



## SESSION #2 THE STRUGGLE FOR CONTENTMENT: THE URGE FOR INDEPENDENCE

### A. The Fall of Mankind

**Genesis 3:1-7** -- *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*

### B. The Desires of Mankind

**1 John 2:15-17** -- *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 in possessions—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.*

#### 1. The desires of the flesh

"If you're willing to sin to obtain your goal or if you sin when you don't get what you want, then your desire has taken God's place and you're functioning as an idolater."

(Elyse Fitzpatrick, *Idols of the Heart*, p. 25)

#### 2. The desires of the eyes

### 3. Pride in possessions

**1 Corinthians 4:7** -- *What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?*

**James 4:1-4** -- *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

### C. The Transformation of our Desires

. . . the cravings of the human heart can be changed . . . God would have us long for Him instead. To make us truly human God must change what we want, for we must learn to want the things Jesus wanted . . . The human life is a great paradox. Those who die to self, find self . . . If I crave happiness, I will receive misery. If I crave to be loved, I will receive rejection. If I crave significance, I will receive futility. If I crave control, I will receive chaos. If I crave reputation, I will receive humiliation. But if I long for God and His wisdom, I will receive God and His wisdom. Along the way, sooner or later, I will also receive happiness, love, meaning, order and glory.

(David Powlison, *Dynamics of Biblical Change*)

**Matthew 7:13-14** -- *Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

#### ***Intentionally cultivate dependence upon God.***

*Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept Thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to Thee to be Thine forever. Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit. Use me as Thou wilt, send me where Thou wilt, work out Thy whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever.*

(Betty Stam, Martyred Missionary to China)

***When you cannot see His plan, when you don't see His hand at work on your behalf, return to what you do know about His character and His purposes.***

#### **D. Glory in The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** – *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*