

Genesis 3

Your Name: _____

Genesis 3:4-6: Physical before Spiritual.

"You will not surely die" the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be open and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Eve had listened to the devil's deceptive lies long enough. She now decided to take a look for herself. It sounded good, she would become like God! By now she had completely lost her faith.... she believed God was lying and the devil was telling the truth! She wanted knowledge that God had said she shouldn't have!

Knowledge & Wisdom.

Knowledge isn't wrong itself, providing it is based on Wisdom. Look at

Proverbs 8. Write down some of the things it says about wisdom and understanding/knowledge (see especially **verses 1, 5, 8-11, 12-14**).

So what was wrong about the knowledge the serpent was offering?

If you can't get the answer from Proverbs 8, try **Romans 1: 21-23.**

Fallen Over

When you fall, you can land upside down. We were designed to be Spirit first, and Body (physical) last. To be guided by our spiritual appetite, not our physical. From the moment of the fall, we have been guided by the physical senses, not the spiritual. What I see, what I touch, what I want; not what God says, what God promises, what God commands.

There are lots of occasions in the Bible where people's sins are recorded. In all cases it starts with them putting their physical desires first. Look up some of these and see

Genesis 3

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where they started to go wrong: was it something they desired, something they were scared might happen to them physically, or what?

David: **2 Samuel 11:2**

Achan: **Joshua 7:20,21**

Peter: **Luke 22: 54-62**

But others in the Bible are recorded as having learnt how to live spirit-first lives, and not put the physical first. How were the following tempted, and how did they react?

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego: **Daniel 3: 13-18**

Peter: **Acts 8: 18-20**

A Matter of Life and Death

“You will not surely die” said the serpent. But life is based on the Spiritual, not on the Physical.

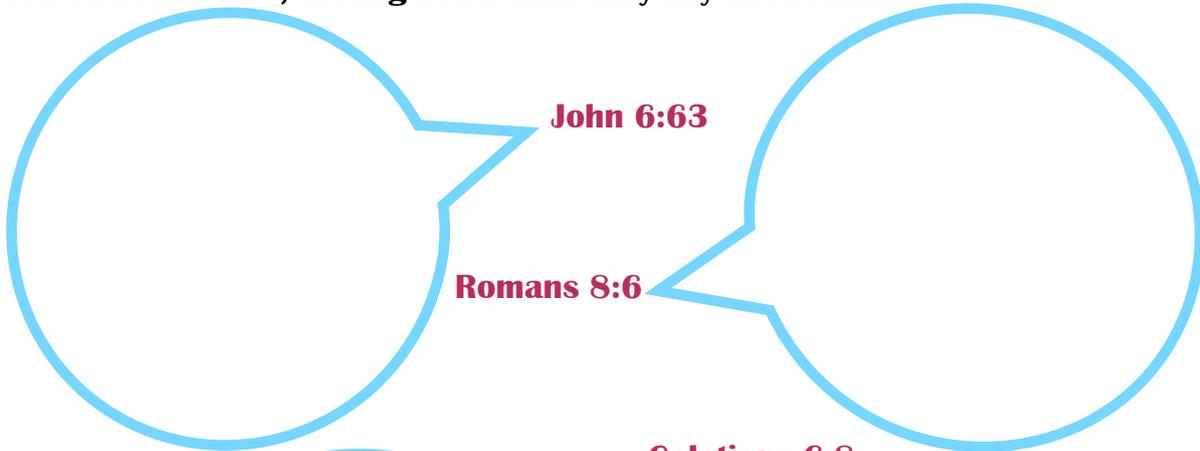
Where does life come from?

