

**Definition of Temptation:** An enticement presented to lead one into sin against God. To understand the nature of temptation let us focus on the desires we turn into lust that tempt us.

- I. **The Definition of the Spiritual Heart:** The immaterial aspect of mankind consisting of all that is within the mind, will and affections (Proverbs 4:23, Proverbs 3:5).
  - A. We have been designed with a **mind** which involves our thoughts, beliefs, understanding, memory, judgment, imaginations, discernment and conscience (Genesis 6:5, Deuteronomy 8:2,5,17, 15:9, 32:46, 1 Kings 3:9,12, Psalm 73:7, 1 John 3:20-21).
  - B. We have been designed with **affections** which involves our desires, and feelings/emotions. (Ruth 3:7, 1 Samuel 1:8, Psalm 20:4, 37:4, James 3:14).
  - C. We have been designed with a **will** which involves our ability to choose and determine action (Deuteronomy 30:19, Exodus 25:2, 35:22, Ecclesiastes 10:2).
  - D. Our **mind**, **affections**, and **will**, are the sum total of what we call the immaterial part of man (non-physical), also known as the heart (Proverbs 4:23).
  
- II. **The Dynamics of the Heart:** The heart is the control center that determines our words, actions, pursuits, relationship patterns and service, as well as the interpretation of our experiences. (Proverbs 4:23, Proverbs 21:2)
  - A. The heart determines our **character** (Proverbs 23:7, 27:19).
  - B. The heart determines our **conduct** (Luke 6:45).
  - C. The heart determines our **conversations** (Luke 6:45).
  - D. The heart determines our **communion**, commitments, cares, and concerns (Proverbs 23:7).

**III. The Definition of the Flesh:** Sin that indwells the heart of man and propels man to practice evil in thoughts, desires, words and actions (Romans 7:17-23, Galatians 5:19-21, Romans 8:5-8).

- A. The flesh leads us to be preoccupied with self, resulting in being devilish with others and distant from God (James 3:13-16).
- B. The flesh leads us to resist obedience to God (Romans 8:7).
- C. The flesh puts us in a position where we cannot please God (Romans 8:7).
- D. The flesh leads us to death (Romans 8:6).

**IV. The Dynamics of the Flesh:** This indwelling sin leads us into Self-Rule, Self-Righteousness, and Self-Indulgence (Romans 8:7, Philippians 3:3-5, Ephesians 2:3).

- A. Self-Rule – the preoccupation with independence and autonomy (Romans 8:7).
- B. Self-Righteousness – the preoccupation with one’s own ability or standard to make oneself right with God or his own standard of right (Philippians 3:3-5, Jeremiah 17:5).
- C. Self-indulgence – the preoccupation with whatever pleases you above love for God and love for others (Ephesians 2:3).
- D. In summary, indwelling sin keeps us focused on self (Romans 8:5-8).

**Key Point:** The flesh (indwelling sin) wages war within the heart of man seeking to lead him down a path of destruction. Temptations have their origin from this battle within.