

Pornography

While I claimed Christ in middle school—as did almost everyone I knew—I had no true love for God through his son, Jesus Christ. Be assured that I attended church regularly, was polite to those in authority over me, did well in school, and even administered a Christian Facebook page. My life, however, was a testament to what the psalmist claimed, “[F]or vain is the salvation of man.” I was overcome with an insidious compulsion to regularly watch graphic pornography and to lust in my mind and actions. I was enslaved to sexual sin.

I knew that my thoughts and actions were sin and thereby condemned by God, but I did not care. The fleeting pleasures of sexual sin kept winning the day in my life. It seemed like I would always fall to the temptation as opposed to choosing the joy of holiness.

Nevertheless, “with God all things are possible.” After about a year of walking in this destructive and fleeting delight, a man presented me with the reality of my sin. He showed me that if I lived in sin, I did not live in Christ. At once the Holy Spirit revealed to me the weight of my sin and with great sorrow I realized my lowly estate before the Holy God of the universe. I then began to earnestly pray and ask God to forgive me of the sin that I had clung to and take it away from me. Immediately a joy and fortitude to obey from the Holy Spirit entered my soul. For I had now truly believed in the saving work of Jesus - the perfect life, the sacrificial death, and the glorious resurrection of the Lord of Lords, Jesus! My life after that day has never been the same. I was baptized weeks later and for the next year and a half the Spirit patiently guided me out of my sin of watching pornography and masturbation. Because Christ dwelt in me, I could no longer be a slave to sin.

As I recently reflected on God’s saving me, I was compelled to write this in my journal and I want to share it with you:

“When dead in my sin at age thirteen I was enslaved to pornography and masturbation—all filled with lust... I had no taste for the sweet honey that Christ offers, only the numbing desire for the cocaine of destructive pleasure in transgression. But oh! To the cross you nailed these, dear Father and King Jesus, you defeated sin and death! That night in the spring of 2011, your Holy Spirit pierced my heart. You raised this worm of a man to true life. Hallelujah! My new heart of flesh sings to you my God! May I sing ‘til my last breath and then sing, sing, sing forever!”

I do not want you to think that the complete abstinence from pornography and masturbation came instantaneously at my conversion. However, it was then that I began to make war on my sin and flee this sexual immorality. At times I perceived that I was standing strong, but was tempted, and fell back into sin. Nevertheless, I now cherish the truth that, “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” The times I fell I confessed, and did not look toward what was behind, rather to what was ahead—the call of Christ heavenward.

Because of this Spirit-empowered fighting, I can say today, praise be to the Father in heaven through whose grace I have not watched pornography or masturbated for seven years! He has given me complete freedom from this and has equipped me to fight it every day with the promises of his word. I tell this story so that you may know that there is complete freedom from sin in the Lord Jesus! Taste the sweetest of joys in God and sin will look to you what it really is, vile poison.

I want you to hear this from me and know that through Christ it can be the same for you. You may feel like you’ll never be free of this sin in your life. But that’s a lie from the devil. Romans 6:6-7 makes it

clear that we are free and that we should live as free from sin. Seek the Lord, see Jesus as better, flee lusts, love God, petition Him in this area, and see Him strengthen you!

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