

Him more glory and in turn receive more fulfillment.

However, if the balance and harmony between our spiritual and physical natures is distorted, then our whole life gets thrown out of kilter. Because this is a physical world which is completely new to us, we all have issues with learning how to achieve this unity and harmony.

Naturally, our physical appetites have great power over our whole dual-natured being. But, if we let our physical cravings control our behavior, we devolve into beasts. Left unchecked, our appetites will dominate our spirit and stunt our growth and development. As our physical appetites occupy more of our thoughts and actions, they displace other aspects of a whole person and distract us from realizing our full potential.

Many years ago I worked in the insurance industry. One phrase that caught my interest was the term “friendly fire” which is used to distinguish between fires that are covered by insurance and those that are not. Fires that remain contained within the boundaries we intend, such as fireplaces, stoves, and barbecues, provide comfort and benefit to man. In fact, controlling fire is regarded as the most important and useful advancement in human history. Hence, these fires are referred to as “friendly fires.”⁴⁹

However, fires that exceed the borders set for them become destructive and cause devastation and misery. Consequently, these are “hostile” or “unfriendly fires.” The damage may be minor, such as to wallpaper in a kitchen. However, any unfriendly fire left unrestrained will cause more extensive damage, not only to the property where the fire originated, but often will threaten adjoining properties as well.

Last summer, Southern California was devastated by

wildfires. My sister and her family evacuated their home, along with almost one million other residents, to avoid the threat of personal harm posed by the fires that were out of control. Even though her home was fortunately spared, their lives were still thrown into upheaval due to this tragedy.

Likewise, passions and emotions are integral to and enhance a healthy, well balanced life. However, lust for power, sex, fame or fortune harms the individual and may destroy his life. Unrestrained passion invariably impacts the lives of those closest to us, with more far-reaching effect than we realize and for generations to come.

Lust for power invariably is associated with a hot temper. Unkind words spoken in anger have probably caused more heartache and sorrow than all of the wars the world has ever known. Lust for power and control is actually evidence of that individual's lack of self-control and of unresolved personal emotional issues.

God wants us to be independent and have power to act and make our own decisions.⁵⁰ The closer we get to God, the more self-control we obtain with its corresponding independence. Consequently, a desire for independence is God inspired; yet, if not contained, it becomes counterproductive and can lead to a loss of self-control and destroy personal relationships.

Anger in all its forms, including passive-aggressive behavior, is a sure sign that our God-inspired quest for power over our life has exceeded the healthy limits God has set and has become an 'unfriendly fire.'

There is probably nothing more physically and emotionally fulfilling than intimate sexual relations with one's spouse. The harmony between our physical and spiritual natures that is realized in the mutual giving and receiving