

Christian Growth

Be aware of what stunts your growth in the Lord

There are 3 areas from the world that are pulling you away from walking by faith with the Lord. There are also 3 enemies that are pulling against you. Let's look at what they are and understand what we are up against. The bible makes it clear what these things are.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2: 15-16



3 areas from the world that pull your attention off what God wants for your growth:

1. **Lust of the flesh** –excessively and inappropriately craving something, wanting something out of harmony with God's will, Can lead to sexual sin or risky behavior, desire to do something apart from God's will, usually involves your body.
2. **Lust of the eyes** – using your imagination/thoughts outside of God's purposes. Can lead to materialism, possessions. desire to have something outside of God's will. Involves your mind, intellect.
3. **Pride of Life** – bringing attention to self, being in control of people and circumstances. Can lead to arrogance, status symbols, desire to be something apart from the will of God , involves your spirit or "heart".



The 3 Enemies that have a pull on you and want to stunt your growth. The source of what can stunt your growth:

1. **The world** – in the context we are using it, this is the "world system" which is manipulated by Satan and unbelievers, it promotes the idea of "I can be happy without God"
2. **The flesh** – your sinful human nature inside of you that wants to put you first and does not care about God or others , it tells you to get what YOU want and you will be happy
3. **The devil/Satan** – the fallen angel who hates God and hates believers, he wants to discourage, distract, depress you, he lies and deceives you and may pretend to be a good angel who cares about you to trick you, but you can tell he is not a good angel because he will try to get you to disobey God's word.

