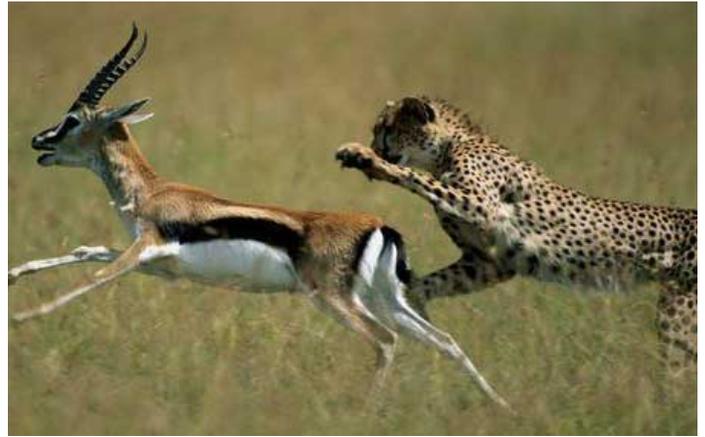


*"Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts (thoughts): for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:8 KJV*



The cacophony of temptation in today's world makes it a priority to establish our thoughts firmly in God's Word. "By grace are ye saved, **THROUGH FAITH**, and that, not of yourselves; it is the **GIFT** of God. Faith cometh by hearing...the Word of God. Be ye **DOERS OF THE WORD** and not hearers only." Faith is a gift from God via His Word. Obedience to God's Word is the evidence of faith, and faith is the evidence of God!

James was convinced "*the coming of the Lord draweth nigh*" nearly two thousand years ago! In Noah's day God's Word tells us that "*EVERY imagination...was only evil CONTINUALLY.*" Evil denies, ignores, or contradicts God's Word. Jesus said, "*As it was in the days of [Noah] were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*" We live in "days of continual evil!" Evil comes from the "*fiery darts*" of Satan, evil thoughts which constantly weave tapestries of temptation; luring men to rebel against God; putting them at enmity with Him who will destroy them unless they repent (obey)! Have you ever marveled at the number of food commercials on TV? How much food do we really NEED? We're all guilty of over-indulging! If the danger to faith is not readily apparent, stop to think; addiction is not created by one lapse, but by the "habit" of lapsing which traps the sinner in the throes of addiction! We must "*FLEE youthful lusts! (because your life depends on it)*" Indulging one lust makes it easier to indulge others. Sin is disobeying God's Word. "Appetite/lust control" is entirely dependent on obeying God. "*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*" FAITH may be unimportant to you, because present pleasure is more important than the risk of eternal damnation, but... you will remember, forever, in the Lake of Fire; **YOUR TORMENT IS YOUR OWN FAULT!** Strengthen faith with constant thought in God's Word "*for without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God. The coming of the LORD DRAWETH NIGH.*" We may not have tomorrow!

Flee temptation's deadly allure,  
And let God's Word keep, make you pure,  
Our Lord will soon return to reign,  
Forever gone our tears and pain. ~CGP

Gold is heated repeatedly to purify it. The purer the gold the more valuable. Christ instructs the Church, "*Buy of me gold.*" We earn or deserve wages. "*The wages of sin is death!*" Faith is the gold of Heaven. "*Your faith [is] more precious than...gold that perisheth.*" It is not earned, but is the "*Gift of God; not of works lest ANY man should boast.*" The greater your trial the more valuable your faith! "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God. Stablish your heart.*" Jesus is God's Word, the Door, the Good Shepherd. He said, "*My sheep hear my Voice and they follow (obey) me.*" His Voice is God's Word in your thoughts. Jesus says:

*"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent (obey). Behold, I stand at the Door (God's Word), and knock: if any man hear my Voice, and open the Door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:18-20 KJV*