

## Searching the Scriptures / 20 / Lust Produces Sin / Part 5

In Jam 1:14-15, we find this statement: *“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”* Our topic today deals with the essence of sin, which the Bible maintains, stems from our own lusts. I would like to cover the following points:

1. What Is Lust?
2. Why Do We Lust?
3. What Do We Lust For?
4. Only God Can Satisfy Our True Need – Salvation

### What Is Lust?

The Bible clearly reveals in 1 John 2:16, *“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.”* These were the very same temptations that Satan successfully used against Eve in the Garden of Eden and against the Lord Jesus Christ when He was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. But Jesus did not succumb to Lucifer, as Adam and Eve did. These same enticements are the bases for our sin, which is rooted in our own selfishness. They also form the foundation of how unsaved man thinks, speaks, and acts. The Bible says in Pro 23:7, *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”* Luke 12:34 adds, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* Mark 12:34 asserts, *“for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”*

We see the vast difference that exists between the world (which really represents the kingdom of Satan) and the Father (Who represents the Kingdom of God). 1 John 2:17 also indicates that this present situation is only temporary: *“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”* Col 3:5 points out the very important principle that lust or covetousness is actually idolatry: *“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”*

### Why Do We Lust?

Let’s look again at Jam 1:14-15, *“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”* Here we learn from God that our sin is a direct result of our lust – in fact we are drawn away by our lust. The word for “drawn away” is actually rendered in the Greek as “drag away.” We also understand from Rom 7:7 that the Bible, as the Law of God, is designed to expose and condemn our sin, *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”*

The word for “covet” is translated desired in Gen 3:6, *“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”* Once again we see the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life at work. Pro 27:20 states, *“the eyes of man are never satisfied.”*

In reality, we want what we cannot have. Man has the evil tendency to think that he knows more than God. He is deluded into thinking he knows what he really needs – what is best for him. How far this is from the truth!

### **What Do We Lust For?**

The Bible declares in Jam 4:2-5, *“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?”* Our day, like much of the New Testament period is characterized by people who love pleasure more than God as we read in 2 Tim 3:4, *“Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.”*

Num 11:33-34 dramatically records God’s judgment upon the Israelites who complained and lusted after meat, *“And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague. And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah [which means graves of lust]: because there they buried the people that lusted.”* The problem lies in the fact that all that we lust for will never satisfy our soul. We can only *“enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season”*, as Heb 11:25 indicates.

### **Only God Can Satisfy Our True Need – Salvation**

Our real need is for the salvation of our dead souls as we are bound for an inescapable confrontation with God the Judge, and certain punishment in Hell. Our only hope lies in the work of the Lord Jesus to pay for our sins in Hell, and bestow His righteousness, or goodness, upon us, as we read in Eph 2:4-5, *“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved).”*

Those who have been born from above will experience the ultimate pleasure – knowing God Himself. Psa 16:11 says, *“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”* Secondly, Psa 36:8 beautifully describes those who have been saved by God’s grace: *“They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.”*

May our prayer be that of Psa 42:1-2 as we find our joy and delight only in God alone, *“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”*