

THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE GOVERNING THE EYES

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS STUDY:

Many Scriptures directly and indirectly tell us about the “eyes of the Lord” or the Lord “seeing” or “looking.” The power of sight is one of the greatest natural blessings that the Creator gave to mankind. When the Creator gave us eyes, He gave us a limited version of one of the capabilities of Deity.

The Creator also intended that the eyes would give us pleasure. We know this because of the beauty that He specifically created for the eyes to look upon. When He uses His “artist’s paintbrush” to color the morning or evening sky, how could anyone doubt His intent for our eyes to feast on beauty. The pleasure of sight and the pleasure *from* sight are both gifts from our Heavenly Father.

However, this gift of sight that God gave us for good and to enrich our lives, also has great potential for evil. If I willfully allow my eyes to be used in any manner that incites me to take pleasure in sin, then I am taking the Lord’s blessing to me and making it a curse to my soul. Therefore, when used Scripturally, the eyes (like the ears) have the ability to greatly enhance my life naturally and spiritually. When used to the contrary, the use of my eyes without the governing of God’s Word will eventually become a liability to my salvation. The latter occurs when my eyes are allowed to connect to the baser elements of my nature. My sinful nature influences my choices thus perverting their use *FROM* promoting the following of the Lord’s principles for living in a loving relationship with Him *TO* encouraging our participation in a self-centered, world-loving lifestyle.

Additionally, because of the connection between physical sight and mental sight, the importance of understanding the Lord’s principles governing the eyes is significantly increased. There is nothing specifically sinful about my eyes physically seeing something, since that is what the eyes were designed by God to do. But, it is the mental sight that is a catalytic product of the physical sight, which connects to the motives of my heart and determines my actions and my priorities, that is the potential problem. Whatever I see mentally that results from what I see physically inevitably proceeds to shape my character, guide the course of my relationships, and influence my decisions concerning who and/or what I will give my time and my life to.

Likewise, since mental sight is connected to desire, what I allow my eyes to linger upon physically initiates the decision to either seek after God or pursue the world. The differences between what Abraham and Lot saw with their eyes eventually determined the spiritual destination of their offspring. Abraham saw the Promised Land; Lot saw Sodom. It is very difficult for our minds to grasp that everything that followed ALL STARTED with a look from Lot's eyes:

Genesis 13:10-12

10 And **Lot lifted up his eyes**, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and **they separated themselves the one from the other.**

12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

Lot's "look" eventually separated him from God; Abraham's "look" brought him closer to God. Similarly, our eyes potentially have the same amount of impact upon our own souls AND on the souls of our descendants.

This study is a principle-based approach rather than a rule-based approach to the subject of the "separated" (holy) use of the eyes. Nothing in this study is intended to be made into a *rule*. It is my hope and prayer that, as you study this lesson, the Holy Ghost will begin to formulate in your spirit some personal guidelines for how you will use your eyes in every scenario and circumstance of life: not just in how you use communication/entertainment technology, but in every possible use of your eyes.

If I allow the Lord to guide me in using my eyes in a manner that will please Him, then the following are a few of the more significant results that are potentially mine:

I will "see" God.

I will "see" my relationship with Him grow into all that He has promised.

I will "see" His power and glory manifested in the "Sanctuary."

I will "see" a great harvest of souls.

I will "see" the Lord when He returns.

In Jesus' Name!

The following are verses demonstrating the positive effect of eyes guided by the Bible:

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

Psalms 63:1-2

1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

2 **To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.**

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, **Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.**

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and **unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time** without sin unto salvation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EYES SPIRITUALLY.

As referenced above, one of the most important principles of life is that anything with great potential for good always has just as much potential for bad if misused, misunderstood, miscalculated, misdirected, etc. This is especially true with respect to our eyes and how we use them. The devil certainly understands that our eyes make us vulnerable to temptation, and that our choices about what we allow to enter our eyes are critical. These facts are easily demonstrated by considering the adversary's efforts to tempt even Jesus through His eyes:

Matthew 4:8-10

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and **sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;**

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Luke 4:5-8

5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, **shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.**

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

NOTE: Additionally, we learn from the temptation of Jesus that the adversary knows that we will soon serve whatever we allow our eyes to dwell upon! Consequently then, whatever our eyes are allowed to dwell on will lead our minds to dwell on also; and, whatever our minds dwell on will soon provoke us to action. Our actions then reveal what is in our hearts AND who our God is! Thus the link between what we persist to see and who/what we come to worship is undeniable.

THE SPIRITUAL FUNCTION OF THE EYES.

The eyes are the unlimited windows of the brain, which automatically gives them direct and immediate access to the mind, soul, and spirit. As stated above, the eyes have great potential for good, BUT they also make us very vulnerable to negative influences. What I see can inspire me OR cause me to expire spiritually.

What we see creates a permanent image in the mind. Even though an image may not be remembered or even registered in the conscious mind, it is always registered in the subconscious mind. Scientific studies have proven that images registered even in the subconscious can trigger inexplicable feelings and emotions. Given then the potential for an exponentially greater effect from images that do register in the conscious mind, we need to take heed.

If we allow our eyes to expose (and frequently re-expose) us to the wrong things for a prolonged period of time, a stronghold can unintentionally be formed in the mind that will continuously affect our actions, i.e., SIN. The result of this is darkness in our lives instead of light.

Matthew 6:22-24

22 The light of the body is the eye: **if therefore thine eye be single**, thy whole body shall be full of light.

23 But **if thine eye be evil**, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:22-24 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

22-24 The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye be in single focus, pure, sound, your whole body will be well lighted. But if your eye be diseased, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light which is in you is darkness, the darkness, how great. No one is able to be habitually serving two masters, for either he will hate the one and the other one of a different kind he will love, or one he will hold to firmly as against the other, and the other one of a different kind he will disdain. You are not able to be rendering a slave's obedience to God and to a passion for accumulating wealth. (**NOTE: These verses comprise ONE paragraph in the original text.**)

Matthew 6:22-24 (*The Living Bible*)

22 "If your eye is pure, there will be sunshine in your soul.

23 **But if your eye is clouded with evil thoughts and desires, you are in deep spiritual darkness. And oh, how deep that darkness can be!**

24 "You cannot serve two masters: God and money. For you will hate one and love the other, or else the other way around.

NOTE: Carefully consider the progression of these three verses. Their inclusion in the same paragraph in the original text once again clearly demonstrates the connection between my eye (and its uses) and what I serve. What I allow my eyes to focus and/or "feast" on will ultimately determine what I give my service and allegiance to. This is God's "law" or principle and NO ONE is immune to or exempt from it. The Creator intended only good in making us this way. Only by choice can we turn this good into bad.

Luke 11:34-36

34 The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is **single**, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is **evil**, thy body also is full of darkness.

35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

36 If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

Luke 11:34-36 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

34-36 The lamp of the body is the eye. When your eye is in single focus, sound, and fulfilling its function, also your whole body is well lighted. But when it is pernicious, also your body is full of darkness. Be constantly scrutinizing yourself therefore lest the light which is in you is darkness. Therefore, assuming that your whole body is well lighted, not having any part full of darkness, the whole shall be full of light as when the lamp by its bright shining illuminates you.

NOTE: Again, what our eyes are engaged in seeing, our souls will be engaged in serving! Our eyes are responsible for our lives either being filled with light or being void of light (having darkness). This is the power of the eye. Therefore, governing what enters or does not enter the eye is very crucial to our salvation. If our eyes are allowing spiritual darkness to access our souls, then we will be full of spiritual darkness. If our eyes are the portal for spiritual light to enter our beings, then our whole being will be full of spiritual light. Therefore, how we use our eyes will ultimately affect our salvation because there is no fellowship between "light and darkness" (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

CONSIDER THE GREEK WORD FOR “SINGLE” USED IN EVERY INSTANCE IN BOTH TEXTS:

SINGLE (*COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY*) = NT:573 *haplóos*. Only in Matthew 6:22; Luke 11:34 translated single, i.e., not complex, easy, **used of the eye as not seeing double as when it is diseased. When the eye accomplishes its purpose of seeing things as they are, then it is *haplús*, single, healthy, perfect.** Singleness, simplicity, absence of folds. This, however, does not involve stupidity on the part of the Christian, but rather *phrón̄sis* (5428), prudence, knowing how to deal with fellow humans and the circumstances of life. Thus the Christian is supposed to be not only *haplús*, single and without duplicity, but also *phrónimos* (5429), prudent (Matthew 10:16; Romans 16:19).

