

Our world is attracted and drowned into the lusts of the flesh, to the point that people can't discern between right and wrong.

How does the Word of God identify those worldly lusts?

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

1 Timothy 6:9-10, "Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil."

As such:

Colossians 3:6, "Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience."

Therefore:

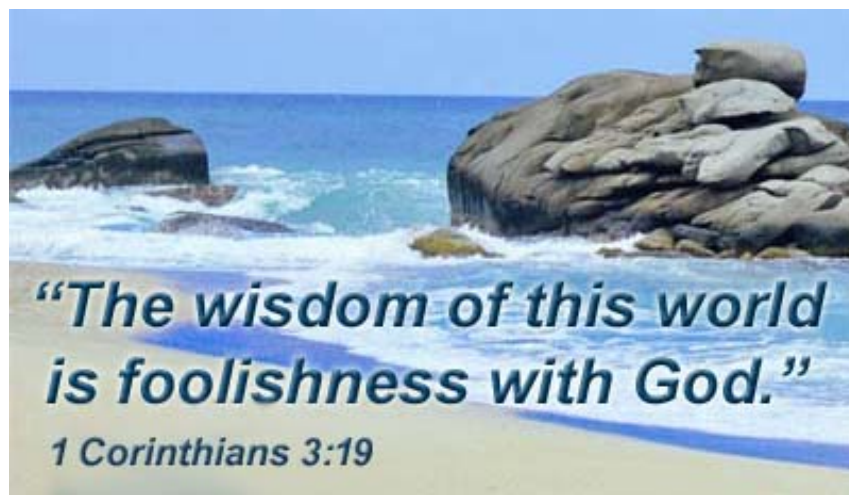
Colossians 3:5, "Put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."

Galatians 5:16-17, "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."

Is my heart surrendered to God, so I reject the lusts of the world?

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How does the foolishness of the world compare to the wisdom of God?  
1 Corinthians 1:18, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Proverbs 15:14, "The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness."

As such the apostle Paul said:

1 Corinthians 2:13-14, "These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

As for God:

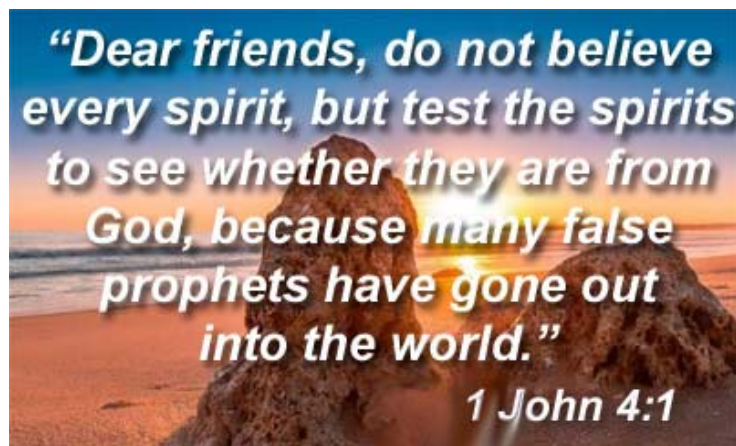
Romans 1:20, "His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

Therefore:

1 Timothy 6:20, "Guard what God has entrusted to you. Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge."

Where do I stand here?

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What are the warnings we must heed so as to avoid the deceptions of the world?

1 Timothy 4:1-2, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron."

What's more?

James 1:15, "Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."

As such:

Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

Why?

James 4:4, "Don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."

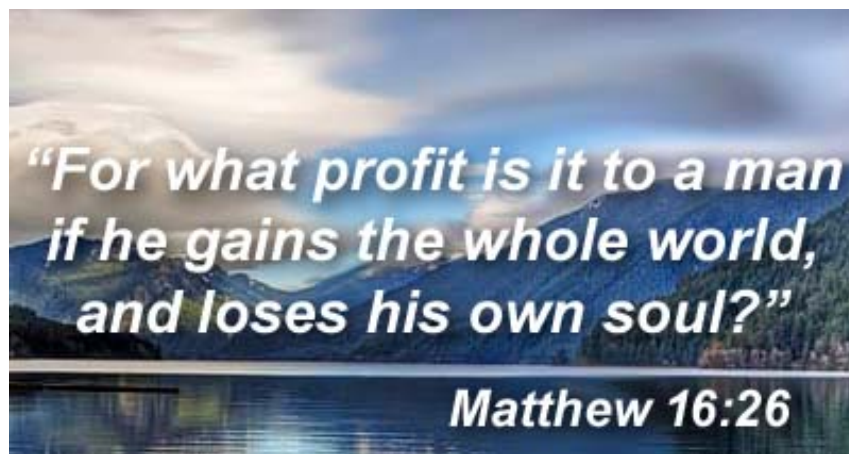
2 Corinthians 4:3-4, "Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

Therefore:

Matthew 24:42, "Watch, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

How watchful am I?

