



## **Outer Growth - Flesh vs Spirit 1 (the battle outside)**

**So then they that are in the flesh  
cannot please God** *Romans 8:8*

**Forces** - Ephesians 6:12

**Life** - Job 5: 7,14:1

**Eyes** - Matthew 7:4, Luke 11:34

**Sin** - Psalms 51:5, 1 John 3:4

**Hindrance** - Job 3:26, Romans 16:17

The people that live according to sinful nature will not be able to please God. This includes those that accept Jesus Christ yet their lifestyle and preferences are carnal. To be 'in the flesh' is to be preoccupied with its desires, emotions, thoughts, and physical pleasures. This may involve adultery, hatred, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, and sexual immorality. Since God is the opposite of these things, how could it be possible for a person living in carnality please God?

*Forces are spiritual forces of evil that energize the ungodly carnally to oppose the will of God. Therefore, a fleshly believer will not be able to withstand the pressure of the enemy. Satan knows if an individual is living by carnal means because sin attracts one another, darkness blends together. The problem with a carnal believer is even though the desire to do good initially is there, sustaining fulfillment will be difficult because the battle of overcoming the demonic forces that control the body will*

*cause its members to yield. There is no opposing power of protection to stop that force of sinful activity.*

Everyone that enters this life is born in sin. The moment the person comes into existence, the enemy is watching and waiting until they reach maturity to know good and evil. The devil precedes to entice the young person to find out their desires and dislikes and use these things as a weapon to counter whatever godly nature they may discover in their future.

*The eyes are the window of the soul. The obstacle for many believers in society today is to determine which Christians are real and not. If a believer is not deep in God, it is like the blind leading the blind and eventually will fall into the trap. To avoid these pitfalls is to know God for ourselves while abiding by His Word. The fellow Christian or believer should have the presence of God with them that causes us to be conscious of our ways and influences us to live godly and not ungodly. Satan will use pretenders to pull down other believers that are a threat to his plan.*

All of us possess a natural tendency to sin that is often referred to as lust or works of the flesh. Due to this sinful nature, every person is marred from birth by a selfish propensity to pursue his or her desires and pleasures, even if it causes pain and suffering to others. Satan is responsible for this because where sin is, there he will dwell.

*We as believers can create barriers by the choices we make, things we do, or get involved in. For example, if a believer listens to music that satisfies the flesh and not God, they are compromising with the world which is sin. This will give the enemy the legal right to hinder the lives of believers and their godly intentions because we give him a place to do so. Submit to God to win the battle.*