PLEASE CONSIDER THAT THE RESULT OF “DOUBLE VISION” IS BECOMING “DOUBLE MINDED”:

James 1:5-8

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.
8 **A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**

DOUBLE MINDED (*STRONG’S GREEK DICTIONARY*) = # NT:1374 *dipsuchos* (dip'-soo-khos); from NT:1364 and NT:5590; **two-spirited**, i.e. vacillating (in opinion or purpose);
KJV - double minded.

NOTE: When we choose to allow our eyes to see in an undisciplined manner, we open ourselves up to being torn asunder by two very powerful forces: good and evil. Eventually, we will become “double-visioned.” Our eyes will not be able to “focus.” When that happens, we will become “double-minded;” or, as Strong’s definition of the Greek word states, “two-spirited.” From the text of James 1:7, please note “our prayers will become totally ineffective (no answers at all) which will paralyze our spiritual lives, all as a result of being “two-spirited.” The most damning and “damning” effect of this negative spiritual condition is that it totally shuts down prayer — NO RESULTS! We may say the words, but there is no response from heaven!

BIBLICALLY SPEAKING, WHAT IS AN “EVIL EYE” (Matthew 6:23)?:

EVIL (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # NT:4190 *poneros* (pon-ay-ros'); from a derivative of NT:4192; **hurtful, i.e. evil (properly, in effect or influence)**, and thus differing from NT:2556, which refers rather to essential character, as well as from NT:4550, which indicates degeneracy from original virtue); figuratively, calamitous; also (passively) ill, i.e. diseased; but especially (morally) culpable, i.e. derelict, vicious, facinorous; neuter (singular) mischief, malice, or (plural) guilt; masculine (singular) the devil, or (plural) sinners:

KJV - bad, evil, grievous, harm, lewd, malicious, wicked (-ness).

EVIL (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # NT:4190 *poneeros*

1. full of labors, annoyances, hardships
 - a. pressed and harassed by labors
 - b. bringing toils, annoyances, perils
2. **bad, of a bad nature or condition**
 - a. in a physical sense: diseased or blind, Matthew 6:23; Luke 11:34
 - b. in an ethical sense, evil, wicked, bad

NOTE: Consider what an “evil eye” is. Notice please that in *Strong's* very detailed definition of the word translated “evil,” this Greek word most specifically emphasizes the potential “evil influence” of the eye, and not that the eye itself is evil. So therefore, in the context of the above verses and according to the definition of the Greek word, Jesus is saying that it is NOT the eye that is evil; rather, it is the un-focused, undisciplined, double-vision (two-spirited) USE of the eye that brings or allows an evil influence upon the inner man. What does this all mean? That the problem is NOT specifically what I see; it is the effect/influence upon ME because of what I see that is the problem. The evil motives, that my “un-single eye” conjures, pollutes whatever I see and renders my body full of darkness. This is very disturbing and convicting!

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL RESULT OF BEING TWO-SPIRITED, AND HOW DO WE OVERCOME IN THE WAR GOING ON WITHIN US?:

Galatians 5:16-17

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
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.

Galatians 5:16-17 (*The Amplified Version*)

16 But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God).
17 For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withholding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.

Galatians 5:16-17 (*The Living Bible*)

16 I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to.
17 For we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do; and the good things we want to do when the Spirit has his way with us are just the opposite of our natural desires. These two forces within us are constantly fighting each other to win control over us, and our wishes are never free from their pressures.

NOTE: These two verses are FULL of spiritual insights and answers to our most basic questions. They explain why we still struggle to do what pleases the Lord even though we are filled with the Holy Ghost. They also give us the foolproof answer for how to live an overcoming life. Dear Reader, I beg of you to prayerfully and carefully consider these two verses and their accompanying translations. Understanding both the problem and God's solution is critical for receiving and believing the remainder of this study AND for properly, effectively, and Scripturally applying the principles that are discussed in this study to your daily life so that you can live victoriously.

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF GUARDING THE EYES:

Psalms 101:1-8

- 1 I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing.
- 2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.
- 3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.**
- 4 A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.
- 5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.
- 6 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.**
- 7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.
- 8 I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the Lord.

Psalms 101:3 **I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes:** I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Psalms 101:3 (*The Amplified Version*)

3 I will set no base or wicked thing before my eyes. I hate the work of them who turn aside [from the right path]; it shall not grasp hold of me.

Psalms 101:3 (*Young's Literal Translation*)

3 I set not before mine eyes a worthless thing, The work of those turning aside I have hated, It adhereth not to me.

Psalms 101:3 (*New Living Translation*)

3 I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar. I hate all who deal crookedly; I will have nothing to do with them.

Psalms 101:3 (*The Bible in Basic English*)

3 I will not put any evil thing before my eyes; I am against all turning to one side; I will not have it near me.

Psalms 101:3 (*Easy-to-Read Bible*)

3 I will not even look at anything shameful. I hate all wrongdoing. I want no part of it!

Psalms 101:3 (*God's Word Translation*)

3 I will not put anything wicked in front of my eyes. I hate what unfaithful people do. I want no part of it.

Psalms 101:3 (*New Century Version*)

3 I will not look at anything wicked. I hate those who turn against you; they will not be found near me.

Psalms 101:3 (*Darby's Translation*)

3 I will set no thing of Belial before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Psalms 101:3 (*World English Bible*)

3 I will set no vile thing before my eyes. I hate the deeds of faithless men. They will not cling to me.

Psalms 101:3 (*The Apologetics Study Bible*)

3 I will not set anything godless before my eyes. I hate the doing of transgression; it will not cling to me.

Psalms 101:3 (*The Complete Jewish Bible*)

3 I will not allow before my eyes any shameful thing. I hate those who act crookedly; what they do does not attract me.

Psalms 101:3 (*Today's New International Version*)

3 I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it.

Psalms 101:3 (*Holman Christian Standard Bible*)

3 I will not set anything godless before my eyes. I hate the doing of transgression; it will not cling to me.

Psalms 101:3 (*New International Reader's Version*)

3 I won't look at anything that is evil. I hate the acts of people who aren't faithful to you. I don't even want people like that around me.

SET (*COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY*) = OT:7896 *shiyth*: A verb meaning to set, to put, to lay. It basically means to place or put something somewhere:...

SET (*BROWN, DRIVER, AND BRIGGS HEBREW LEXICON*) = OT:7896

shiyth — to put, to set

a) (Qal)

- 1) to put, to lay (hand upon)
- 2) to set, to station, to appoint, to fix, to set mind to
- 3) to constitute, to make (one something), to make like, to perform
- 4) to take one's stand
- 5) to lay waste

NOTE: It is not possible to consider the meaning of this Hebrew word without understanding that which undergirds its meaning: “choice.” This word is NOT talking about what comes across our field of vision randomly or “coincidentally.” NO, this word specifically states that I made or will make a choice, a conscious decision, to look at something or someone. Therefore, our will is inseparable from what is “set” before our eyes. Furthermore, the consequences resulting from being influenced by what I am looking at are my responsibility and mine alone. I choose to “set” or NOT “set” whatever I see or do not see before my eyes.

WICKED (*STRONG'S HEBREW DICTIONARY*) = # OT:1100 *beliya`al*

(bel-e-yah'-al); from OT:1097 and OT:3276; **without profit, worthlessness; by extension, destruction, wickedness** (often in connection with OT:376, OT:802, OT:1121, etc.):

KJV - **Belial**, evil, naughty, ungodly (men), wicked.

WICKED (*BROWN, DRIVER, AND BRIGGS HEBREW LEXICON*) = OT:1100

beliya`al — worthlessness

- a) **worthless, good for nothing**, unprofitable, a base fellow
- b) wicked
- c) ruin, destruction (construct)

WICKED (*COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY*) = #1100 *beliya`al*: A masculine noun of unknown origin meaning **worthlessness**. Often a strong moral component in the context **suggests the state of being good for nothing and therefore expresses the concept of wickedness** (Job 34:18; Proverbs 6:12; Nahum 1:11).

NOTE: If I “entertain” myself with viewing that which is “anti-God” and contrary to His Word, I allow the spirit of these things to “cling” to me. Eventually they will begin to affect how I “see” things, how I feel about things, how I experience things, how I react to things, how I prioritize things, etc. What my eyes dwell on, I will desire to have, to do, and to be.

However, I ask you to consider the most basic meaning of the Hebrew word translated “wicked.” It means “without profit, worthlessness.” Therefore, what I may be seeing could possibly not be evil in itself, but if it adds nothing to me and my walk with God, then it is “evil” — “worthless, unprofitable.”

MAKING A COVENANT WITH OUR EYES.

For men (and some women), one very common use of our eyes involves looking at other people, specifically people of the opposite sex. We often do this so subconsciously that we are not even aware we are doing it. Just noticing another person is in no way wrong, inasmuch as we all like to be acknowledged by others. However, the problem comes from “looking” at another person with “fantasy” (“lusting”) attached to that looking. For many, this is the PRIMARY and most frequent sin that the eyes are involved in.