Acts 3:15

Genesis 3

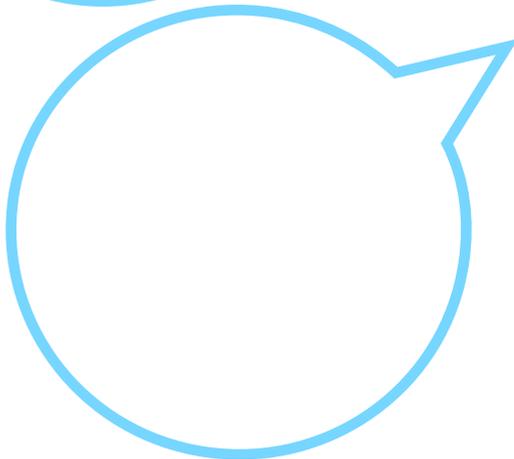
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So if you turn your back on Him.....you're turning your back on life too! Look up these verses as well, writing down what they say about this:



John 6:63

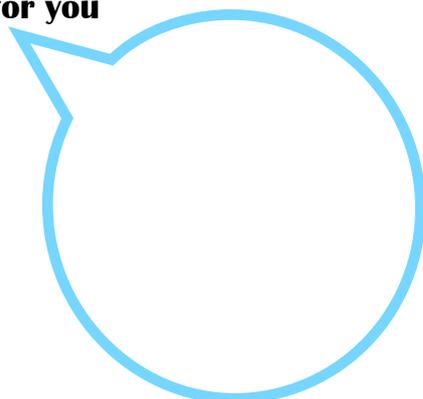
Romans 8:6



Galatians 6:8

Think of some way in which you know you are influenced more by your physical desires or circumstances than by your spiritual relationship with God.

You might not want to write it down incase others see it, but either write a 'code word' or draw something to remind you what you see as a problem for you



Sidelight

Some people go to tremendous lengths to defeat the physical passions in their lives.

History is full of the stories of monks, nuns and hermits who have separated themselves from all forms of temptations and lived secluded lives.

Is it necessary to go to such extremes?

Others have been so ashamed of the sins that they are tempted by that they can never bring themselves to talk about them. They often then end up very miserable or, worse, committing terrible acts because after years of suppressing their sin it all 'breaks out'. This is a terrible tragedy because God wants us to help each other.....see **James 5:16**.

Do you have a Christian friend you can share deep and secret things with?

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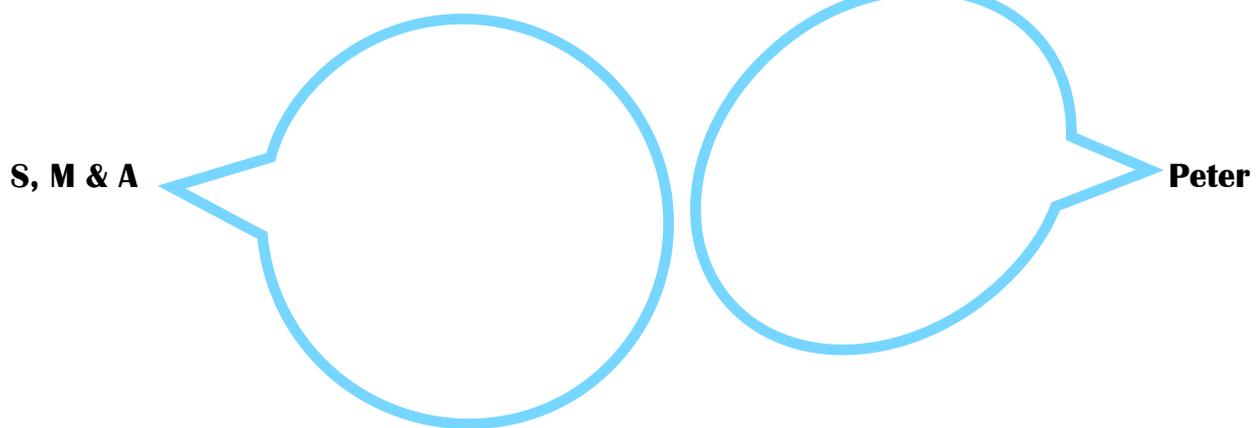
Aim to make a change in your life about this problem by:

- praying for God's help
- setting targets for change
- talking about it with someone you can trust and asking them to pray for you too.

Remember the first two studies in this series:

if you know God's Word you are better able to defeat temptation.

Look back at the passages we read earlier about Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Peter. How did they use God's Word to defeat the temptation?



Also remember the last study about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. How did He use God's Word to defeat Satan?

