –

- a. Our citizenship is in Heaven

Php 3:20 *But **our citizenship is in heaven**, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

Php 3:21 *who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

Next, Peter says we are pilgrims. There is a famous book written by John Bunyan called *The Pilgrim's Progress from This World to That Which is to Come* which is a 1658 Christian allegory written by him.

If you have time, download the book and read it very carefully because it shows us the road that we are on and the journey that we must make.

The injunction of Peter in addressing us is that we should abstain from fleshly lusts. I refer to the verses quoted at the outset in **1Pe 1:14-15** –

VII. Abstain From Fleshly Lusts

1Pe 1:14 *As obedient children, **not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:***

1Pe 1:15 *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.*

This is the goal, the objective and the target that we should all aim at. This is what Peter has in mind that we should abstain from fleshly lust and instead be holy.

- a. Do not indulge your lusts
- b. Abstain
- c. Be holy

Next, we go on to the attributes of the soul. We must understand the attributes of the soul in order to understand the corruption and the consequences of fleshly lusts if we do not control our lusts. There are 5 attributes of the soul.

VIII. Attributes of the Soul

- a. Mind
- b. Will
- c. Emotions
- d. Conscience
- e. Ability to communicate with God

Let's look at the consequences of fleshly lusts on these 5 attributes.

IX. Consequences of Fleshly Lusts

- a. Mind: when we are unrestrained in terms of fleshly lusts, our thinking processes become warped, conforming to the vain philosophies of the world. Mental illness can result. People become gay, both men and women. Sins proliferate. Good becomes evil and evil good:

If you go to the internet and look at the comments that are made about Americans, you will find that their value system has become totally distorted. Good becomes evil, evil becomes good. Their leaders present lies as truth and the horrifying thing is that many who call themselves Christians accept the lies as truth and accept the deception.

Let's look at how the warping of our mind takes place. Refer to **Rom 1:22-32** –

Rom 1:22 *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

Rom 1:23 *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

Rom 1:24 *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

Rom 1:25 *Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

Rom 1:26 *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:*

Rom 1:27 *And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*

Rom 1:28 *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

Rom 1:29 *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

Rom 1:30 *Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

Rom 1:31 *Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

Rom 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

If you look at the many YouTube videos that have been published over the Epstein's papers and revelations, you will be horrified to find the types of sins committed by the people that are described in those files. Apparently, there are videos accompanying many of their sins.

Let me just highlight a few of them: paedophilia, having sex with very young children; child sacrifices especially infants; and cannibalism. This is the perversity of people without Yahweh. They are looking for immortality. People go for stem cell injections to prolong their lives. They preserve their bodies in special cryogenic capsules hoping for resuscitation someday in the future. But many of them, as they grow old, are looking for elixirs of life. Unfortunately, they think that eating babies will help them. Sleeping with virgins will help them. It is perverse but that is what is happening. Their minds get perverted because they pursue their lusts. How can Yahweh not judge America, Europe, Australia, so-called Christian nations? They have departed from Him. Look at the doctrines, false doctrines that they preach in their churches. They are not based on the Word of Yahweh. They pervert the Word of Yahweh. They call evil good, good evil as I stated earlier. How sad!

Destruction and judgment cannot be far away. Watch the imminent war between US and Israel against Iran. Iran may get help from countries like Russia and China, and this conflict could well become a nuclear conflict.

The next one is corruption of our emotions.

- b. Emotions: we become unstable, unfaithful and untrustworthy. Relationships become unstable, resulting in divorces
- c. Will: we pursue our own will and indulge our own ambitions and goals. We become unable or unwilling to seek and do the Will of God.
- d. We starve our souls:

In **Mat 4:4** –

Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Physical food becomes a preoccupation: what to eat and drink, where to find the best places to do so. In the process, we lose our desire to read and study the Word of God, resulting in starvation of the soul.

Look at the parable that Yeshua told in **Luk 12:16-21** –

Luk 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

Luk 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, what shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luk 12:18 And he said, this will I do: I will pull down my barns and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luk 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luk 12:20 But God said unto him, thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luk 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

Many years ago, I knew a pastor from New Zealand who was on the point of retirement, and he told me that he had saved up money and bought a beachfront property. When he returned to New Zealand, he and his wife would retire there. What happened was that, shortly after he went back, he had a heart attack and died before he could enjoy his beautiful retirement home.

The next point is that we become anxious when we indulge our fleshly desires and passions. We become anxious, even in our prayer life:

Luk 12:22 *And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.*

Luk 12:23 The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

Next, the Word of God becomes unfruitful.

- e. The Word of God becomes unfruitful because carnal people are not on the highway of holiness. Instead, they are on the sidewalks where the ground is stony and full of weeds and thorns. No good seed can thrive, grow and bear fruit.

Refer to the parable of the sower given by Yeshua in **Mar 4:14- 20** –

Mar 4:14 *The sower soweth the word.*

*Mar 4:15 And these are they by the **wayside**, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

*Mar 4:16 And these are they likewise which are sown on **stony ground**, who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness.*

Mar 4:17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

*Mar 4:18 And these are they which are **sown among thorns**, such as hear the word,*

Mar 4:19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Mar 4:20 And these are they which are sown on good ground, such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

The soil of our hearts and our lives is of the utmost importance in terms of our receptivity of the Word of Yahweh and the productivity of the Word of Yahweh in our lives or the lack of it.

The next evil effect on the soul is in the conscience. Refer to **1Ti 4:1-3** –

- f. The conscience becomes seared so that we cannot discern right from wrong.

1Ti 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

*1Ti 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having **their conscience seared with a hot iron**.*

1Ti 4:3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Next, look at **Isa 5:20-21** –

Isa 5:20 *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

Isa 5:21 *Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

g. Next, the conscience needs to be purged by the blood of Yeshua.

Heb 9:13 *For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:*

Heb 9:14 *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?***

h. Next, those who indulge in the flesh, passions and their desires will not be able to hear the Voice of the Shepherd. Look at **Joh 10:26-28** –

Joh 10:26 *But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.*

Joh 10:27 ***My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:***

Joh 10:28 *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

Do you hear the voice of the shepherd? Are you able to communicate with Him?

i. Finally, the war against the soul leads to its destruction:

Eze 18:20 ***The soul that sinneth, it shall die.** The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.*

And **Rom 6:23** –

Rom 6:23 ***For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

Note: each one is personally responsible for his sins. Without redemption, we shall die the second death. The death referred in Ezekiel 18 and Romans 6 is not a physical death that affects everybody righteous or unrighteous. The death here refers to the Second Death which is eternal torment in hell.

What then is the value of our soul which Yeshua Himself informed us in **Mar 8:36-37** –

X. The Value of Our Soul

Mar 8:36 ***For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?***

Mar 8:37 ***Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?***

None of us can ever aspire to own the whole world. All the billionaires of America and the world, even combined together, do not own the whole world. They only own a small fraction of it. Yeshua said you do not need to be a billionaire. Your soul is worth more than the entire world is worth. My friends, make sure you do not lose it by indulging your carnal and sinful nature with its horrible lusts. Your soul will suffer eternal torment in Hell.

Finally, Peter reminds us that we are Yahweh's witness to the world. Look at **1Pe 2:12** –

XI. Our Witness to the World

1Pe 2:12 *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

Let me end by quoting a lovely short poem by a poet called Paul Gilbert. I quote,

“You are writing a Gospel, A chapter each day,

By deeds that you do, By words that you say.

Men read what you write, Whether faithless or true.

Say, what is the Gospel According to you?”

Shalom.