The Lord declared that Job was “perfect and upright in all his ways.” How did Job live in a way that the Lord would make this statement about him?

Job made a covenant with his eyes to not look upon a maid.

Job realized how vulnerable his eyes made him; and, to avoid being a “victim” of what his eyes saw, he made a commitment (possibly a “vow”) to not allow his eyes to linger on a woman to the point that his mind would begin to fantasize about her sexually.

Job 31:1 **I made a covenant with mine eyes;** why then should I think upon a maid?

Job 31:1 (*The Amplified Version*)

1 I dictated a covenant (an agreement) to my eyes; how then could I look [lustfully] upon a girl?

Job 31:1 (*The Living Bible*)

1 I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust upon a girl.

Job 31:1 (*Today's English Version*)

1 I have made a solemn promise never to look with lust at a girl.

Job 31:1 (*Contemporary English Version*)

1 I promised myself never to stare with desire at a young woman.

Job 31:1 (*Easy-to-Read Bible*)

1 I made an agreement with my eyes not to look at a young woman in a way that would make me want her.

Job 31:1 (*God's Word Translation*)

1 I have made an agreement with my eyes. Then how can I look with lust at a virgin?

Job 31:1 (*New Century Version*)

1 But I made an agreement with my eyes not to look with desire at a girl.

Job 31:1 (*New English Translation Bible*)

1 I made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I entertain thoughts against a virgin?

Job 31:1 (*The Message Bible*)

1 I made a solemn pact with myself never to undress a girl with my eyes.

Job 31:1 (*World English Bible*)

1 I made a covenant with my eyes, How then should I look lustfully at a young woman?

Job 31:1 (*The Complete Jewish Bible*)

1 I made a covenant with my eyes not to let them lust after any girl.

Job 31:1 (*New International Reader's Version*)

1 I made an agreement with my eyes. I promised not to look at another woman with sexual longing.

WHAT IS A “COVENANT”?:

COVENANT (STRONG'S HEBREW DICTIONARY) = # OT:1285 *beriyth* (ber-eeth'); from OT:1262 (in the sense of cutting [like OT:1254]); a **compact** (because made by passing between pieces of flesh): -confederacy, [con-] feder [-ate], covenant, league.

Dictionary.com defines “COMPACT” as:

“noun. **A formal agreement between two or more parties, states, etc.; contract.**

Origin: 1580–90; *< Latin compactum, compectum*, noun use of neuter of *compactus* (past participle of *compacisci* to make an agreement), equivalent to *com-* *com-* + *pac-* (**stem of *pacisci* to secure by negotiation, akin to *pax* settlement ending hostilities, peace**) + *-tus* past participle ending

Synonyms: treaty, pact, entente, convention, concordat."

COVENANT (COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY) = OT:1285 *beriyth*: A feminine noun meaning **covenant, treaty, alliance, agreement**.

NOTE: The use of this Hebrew word connotes that Job did not make a “casual” decision about this. The implication is that the “covenant” was more encompassing than just between Job and his eyes. Somehow Job involved his God in that covenant. Whatever he did, according to God, it worked!

THE NEGATIVE RESULTS OF LOOKING WITH LUST UPON A WOMAN:

The following verses are just a few Scriptural examples of the negative results of allowing eyes to be unrestrained and roving (“uncovenanted”). Much pain, heartache, and shame have resulted from undisciplined eyes and the doors to sin that they have opened in even the “greatest” of believers.

Genesis 6:1-2

6 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

2 **That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair;** and they took them wives of all which they chose.

NOTE: This looking started the downward spiral that ended in God destroying the world by a flood because soon “...the imaginations of the thoughts of [every] heart was only evil continually.”

2 Samuel 11:1-4

1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and **from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.**

3 And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

NOTE: Even a man “after God’s own heart” is vulnerable to eyes that are not disciplined. The question is: With the number of wives that David had, why did David “need/want” this woman? Could it be because his army was engaged in battle and David was not with them? Was he miserable — feeling empty and uninvolved? Could this have opened the door for him to allow his eyes to wander?

When his eyes wandered, he wandered from God’s Word. What a warning this should be to every believer! Those who are uninvolved spiritually are more susceptible to sinning because they are more desperate to fill the void in their lives created by their spiritual idleness. This desperation opens them up to the temptation introduced to them by “wandering eyes” not disciplined by a covenant.

Proverbs 23:31-33

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

Proverbs 6:23-33

23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

26 For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?
28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?
29 So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.
30 Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;
31 But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.
32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.
33 A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

NOTE: Again, it all starts with a look — but it ends in a tragedy! Sadly, it is not just the “looker” who is wounded by the consequences of his “just looking” and all that follows: everyone who loves him, believes in him, and trusts him is wounded also.

THERE IS NO CONTROLLING THE END RESULT OF HAVING “UNDISCIPLINED” EYES.

The initial look seems innocent enough. The lingering look edges closer to the line. The longing look crosses over the line. Eventually, the looking, lingering, longing, and crossing become a habit; then, sometime after the habit is formed, the spirit is changed. The conscience no longer works, and the voice of God is soon replaced with the “voice of imitation” without the hearer even being aware. At that point, the slippery descent into the depths of un-imagined depravity is only a matter of time. From the bottom of this slide, there is NO RETURN!

When we violate the Lord's guidelines for monitoring what we allow ourselves to see, we will soon find ourselves seeing with "eyes full of adultery." Notice in the following verses that the “adulterous eyes” are keeping “company” with other negative spiritual characteristics (as described in 2 Peter 2:12-22) that are incomprehensible and reprehensible. The frightening thing is that the individuals characterized here have NO awareness of their condition. They are SPIRITUALLY BLIND. Here is the final shock: they started out as born-again Apostolics! But, their end is damnation.

Notice also, they are “evangelistic” in their depravity. It is not enough that they themselves are in this condition, but they aggressively attempt to recruit others to their “new lifestyle of liberty” as well.

Could it be that it all started with an “innocent” look?

2 Peter 2:12-22

12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;
13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;
14 **Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin;** beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:
15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;
16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.
17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.
18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

2 Peter 2:14 (*The Living Bible*)

14 No woman can escape their sinful stare, and of adultery they never have enough. They make a game of luring unstable women. They train themselves to be greedy; and are doomed and cursed.

2 Peter 2:14 (*New Living Translation*)

14 They commit adultery with their eyes, and their desire for sin is never satisfied. They lure unstable people into sin, and they are well trained in greed. They live under God's curse.

2 Peter 2:14 (*Today's English Version*)

14 They want to look at nothing but immoral women; their appetite for sin is never satisfied. They lead weak people into a trap. Their hearts are trained to be greedy. They are under God's curse!

2 Peter 2:14 (*The Bible in Basic English*)

14 Having eyes full of evil desire, never having enough of sin; turning feeble souls out of the true way; they are children of cursing, whose hearts are well used to bitter envy;

2 Peter 2:14 (*Contemporary English Version*)

14 All they think about is having sex with someone else's husband or wife. There is no end to their wicked deeds. They trick people who are easily fooled, and their minds are filled with greedy thoughts. But they are headed for trouble!

2 Peter 2:14 (*Easy-to-Read Bible*)

14 Every time they look at a woman, they want her. They are always sinning this way. And they lead weaker people into the trap of sin. They have taught themselves well to be greedy. They are under a curse.

2 Peter 2:14 (*New Century Version*)

14 Every time they look at a woman they want her, and their desire for sin is never satisfied. They lead weak people into the trap of sin, and they have taught their hearts to be greedy. God will punish them!

2 Peter 2:14 (*The Complete Jewish Bible*)

14 **for they have eyes always on the lookout for a woman who will commit adultery, eyes that never stop sinning;** and they have a heart that has exercised itself in greed; so that they seduce unstable people. What a cursed brood!

2 Peter 2:14 (*New International Reader's Version*)

14 **They stare at women who are not their wives. They want to have sex with them. They never stop sinning.** They trap those who are not firm in their faith. They have mastered the art of getting what they want. God has placed them under his curse.

NOTE: The individuals described in this context of Scriptures from 2 Peter had been baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. They started out on their spiritual journey as "saved people." Yet, something lured them into temptation and prolonged sinning to the point that their reprobate spiritual state was adulterated beyond the comprehension of the saved mind. That any "Christian" could be ever reach the state that they would be described with these terms is unimaginable. How could believers sink so far down into the depths of sin? Again, is it possible that it all started with an undisciplined use of the eyes? This is an extremely sobering passage of Scripture. How could God's people become so perfectly and completely deceived and so hopelessly lost?

