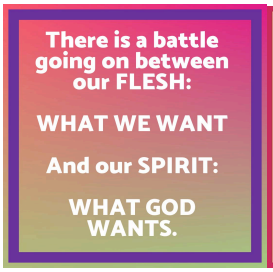


Dr. George Sweeting recalls this story - "Several years ago our family visited Niagara Falls. It was spring, and ice was rushing down the river.

As I viewed the large blocks of ice flowing toward the falls, I could see that there were carcasses of dead fish embedded in the ice.

Gulls by the score were riding down the river feeding on the fish. As they came to the brink of the falls, their wings would go out, and they would escape from the falls.

"I watched one gull which seemed to delay and wondered when it would leave. It was engrossed in the carcass of a fish, and when it finally came to the brink of the falls, out went its powerful wings.

The bird flapped and flapped and even lifted the ice slightly out of the water, and I thought it would escape.

But it had delayed too long so that its claws had frozen into the ice. The weight of the ice was too great, and the gull plunged into the abyss."

"The finest attractions of this world become deadly when we become overly attached to them. They may take us to our destruction if we cannot give them up." And as Sweeting observed, "Oh, the danger of delay!"

Genesis 19:27 Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD.

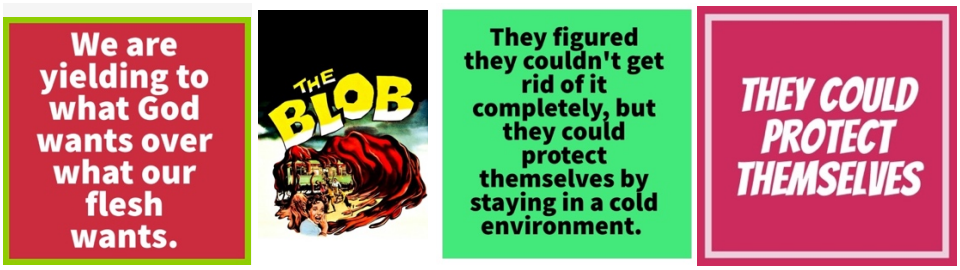
28 He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

Galatians 5:17 (ESV)
17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

John 3:6 "that which is born of the flesh is flesh."

John 3:6 (NKJV)
6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Galatians 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.



Romans 13:14 (NKJV)
14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

The word for "provision" in the original language carries the idea of "thinking about what you will do in the event of something happening."

If we think about pleasing our flesh, we furnish the fuel to make it happen. I

It's as though our thoughts gather the necessary provisions to move forward and act upon our lustful desires. Thus, "make no provision for the flesh" could be translated "do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh", "don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires", or "forget about satisfying the desires of your sinful nature"

Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Genesis 20:1 Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar,

Genesis 20 (NIV84)
2 and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

Genesis 20:11 Abraham replied, "I said to myself, 'There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.'

3. But God

Genesis 8:1
But God **remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.**

Genesis 50:20
You intended to harm me, *but God* intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

1 Samuel 23:14
David stayed in the desert strongholds and in the hills of

the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, *but God* did not give David into his hands.

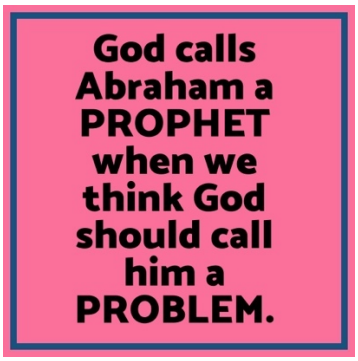
Matthew 19:26
Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, *but with God* all things are possible.

Acts 3:15
You killed the author of life, *but God* raised him from the dead.

Genesis 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman."
4 Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation?
5 Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands."

Genesis 20:6 (ESV)
6 Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against Me. Therefore I did not let you touch her.

7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet,



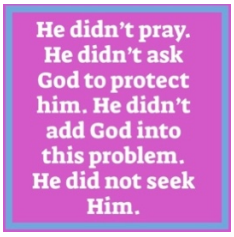
**7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet,
and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die."**

8 Early the next morning Abimelech summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid.

9 Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said, "What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should not be done."

Romans 6:1–2 (ESV)
1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?
2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Genesis 20:10 And Abimelech asked Abraham, "What was your reason for doing this?"
11 Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, 'There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.'



12 Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. 13 And when God had me wander from my father's household, I said to her, 'This is how you can show your love to me: everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother." ' "

Sarai – "will you take me as your lawfully wedded husband to have and to hold from this day forward for better for worse for richer or poorer in sickness and in health and wherever we go if I'm in trouble say you're my sister "

Hebrews 2:1 (ESV)
1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Abraham should have said: `Forgive me, Abimelech, for dishonoring both you and my God. My selfish cowardice overwhelmed me, and I denied my God by fearing that He who called me could not take care of me. He is not as your gods of wood and stone. He is the God of glory. He is the living God, the Creator, the most High God, possessor of heaven and earth. He told me He would be my shield and my exceeding great reward, and supplier of all my needs… In sinning against Him, I sinned against you. Forgive me, Abimelech.'" (Barnhouse)

14 Then Abimelech brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him.
15 And Abimelech said, "My land is before you; live wherever you like."
16 To Sarah he said, "I am giving your brother a thousand shekels of silver. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated."
17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls so they could have children again,
18 for the LORD had closed up every womb in Abimelech's household because of Abraham's wife Sarah.