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Why must we avoid the deceptions of the world?

Romans 8:7, "Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

As such:

Mark 7:20-23, "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."

What's more?

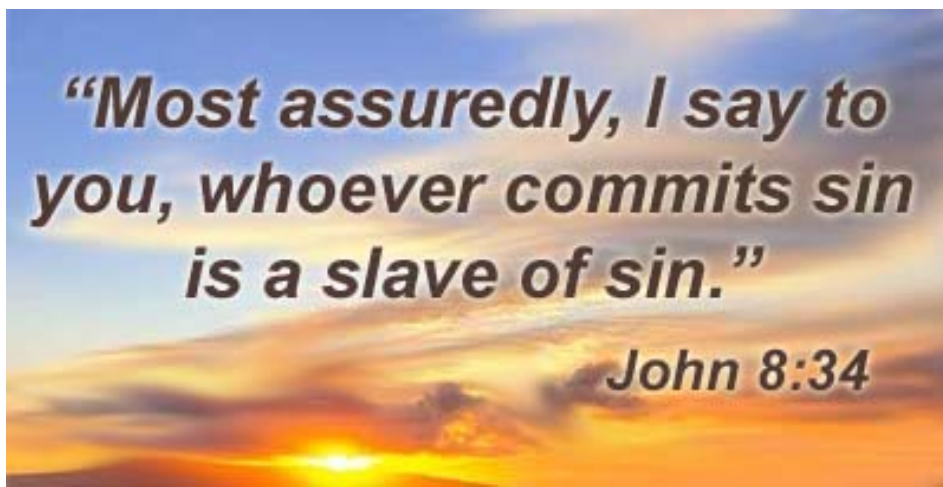
2 Corinthians 11:3, "I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Therefore:

1 John 2:15-17, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

Galatians 6:7, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

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What does following the lusts and foolishness of the world produce in a person's life?

Romans 1:18-19, "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them."

Romans 1:24-25, "God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever."

What's more?

2 Peter 3:10, "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

Therefore:

2 Peter 3:11, "Since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of *persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness."

As such:

Ephesians 4:24, "Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

2 Peter 3:13, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

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How must we stay alert to avoid the deceptions and temptations of the world?

Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Titus 2:12, "Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

Colossians 2:18, "Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility."

Why?

2 Corinthians 10:4-5, "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

As such Jesus said:

John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

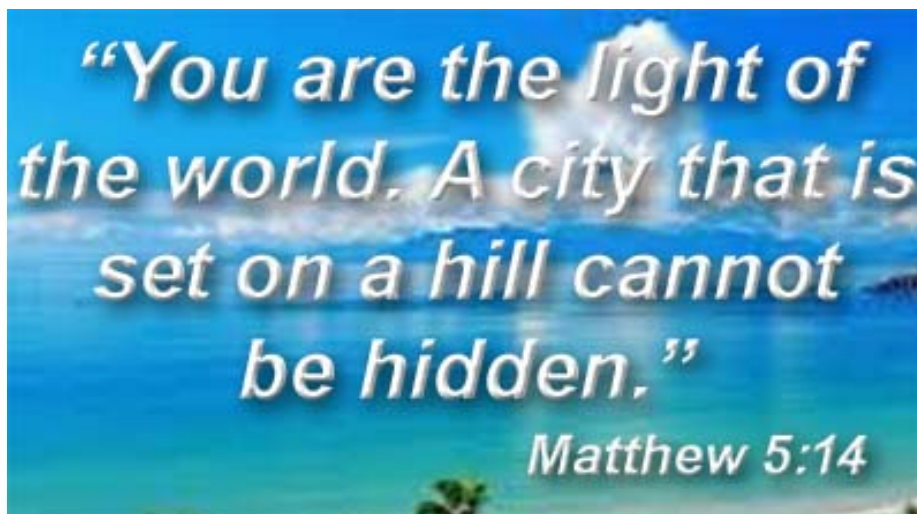
Luke 21:36, "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

John 8:31-32, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Therefore:

James 4:7, "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

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As true believers in Christ, what is our mission to the world, so as to shine the Light of Christ through our life?

Psalm 1:1-3, “Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”

Why?

1 Corinthians 4:20, “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.”

As such:

Romans 8:38-39, “I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 John 4:17, “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.”

Therefore:

1 Corinthians 2:13, “These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

How bright does the light of Christ shine in my life right now?

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