THIS PASSAGE IS A GRAVE WARNING TO THE REDEEMED WHO THINK THAT THEY ARE NOT "CAPABLE" OF FALLING INTO THE DEPTHS OF SIN BECAUSE THEY ARE "SAVED." IT IS SO STRIKING AND DISTURBING THAT WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE WHOLE PASSAGE AGAIN FROM A COUPLE OF OTHER TRANSLATIONS:

2 Peter 2:12-22 (*New Living Translation*)

12 These false teachers are like unthinking animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed. They scoff at things they do not understand, and like animals, they will be destroyed.

13 Their destruction is their reward for the harm they have done. They love to indulge in evil pleasures in broad daylight. They are a disgrace and a stain among you. They delight in deception even as they eat with you in your fellowship meals.

14 **They commit adultery with their eyes, and their desire for sin is never satisfied.** They lure unstable people into sin, and they are well trained in greed. They live under God's curse.

15 They have wandered off the right road and followed the footsteps of Balaam son of Beor, who loved to earn money by doing wrong.

16 But Balaam was stopped from his mad course when his donkey rebuked him with a human voice.

17 These people are as useless as dried-up springs or as mist blown away by the wind. They are doomed to blackest darkness.

18 They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With an appeal to twisted sexual desires, they lure back into sin those who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception.

19 They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you.

20 And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before.

21 It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to know it and then reject the command they were given to live a holy life.

22 They prove the truth of this proverb: "A dog returns to its vomit." And another says, "A washed pig returns to the mud."

2 Peter 2:12-22 (*Easy-to-Read Bible*)

12 But these false teachers speak evil against what they don't understand. They are like animals that do things without really thinking—like wild animals that are born to be caught and killed. And, like wild animals, they will be destroyed.

13 They have made many people suffer. So they themselves will suffer. That is their pay for what they have done. They think it is fun to do evil where everyone can see them. They enjoy the evil things that please them. So they are like dirty spots and stains among you—they bring shame to you in the meals you eat together.

14 Every time they look at a woman, they want her. They are always sinning this way. And they lead weaker people into the trap of sin. They have taught themselves well to be greedy. They are under a curse.

15 These false teachers left the right way and went the wrong way. They followed the same way that the prophet Balaam went. He was the son of Beor, who loved being paid for doing wrong.

16 But a donkey told him that he was doing wrong. A donkey cannot talk, of course, but that donkey spoke with a man's voice and stopped the prophet from acting so crazy.

17 These false teachers are like springs that have no water. They are like clouds that are blown by a storm. A place in the deepest darkness has been kept for them.

18 They boast with words that mean nothing. They lead people into the trap of sin. They find people who have just escaped from a wrong way of life and lead them back into sin. They do this by using the evil things people want to do in their human weakness.

19 These false teachers promise those people freedom, but they themselves are not free. They are slaves to a mind that has been ruined by sin. Yes, people are slaves to anything that controls them.

20 People can be made free from the evil in the world. They can be made free by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But if they go back into those evil things and are controlled by them, then it is worse for them than it was before.

21 Yes, it would be better for them to have never known the right way. That would be better than to know the right way and then to turn away from the holy teaching that was given to them.

22 What they did is like these true sayings: "A dog vomits and goes back to what it threw up." And, "After a pig is washed, it goes back and rolls in the mud again."

NOTE: One more time, carefully note and consider the detailed description of how far from God that these "former believers" have wandered.

Shocking! Sobering! Arresting!

PLUCK OUT THE OFFENDING EYE.

Jesus Himself strengthened the importance of having a covenant with our eyes. He did that by expanding the definition of adultery to include even looking at women other than our wives for the purpose of lustng after them. One may not ever fall into actual physical adultery, but failing to maintain a covenant with the eyes can result in committing adultery with the heart.

Jesus also clearly and shockingly stated how far we should go in removing this potential for offense against Him and against our souls:

Matthew 5:28-30

28 But I say unto you, **That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**

29 **And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.**

Matthew 5:28-29 (*The Amplified Version*)

28 But I say to you that everyone who so much as looks at a woman with evil desire for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 If your right eye serves as a trap to ensnare you or is an occasion for you to stumble and sin, pluck it out and throw it away. It is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be cast into hell (Gehenna).

Matthew 5:28-29 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

28-29 But as for myself, I am saying to you, Everyone who is looking at a woman in order to indulge his sexual passion for her, already committed adultery with her in his heart. So then, if your eye, the right one, causes you to stumble, root it out and throw it from you, for it is to your profit that one of your members perish and not that your whole body be thrown into hell.

Matthew 5:28-29 (*Good News Translation*)

28 But now I tell you: anyone who looks at a woman and wants to possess her is guilty of committing adultery with her in his heart.

29 So if your right eye causes you to sin, take it out and throw it away! It is much better for you to lose a part of your body than to have your whole body thrown into hell.

Matthew 5:28-29 (*The Bible in Basic English*)

28 But I say to you that everyone whose eyes are turned on a woman with desire has had connection with her in his heart.

29 And if your right eye is a cause of trouble to you, take it out and put it away from you; because it is better to undergo the loss of one part, than for all your body to go into hell.

Matthew 5:28-29 (*Easy-to-Read Bible*)

28 But I tell you that if a man looks at a woman and wants to sin sexually with her, he has already committed that sin with her in his mind.

29 If your right eye makes you sin, take it out and throw it away. It is better to lose one part of your body than to have your whole body thrown into hell.

Matthew 5:28-29 (*Weymouth's Translation*)

28 But I tell you that whoever looks at a woman and cherishes lustful thoughts has already in his heart become guilty with regard to her.

29 If therefore your eye, even the right eye, is a snare to you, tear it out and away with it; it is better for you that one member should be destroyed rather than that your whole body should be thrown into Gehenna.

Matthew 5:28-29 (*The Message Bible*)

28 But don't think you've preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your heart can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your body. Those leering looks you think nobody notices — they also corrupt.

29 "Let's not pretend this is easier than it really is. If you want to live a morally pure life, here's what you have to do: You have to blind your right eye the moment you catch it in a lustful leer. You have to choose to live one-eyed or else be dumped on a moral trash pile.

NOTE: Jesus directly correlated looking upon a woman with lustful desire TO having an offending eye, i.e. your eye itself becomes your enemy. Whether we choose to believe that Jesus expected anyone to literally and physically “pluck out their offending eye” or not, the actual solution may be no less extreme. Clearly He was literal in expressing the severity and seriousness of the measures we may have to take in order to deny our eyes the opportunity to offend.

The point must not be missed! In the discussion of what He actually meant by “pluck out,” Jesus (not the UPCI) made an “offending eye” A HEAVEN OR HELL ISSUE!

JESUS’ INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH AN OFFENDING EYE:

Matthew 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, **pluck** it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

PLUCK (STRONG’S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # NT:1808 *exairo* (ex-ah'-ee-ro); from NT:1537 and NT:142; **to remove:
KJV - put (take) away.**

**PLUCK (THAYER’S GREEK LEXICON) = # NT:1808 *exairoo*:
to lift up or take away out of a place 1 Corinthians 5:2**

PLUCK (COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY) = NT:1808 *exáirœ*; from *ek* (1537), out of, and *airœ* (142), to take, remove. **To take up out of any place, to lift up from, remove; used trans. and followed by *ek* (1537), out of or from, with the gen. (1 Corinthians 5:2 [TR], 13, to expel or excommunicate).**

Matthew 18:9 And if thine eye offend thee, **pluck** it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

PLUCK (STRONG’S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # NT:1807 *exaireo* (ex-ahee-reh'-o); from NT:1537 and NT:138; **actively, to tear out; middle voice to select; figuratively, to release:
KJV - deliver, pluck out, rescue.**

PLUCK (*COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY*) = NT:1807 *exairéō*; from *ek* (1537), out, and *hairéō* (138), to take. It borrows most of its tenses from the obsolete verb *exeílō*, to take out. 2 d aor. *exeílon*, 2 d aor. mid. irregular *exeíleto* (Acts 7:10; 12:11). **To take or pluck out.**

(I) To take or pluck out, as an eye (Matthew 5:29; 18:9).

PLUCK (*VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY*) = NT:1807 *exaireo*, "to take out" (ex for *ek*, "out," *haireo*, "to take"), is translated "pluck out," of the eye as the occasion of sin, in Matthew 5:29; 18:9, **indicating that, with determination and promptitude, we are to strike at the root of unholy inclinations, ridding ourselves of whatever would stimulate them.**

PLUCK (*THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON*) = # NT:1807 *exaireoo*, **to take out**

1. **to pluck out, draw out**, Matthew 5:29; 18:9

2. the middle voice:

- a. to choose out (for oneself), select, one person from many: Acts 26:17
- b. **to rescue, deliver (properly, to cause to be rescued,)**

Mark 9:47 And if thine eye offend thee, **pluck** it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

PLUCK (*STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY*) = # NT:1544 *ekballo* (ek-bal'-lo); from NT:1537 and NT:906; **to eject** (literally or figuratively):

KJV - bring forth, cast (forth, out), drive (out), expel, leave, pluck (pull, take, thrust) out, put forth (out), send away (forth, out).

PLUCK (*COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY*) = NT:1544 *ekbállo*;...from *ek* (1537), out, and *bállo* (906), to cast, throw, drive. **To cast, throw out.**

(I) **Generally and with the idea of force, impulse...**

(II) **The idea of force being dropped, to take out, extract, remove** (Matthew 7:4,5; Luke 6:42); to bring out or forth (Matthew 12:20 quoted from Isaiah 42:3; Matthew 12:35; Luke 10:35); to throw out, i.e., not to include, leave out (Revelation 11:2).

PLUCK (*THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON*) = # NT:1544 *ekballoo*;

to cast out; to drive out; to send out

1. **with the included notion of more or less violence**

- a. to drive out, (cast out): a person, Matthew 21:12
- b. to cast out: John 6:37
- c. to expel a person from a society: to banish from a family, Galatians 4:30

- d. to compel one to depart: Acts 13:50
- e. to command or cause one to depart in haste: Mark 1:43
- f. to draw out with force, tear out: ti, Mark 9:47
- g. to cause a thing to move straight on to its intended goal: Matthew 12:20
- h. to reject with contempt; to cast off or away: Luke 6:22...

**NOTE: One more time, Jesus made an “offending eye”
A HEAVEN OR HELL ISSUE!**

CHOOSING TO SEE AND FOCUS ON GOD AND GOOD.

The best way to keep your eyes from being tempted is to focus on what you *SHOULD* be seeing RATHER than trying to resist what you should not be looking at.

Deuteronomy 5:32-33

32 Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

33 Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

Proverbs 4:20-27

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

Proverbs 4:25-27 (*The Amplified Version*)

25 Let your eyes look right on [with fixed purpose], and let your gaze be straight before you.

26 Consider well the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established and ordered aright.

27 Turn not aside to the right hand or to the left; remove your foot from evil.

Proverbs 4:25-27 (*The Living Bible*)

- 25 Look straight ahead; don't even turn your head to look.
- 26 Watch your step. Stick to the path and be safe.
- 27 Don't sidetrack; pull back your foot from danger.

Proverbs 4:25-27 (*The Bible in Basic English*)

- 25 Keep your eyes on what is in front of you, looking straight before you.
- 26 Keep a watch on your behaviour; let all your ways be rightly ordered.
- 27 Let there be no turning to the right or to the left, keep your feet from evil.

Proverbs 4:25-27 (*Easy-to-Read Bible*)

- 25 Keep your eyes on the path, and look straight ahead.
- 26 Make sure you are going the right way, and nothing will make you fall.
- 27 Don't go to the right or to the left, and you will stay away from evil.

Proverbs 4:25-27 (*New Century Version*)

- 25 Keep your eyes focused on what is right, and look straight ahead to what is good.
- 26 Be careful what you do, and always do what is right.
- 27 Don't turn off the road of goodness; keep away from evil paths.

Proverbs 4:25-27 (*The Message Bible*)

- 25 Keep your eyes straight ahead; ignore all sideshow distractions.
- 26 Watch your step, and the road will stretch out smooth before you.
- 27 Look neither right nor left; leave evil in the dust.

WE SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON GOD AND HIS WORD:

Deuteronomy 5:29-33

- 29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!
- 30 Go say to them, Get you into your tents again.
- 31 But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which thou shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I give them to possess it.
- 32 Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.**
- 33 Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION?

The process of sinning begins when we are drawn away by our lusts. How do our lusts "know" what to draw us to? What we see! Our sinful natures are awakened and activated by the sinful things that we allow our eyes to look at!

James 1:12-16

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

DRAWN AWAY (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = NT:1828 *exelko*, from *ek*, "out of," and *helko*, "to draw," "to draw away, or lure forth," is used metaphorically in James 1:14, of being "drawn away" by lust. **As in hunting or fishing the game is "lured" from its haunt, so man's lust "allures" him from the safety of his self-restraint.**

THE FOLLOWING VERSES CLEARLY STATE THE ORIGIN OF THE LUST THAT DRAWS ME AWAY FROM THE LORD'S WORD:

Job 31:5-8

5 If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit;

6 Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.

7 If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, and if any blot hath cleaved to mine hands;

8 Then let me sow, and let another eat; yea, let my offspring be rooted out.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and **walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.**

Numbers 15:38-41

38 Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue:

39 And **it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:**

40 That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.

41 I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the Lord your God.

HOWEVER, HOW MUCH I ACTUALLY GAIN/OBTAIN OF WHAT MY EYES HAVE SEEN AND LUSTED AFTER DOES NOT MATTER: IT WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH AND IT WILL NEVER SATISFY:

Ecclesiastes 2:9-11

9 So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

10 And **whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them**, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

11 **Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.**

THE LUST OF THE EYES.

Eyes that are not bound to a covenant (one that we have consciously made) have become an ally with our flesh and are in league with our pride, eventually causing us to love the world and not the Father.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

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.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1 John 2:16 (*The Amplified Version*)

16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh [craving for sensual gratification] and **the lust of the eyes [greedy longings of the mind]** and the pride of life [assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things] — these do not come from the Father but are from the world [itself].

1 John 2:16 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

16 Because everything which is in the world, the passionate desire of the flesh [the totally depraved nature], and **the passionate desire of the eyes**, and the insolent and empty assurance which trusts in the things that serve the creature life, is not from the Father as a source but is from the world as a source.

LUST (*STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY*) = # NT:1939 *epithumia*

(ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah); from NT:1937; **a longing (especially for what is forbidden):**

KJV - concupiscence, desire, lust (after).

LUST (*COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY*) = NT:1939 *epithumía*; from *epithuméœ* (1937), **to desire greatly. Strong desire, longing, lust.**

NOTE: When our eyes act in concert with our flesh and our pride, we will make decisions that demonstrate that our spiritual “love” interest is NOT GOD, but the world. Can one be saved who loves the world and not God? The answer to that question is obvious.

SOME OF THE MOST EGREGIOUS SINS IN THE BIBLE BEGAN WITH A SIMPLE LOOK (THIS IS ONLY A SAMPLE OF THE VERSES ON THIS SUBJECT):

Genesis 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.

Genesis 6:2 **That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair;** and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Joshua 7:21 **When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them;** and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

Ecclesiastes 5:10-11

10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, **saving the beholding of them with their eyes?**

THE BIG LIE: AN UNDISCIPLINED EYE CAN SATISFY THE SOUL.

A life that does not put the Lord first is doomed to **EMPTINESS**. When our souls are empty, we can never satisfy our emptiness through a lustful eye. Eyes that are given over to lust are insatiable! They will always crave to see more and more. In their unsatisfied state, they will progressively seek out content that has greater and greater degrees of depravity. Ultimately, there are no limits to the depths of debauchery that the eyes will passionately crave and lustfully pursue.

Ecclesiastes 4:8 There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; **neither is his eye satisfied with riches**; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: **the eye is not satisfied with seeing**, nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 (*New Living Translation*)

8 Everything is wearisome beyond description. No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are not content.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 (*Good News Translation*)

8 Everything leads to weariness — a weariness too great for words. Our eyes can never see enough to be satisfied; our ears can never hear enough.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 (*Contemporary English Version*)

8 All of life is far more boring than words could ever say. Our eyes and our ears are never satisfied with what we see and hear.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 (*Easy-to-Read Bible*)

8 Words cannot fully explain things, but people continue speaking. Words come again and again to our ears, but our ears don't become full. And our eyes don't become full of what we see.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 (*New Century Version*)

8 Everything is boring, so boring that you don't even want to talk about it. Words come again and again to our ears, but we never hear enough, nor can we ever really see all we want to see.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 (*New English Translation Bible*)

8 All this monotony is tiresome; no one can bear to describe it: The eye is never satisfied with seeing, nor is the ear ever content with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 (*World English Bible*)

8 All things are full of weariness beyond uttering. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

SATISFIED (*BROWN, DRIVER, AND BRIGGS HEBREW LEXICON*) = OT:7646
saba` or sabea` — to be satisfied, to be sated, to be fulfilled, to be surfeited

a) (Qal)

1) to be sated (with food)

2) **to be sated, to be satisfied with, to be fulfilled, to be filled, to have one's fill of (to have desire satisfied)**

3) to have in excess, to be surfeited, to be surfeited with; to be weary of (figurative)

b) (Piel) to satisfy

c) (Hiphil)

1) to satisfy

2) to enrich

3) to sate, to glut (with the undesired)

NOTE: Concerning the use of our eyes, a very important point to keep foremost in the mind involves overindulgence: visually taking in diverse content "just for something to do." Even if I am not viewing objectionable things, it is wrong to vainly stimulate my "boring life" by just viewing or hearing whatever I happen to find in a feeble attempt to offset my diminished relationship with God. This is JUST AS WRONG as if I was watching wrong things.

In today's vernacular, this aimless eye-roving is called "surfing." No destination, no goal, no purpose — just "filling up" time looking at meaningless and/or worthless subject matter. Like modern day "Athenians," people "surf" just searching to see or hear some "new thing" (Acts 17:21). Like "surfing" in the ocean, they try to find a "wave" in this world and go along for the ride just to see where it takes them. The owners of *YouTube* have made a fortune capitalizing on this time filling/time wasting activity. Is it "sin" to go on *YouTube*? Probably not. Is wrong to spend countless hours just "surfing" around looking for the next "viral" wave? Most definitely!

Ephesians 5:14-16

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 **Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, **redeeming the time.**

Romans 13:10-14

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 And that, **knowing the time**, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12 **The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.**

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**

OUR EYES CREATE DESIRES.

Our eyes should be fixed on what the Lord has given us, not roaming about to make note of everything we don't have. A "roaming eye" inevitably finds something that triggers wrong desires. Ultimately, these desires become our mentors and motivators.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 **Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.**

Ecclesiastes 6:9 (*The Amplified Version*)

9 Better is the sight of the eyes [the enjoyment of what is available to one] than the cravings of wandering desire. This is also vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility) and a striving after the wind and a feeding on it!

Ecclesiastes 6:9 (*The Bible in Basic English*)

9 What the eyes see is better than the wandering of desire. This is to no purpose and a desire for wind.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 (*Contemporary English Version*)

9 It's better to enjoy what we have than to always want something else, because that makes no more sense than chasing the wind.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 (*Easy-to-Read Bible*)

9 It is better to be happy with what you have than to always want more and more. Always wanting more and more is useless. It is like trying to catch the wind.

NOTE: When I allow my eyes to dwell on what I don't have rather than what I do, it "triggers" something within me that produces a desire; and, now I "need" whatever it is that I am seeing (perhaps then even mentally sifting through ways to obtain it). My imagination says that if I could just do that, have that, etc., then I will be "happy." That is a LIE!

Nothing that is finite will EVER fill the infinitely empty place within me. That place is designed for God and God alone; and, no matter what I try to fill it with, it will never suffice. I can let my eyes "lead" me from place to place, thing to thing, pleasure to pleasure, and person to person; BUT, I WILL NEVER BE FILLED WITH ANY OF THEM!

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (*The Amplified Version*)

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. **He also has planted eternity in men's hearts and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy]**, yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (*The Living Bible*)

11 Everything is appropriate in its own time. **But though God has planted eternity in the hearts of men**, even so, many cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

MY EYES SHOULD ESPECIALLY FOCUS ON MY OWN WIFE AND NOT ON ANOTHER WOMAN. SOME OPERATE BY THE OLD ADAGE, "THERE'S NO HARM IN JUST LOOKING." NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. "JUST LOOKING" ULTIMATELY BECOMES "JUST LUSTING." THE POINT IS: IF MY EYES ARE NOT "SEEING" OTHER WOMEN, THEN NO WAYWARD DESIRES WILL BE DRAWING ME AFTER THEM:

Proverbs 5:15-21

15 Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.

17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

18 **Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.**

19 **Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.**

20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

NOTE: This principle does not just apply to the women that I see in the course of everyday life. It is also true even if I am "only" watching women on some type of video presentation (movie, TV, web-hosted video, etc.) OR on the internet. Now, I may never attempt to pursue some woman that I am looking at in a movie, a video, or online. Nevertheless, according to Jesus (Matthew 5:28), my fantasies about her are just as immoral and perverse as if I had "hooked up" with her physically.

THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR EYES AND REVIVAL.

While my eyes are carnally fellowshipping with things that are contrary to the Word of the Lord, my soul is dying spiritually. However, by not giving in to looking at and/or watching the worthless and then using that redeemed time to turn our eyes on His Word, we will be revived.

Psalms 119:33-37

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.
34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
35 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.
36 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.
37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding *vanity*; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Psalms 119:37 (*New Living Translation*)

37 Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word.

Psalms 119:37 (*The Bible in Basic English*)

37 Let my eyes be turned away from what is false; give me life in your ways.

Psalms 119:37 (*Easy-to-Read Bible*)

37 Don't let me look at worthless things. Help me live your way.

Psalms 119:37 (*God's Word Translation*)

37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things. Give me a new life in your ways.

Psalms 119:37 (*New Century Version*)

37 Keep me from looking at worthless things. Let me live by your word.

Psalms 119:37 (*New English Translation Bible*)

37 Turn my eyes away from what is worthless! Revive me with your word!

Psalms 119:37 (*New International Reader's Version*)

37 Turn my eyes away from things that are worthless. Keep me alive as you have promised.

VANITY (*STRONG'S HEBREW DICTIONARY*) = # OT:7723 *shav'* (*shawv*); or *shav* (*shav*); from the same as OT:7722 in the sense of desolating; **evil (as destructive), literally (ruin) or morally (especially guile); figuratively idolatry (as false, subjective), uselessness (as deceptive, objective; also adverbially, in vain):**

KJV - false (-ly), lie, lying, vain, vanity.

VANITY (*BROWN, DRIVER, AND BRIGGS HEBREW LEXICON*) = OT:7723 *shav'* or *shav* — **emptiness, vanity, falsehood**

- a) emptiness, nothingness, vanity
- b) emptiness of speech, lying
- c) worthlessness (used of conduct)

VANITY (*COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY*) = OT:7723 *shav'*: A masculine noun meaning **emptiness, vanity, evil, ruin, uselessness, deception, worthless, without result, fraud, deceit**. The primary meaning of the word is deceit, lie, or falsehood. God used the word to indicate that He punished Judah in vain. The word is used by the psalmist to state that all activities such as laboring, guarding, rising early, staying up late, and toiling for food were useless without God's assistance (Psalms 127:1,2). In the Ten Commandments, the word is used to describe what is prohibited (Deuteronomy 5:20). The word is used in Proverbs to indicate that which the author desires to be kept away from him: in this case, falsehood and lies (Proverbs 30:8). Idols were declared worthless with the usage of the noun in Jeremiah (Jeremiah 18:15). These idols were those that led the people of God to forget Him.

NOTE: If we are truly revived, then we will always be involved in what Jesus is doing — seeking to see the lost saved (Luke 19:10).

One sure way to remain “un-revived” is to continue allowing my eyes to dwell on the “worthless.” Seeing emptiness will make me empty.

Pastor Jim Dillon once said to me that “worthless” here means “Void of righteousness, so much that it affects my decisions, my opinions and concepts of life, my character, and my guide to relationships.” He said that “There is a direct connection between our eyes and revival.” Amen!

WHY ARE WE NOT SEEING MORE SINNERS SAVED?

Could it be because we are spending so much time doing the same things sinners are doing? Is it possible that we are like Lot in Sodom, who was " vexed with the filthy conversation (behavior) of the wicked...For that righteous man...in SEEING AND HEARING, vexed his (own) righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds"(2 Peter 2:7,8)? It is hard to keep the inside of our cup clean for God to use if most of what is poured in is unclean. When we walk with God rightly — including the guarding of our eyes — it brings conviction upon sinners:

Psalm 51:10-13

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.
12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.
13 **THEN will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**

Isaiah 33:13-17

13 Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might.
14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?
15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and **shutteth his eyes from seeing evil**;
16 He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.
17 Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

Isaiah 33:13-17 (*New Living Translation*)

13 Listen to what I have done, you nations far away! And you that are near, acknowledge my might!"
14 The sinners in Jerusalem shake with fear. Terror seizes the godless. "Who can live with this devouring fire?" they cry. "Who can survive this all-consuming fire?"
15 Those who are honest and fair, who refuse to profit by fraud, who stay far away from bribes, who refuse to listen to those who plot murder, **who shut their eyes to all enticement to do wrong**—

16 these are the ones who will dwell on high. The rocks of the mountains will be their fortress. Food will be supplied to them, and they will have water in abundance.

17 Your eyes will see the king in all his splendor, and you will see a land that stretches into the distance.

NOTE: For sinners to be convicted of their sins, they must be able to recognize a clear distinction in lifestyle between believers and themselves. If Christians are engaged in some of the same unwholesome leisure activities that sinners indulge in, then the sinner has a right to ask the question: "What's the difference?" But, when believers "abstain from all appearance of evil" and "let not (their) good be evil spoken of" to live a full, peaceful, contented, and blessed life in Jesus; the sinner is convicted and becomes hungry for God. The Church is the "salt of the earth." Partaking of salt should make you thirsty

Obviously we participate in many of the same wholesome activities that sinners also do for enjoyment. However, the difference between the sinner and the believer lies in how the believer prioritizes those activities and the amount of time that he or she allows for participation. Intemperance in both time and priority denotes diminished spiritual focus, misplaced priorities, and an undisciplined manner of life; of which I suspect many of us are more or less guilty from time to time.

Technological utility "support" devices that also provide endless trivial, time-sacrificing entertainment are exponentially fueling lukewarm mediocrity through addictive, "harmless" activity. There are already many well-attended support groups throughout the country for people who cannot stay off the internet. There are now even "Facebook Anonymous," "Texting Anonymous," and many other similar groups in which even believers participate because their "harmless" entertainment has taken over their lives. Many, many Christians have come into "bondage" through these subtle, but powerfully addicting activities.

Such worldly pursuits corrupt the very purpose for why the Church is still here. As a result, the church is NOT being revived, the Lord's harvest is not being reaped, and the believers are living lives focused on the temporal rather than the eternal. Consequently, many sinners are still lost because many "laborers" are filling their time with other "non-spiritual," non-productive" activities. The prophet said it very succinctly:

Jeremiah 8:20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

Let me quickly and careful state that overindulgence in technological entertainment is not the SOLE cause of the specific consequences discussed above. However, it is no doubt a very notable contributor. The inability to defeat self-justifying religious approaches to God (and all the detriments that such entails) in our personal lives and grow steadfastly in relationship with Him is ultimately the greater inhibitor. We overindulge BECAUSE we are empty. We are empty because we lack the sensitivity and surrender to His Spirit that grows when our focus is upon pursuing JUST HIM. In Him and Him alone is life and life MORE ABUNDANT!

THE ANTIDOTE TO THIS SITUATION: PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER REQUEST!

Matthew 9:36-38

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, THE HARVEST TRULY IS PLENTEOUS, BUT THE LABOURERS ARE FEW;

38 PRAY YE THEREFORE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THAT HE WILL SEND FORTH LABOURERS INTO HIS HARVEST.

We must be involved as laborers in the Lord's harvest field for the lost's sake. But we must also be involved for our own sake. Idle laborers become bored Christians. Bored Christians need to fill their time and life with "stuff" in order to attempt to be "happy." Of course, this NEVER works. The idle and uninvolved always fight temptations that the involved never have time for and thus are never tempted with. The "stuff" that many fill their lives with today almost always involves some kind of activity that involves the eyes. Instead of "seeing" fields that are white already unto harvest (John 4:35), we only see what the world is "viewing" to fill empty lives and hearts.

TAKING PLEASURE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

So much of the entertainment industry today is based upon giving the “viewer” the opportunity to vicariously live an alternative lifestyle and do things that they could or would not actually do themselves.

Dictionary.com defines **vicariously** as, “**felt or enjoyed through imagined participation in the experience of others.**”

According to the following verses, our Father considers vicarious sinning just as damning as actually committing the act.

Romans 1:29-32

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

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.

Romans 1:32 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

32 such are those who, knowing the judgment of God that these who practice such things are worthy of death, **not only habitually do the same things but also take pleasure in those who practice them.**

Romans 1:32 (*Darby's Translation*)

32 who knowing the righteous judgment of God, that they who do such things are worthy of death, not only practise them, **but have fellow delight in those who do [them].**

PLEASURE (*STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY*) = # NT:4909 *suneudokeo* (soon-yoo-dok-eh'-o); from NT:4862 and NT:2106; **to think well of in common, i.e. assent to, feel gratified with:**

KJV - allow, assent, be pleased, have pleasure.

PLEASURE (*THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON*) = # NT:4909 *suneudokeoo*,

a. **to be pleased together with, to approve together**

b. **to be pleased at the same time with, consent, agree to** 1 Corinthians 7:12 f

PLEASURE (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = NT:4909 *suneudokeo*, literally, "to think well with" (sun, "with," eu, "well," dokeo, "to think"), **to take pleasure with others in anything, to approve of, to assent...**

NOTE: In our world today, it is not enough for people to just commit sin; they also want everyone else to approve of their sins. Nonetheless, while we are directed to love the sinner, we must never approve of or allow ourselves to identify with the sin.

OTHER VERSES IN WHICH THE LORD CONDEMNS THOSE WHO TAKE PLEASURE IN THE SINS OF OTHERS:

Psalms 50:16-18

16 But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth?
17 Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee.
18 **When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers.**

Proverbs 2:12-14

12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh foward things;
13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;
14 **Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the fowardness of the wicked;**

Proverbs 28:4 **They that forsake the law praise the wicked:** but such as keep the law contend with them.

Isaiah 5:20-21

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

Micah 3:1-2

3 And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; Is it not for you to know judgment?
2 **Who hate the good, and love the evil;** who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones;

2 Timothy 3:1-5

3 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, **despisers of those that are good,**

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

NOTE: These verses should provoke much introspection and produce sincere and lasting repentance! It is quite obvious that whatever passes through the eyes and into the soul matters a great deal. Our eyes “instigate” and “feed” the mental imagery of our thoughts (fantasy or fantasizing), and then the soul must decide what to do about them.

The Lord God said that man has been given the ability to do all that he could “imagine” to do (Genesis 11:6). How well this explains the overwhelming allure of video games. Players can virtually (vicariously) “become” someone else and do things that they could not or would “never do” themselves (or so they tell themselves). “Sexting” and webcams enable *virtual* fornication that results in *actual* sin without the need to be physically joined, and participants come to think it is okay because “it’s all on the internet, so we’re not really doing anything bad.”

The “virtual” world “simulates” the real. The definition of “simulation” is:

1. IMITATION OR ENACTMENT, as of something anticipated or in testing.
2. THE ACT OR PROCESS OF PRETENDING; feigning.
3. an assumption or imitation of a particular appearance or form; counterfeit; sham.
4. THE REPRESENTATION OF THE BEHAVIOR OR CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE SYSTEM THROUGH THE USE OF ANOTHER SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY A COMPUTER PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE.

AN IMAGINATION FILLED WITH THE “PLEASURE” OF EVIL BRINGS THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD:

Genesis 6:3 And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Genesis 6:5-7

5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and **that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

6 And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the Lord said, **I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.**

NOTE: The Lord God caused a great flood to destroy the earth the first time because “...every imagination of the thoughts of [man’s] heart was only evil continually.” Well, that same observation could be made today, since it seems that “virtually” everything in the modern entertainment industry is designed to provoke unwholesome imaginations.

Some scenarios that appear "good" are presented in a constructed context that subtly introduces themes of perverse and salacious intent that imagination only intensifies. We are then tempted incognito through emotion to swallow the toxic evil interlaced with the bits and pieces that are good.

Today, we face greater temptation than ever before. Why is that? Because sinning has become easier than ever before! In times past, the majority of sins had to be committed publically by default, because the primary means to sin was through on-site human contact. All by itself, the public nature of sin was a deterrent to prevent many from sinning because they feared being caught.

But NOW, thanks to today’s technology, there is no sin that an individual cannot participate in by way of video, internet, video games, etc. — in a totally private setting. If the first time that the Lord destroyed the world was because human imaginations were evil “continually,” how much more

“continually” are evil imaginations participated in today, given the full extent of technology’s ability to supply stimuli to our fantasies 24 hours a day? Even TV used to stop broadcasting at midnight. Not anymore. The potential to sin vicariously NEVER sleeps! Is it any wonder the next time that the Lord destroys the world it will be by fire?

FELLOWSHIPPING WITH LIGHT OR DARKNESS?

Like every other generation, we must choose whether we will fellowship with light or with darkness. We will either choose to love the light and the things that belong to the light, OR we will choose to love the darkness and the things that belong to the darkness. However, the condemnation (judgment) of God is upon those who choose the darkness over the light.

John 3:16-21

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 **And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

20 **For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.**

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

NOTE: Light exposes our activities for what they are — good or bad. If I love the light and I have done or am doing wrong, then the light will allow me to see my acts as God sees them. Thus, I will repent. However, I will in no way be able to be saved if I stay in the darkness (even the shadows), because I will never see my thoughts, attitudes, and actions, etc. in God’s “light.” Therefore, I will never repent because “I see NO wrong.” THE BLIND AND IMPENITENT ARE GOING TO BE LOST.

LIVING IN THE LIGHT DOES NOT MEAN I WILL NEVER SIN. IT MEANS THAT THE LIGHT WILL ALWAYS REVEAL MY IMPROPER ACTIONS TO ME SO THAT I CAN CONFESS THEM AS WRONG (1 JOHN 1).

WE MUST COME OUT TO COME IN.

Through Paul's writings, we are admonished by the Holy Ghost to "come out" from among them AND "touch" not the unclean thing. The Father will "welcome" into His house those who make the choice to be set apart unto Him. The following verses could not possibly be clearer or more specific. And, neither could the conditions and promises of separation be more potently and emphatically stated.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18,7:1

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for **what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?** and **what communion hath light with darkness?**

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 **Wherfore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,**

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

7:1 **Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

SEPARATE (*STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY*) = # NT:873 *aphorizo*
(af-or-id'-zo); from NT:575 and NT:3724; **to set off by boundary, i.e. (figuratively) limit, exclude, appoint, etc.:**
KJV - divide, separate, sever.

NT #873 IS DERIVED FROM TWO GREEK WORDS — NT #575 and NT #3724:

(*STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY*) = # NT:575 *apo* (*apo'*); a primary particle; "off," i.e. **away** (from something near), in various senses (of place, time, or relation; literal or figurative):
KJV - (X here-) after, ago, at, because of, before, by (the space of), for (-th), from, in, (out) of, off, (up-) on (-ce), since, with. In composition (as a prefix) it usually denotes separation, departure, cessation, completion, reversal, etc.

AND:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # NT:3724 *horizo* (hor-id'-zo); from NT:3725; **to mark out or bound** ("horizon"), i.e. (figuratively) to appoint, decree, specify:

KJV - declare, determine, limit, ordain.

SEPARATE (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # NT:873 *aforizoo*; to mark off from (apo) others by boundaries, to limit, to separate:
Galatians 2:12

TOUCH (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # NT:680 *haptomai* (hap'-tom-ahee); reflexive of NT:681; properly, to attach oneself to, i.e. to touch (in many implied relations):
KJV - touch.

NT #680 IS DERIVED FROM NT #681:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # NT:681 *hapto* (hap'-to); a primary verb; **properly, to fasten to, i.e. (specially) to set on fire:**
KJV - kindle, light.

TOUCH (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # NT:680 *hapto*;
1. **properly, to fasten to, make adhere to; hence, specifically to fasten fire to a thing, to kindle, set on fire,** Luke 8:16
2. The middle voice, Mark 6:56
a. to touch, followed by the object in genitive Matthew 8:3
b. of carnal intercourse with a woman, or cohabitation, 1 Corinthians 7:1
c. with allusion to the Levitical precept 2 Corinthians 6:17
d. to touch i. e. assail: tinos, anyone, 1 John 5:18

TOUCH (COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY) = NT:680 *háptomai*; TO CONNECT, BIND. To apply oneself to, to touch. Refers to such handling of an object as to exert a modifying influence upon it or upon oneself.

RECEIVE (*STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY*) = # NT:1523 *eisdechomai* (ice-dekh'-om-ahee); from NT:1519 and NT:1209; **to take into one's favor:** KJV - receive.

#1523 IS DERIVED FROM TWO #1519 AND #1209:

(*STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY*) = # NT:1519 *eis* (ice); a primary preposition; **to or into (indicating the point reached or entered)**, of place, time, or (figuratively) purpose (result, etc.); also in adverbial phrases:...

AND:

(*STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY*) = # NT:1209 *dechomai* (dekh'-om-ahee); middle voice of a primary verb; **to receive** (in various applications, literally or figuratively):
KJV - accept, receive, take.

RECEIVE (*VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY*) = NT:1523 *eisdechomai*, "to receive into" (*eis*), is used only in 2 Corinthians 6:17, **where the verb does not signify "to accept," but "to admit"** (as antithetic to "come ye out," and combining Isaiah 52:11 with Zephaniah 3:20).

RECEIVE (*COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY*) = NT:1523 *eisdéchomai*; from *eis* (1519), into, and *déchomai* (1209), to receive. **To receive into favor or communion** (only in 2 Corinthians 6:17, "and I will gather you" [a.t.], quoted apparently from Jeremiah 32:37,38.

NOTE: The Greek words chosen by the Holy Ghost in this text eliminates ALL honest-hearted debate over the Father's expectations that His children BE different from the world, ACT different from the world, and LOVE those things that are the opposite of this world. If we love the world and the things of this world, then the love of the Father is not in us (1 John 2:15).

The Lord expects for there to be boundaries in our lives which "divide" us from the world. He expects that we will not attach ourselves to the world or allow the world to be attached to us. These are His conditions for us to be "received" or "admitted" into His fellowship AND to be counted by Him as His children.

Some do not believe that holiness ("being separated from the world and set apart unto God") is a salvation issue. But allow me to ask these questions:

Can a person be saved who is NOT approved of by God to the point that He refuses to “receive” them?

Can a person be saved who has not met the required conditions necessary to be considered by Him as one of His children?

The answer to these questions is a resounding NO!

IF ALL OF THE FACTS, SCRIPTURES, AND COMMENTARY PROVIDED ABOVE ARE TRUE, THEN WE MUST SUBMIT TO THE HOLY GHOST SO THAT HE CAN SET UP BOUNDARIES IN OUR LIVES BETWEEN US AND THE WORLD.

THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACE FOR THIS SEPARATION TO BEGIN IS IN HOW WE USE OUR EYES!

All of the above clearly identifies both the power and the weakness of our eyes! TAKE HEED!

Deuteronomy 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen [THE GOOD THINGS OF GOD], and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Deuteronomy 4:23 Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image [SOMETHING THAT CAN BE SEEN], or the likeness of any thing, which the Lord thy God hath forbidden thee.

Luke 11:34-36

34 The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.

35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

36 If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness [WHAT WE SEE AND THEN DESIRE]: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he posseseth.

STEVE RHOADS CONTRIBUTED THE FOLLOWING:

In Deuteronomy 7:16 and 25, 26, God gave Israel specific instructions for entering the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 7:16, 25,26 (New Living Translation)

16. You must destroy all the nations the Lord your God hands over to you. Show them no mercy, and do not worship their gods, or they will trap you.
25. "You must burn their idols in fire, and you must not covet the silver or gold that covers them. You must not take it or it will become a trap to you, for it is detestable to the Lord your God.
26. **Do not bring any detestable objects into your home, for then you will be destroyed, just like them. You must utterly detest such things, for they are set apart for destruction.**

NOTE: Idols were objects to look upon, not merely "believe" in. Israel's problem was that they wanted a god that they could SEE. How can we destroy the enemy and possess the Promised Land when we keep the adversary alive on life-support? We keep the enemy alive as a trophy. We may THINK that we have control, but when we keep him alive in our own house, in our own mind, he has control over us. We give him influence. Just as Israel rose up and became a mighty people in Egypt, so will the spirits of this world in our own lives when we allow their influence in us to live!

THE ROAD TO HEAVEN OR HELL IS DETERMINED BY HOW WE USE OUR EYES:

(Please consider the following written by Bruce Ellenberger)

Light clusters (photons) enter the eye and are transformed into electrical impulses by the retina and carried by the optic nerve to a small area in the posterior of the brain, where the impulses are registered as an image. From there it interfaces with various neurological clusters that give meaning to the image. Not only is the image itself defined, but the context, associative experiences, related information, and previous responses are fused to that specific image. The previous information stored in the brain translates, interprets, and categorizes the image. This is the most significant factor in the *physical/natural* side of the building of spiritual strongholds. I am a firm believer that temptation occurs between an instance of exposure to the environment (from any of the five senses) and the moments after the neurological interfaces occur, resulting in that sudden feeling of being “taken” by temptation. This is the point of **“soul interface”** as well.

Once neurologically formed, the **memories alone** can open us up to a wide variety of things **directly or indirectly related** to the original image, **whether or not we sinned in the initial instance**. The original image is unnecessary, only something even remotely related to it can trigger the mechanisms of temptation. This is why even a small amount of pornography is more damaging to us than many will ever imagine. This is also why knowledge of scripture is so important to resisting temptation, because specific scriptures will also selectively interface with the related image. The soul of course does the choosing, which becomes harder when justifications, feelings of fleshly gratification, and delayed consequences add strength to the resulting stronghold.

It is the repeated surrender of the soul unto the “conception” (James 1:15) of the same or like sins that makes the stronghold **both** Spiritual and physical. Then, only God and God alone can “pull down” the stronghold.