

## **Pornography**

While I claimed Christ in middle school I had no true love for God in my heart. Be assured that I attended church regularly, was polite to those in authority over me, did well in school, and even led in Christian organizations. My life, however, was a testament to what the psalmist claimed, “vain is the salvation of man” because I was essentially trying to save myself through my works. But I had a hidden sin no one else knew of, I was overcome with an insidious compulsion to regularly watch graphic pornography and lust in my mind and actions. I was enslaved to sexual sin.

Although I knew that my thoughts and actions were depraved and condemned by God, I did not care. For as many of you know from past and on-going experience, when the mind and spirit of a person are captivated by the instant pleasures of sexual sin there is almost nothing that can convince him/her to choose the joy of holiness over the momentary euphoria of sexual sin, especially when the heat of temptation is high.

Nevertheless, “with God all things are possible.” After far too long of walking steadfastly in such sin and in my delusion that such fleeting delights would bring any real satisfaction, I was presented with the reality of my sin. I saw that if I lived in sin, I did not live in Christ. At once the Holy Spirit revealed to me the immense guilt on my record before God 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 loved so dearly and to take it away from me. Immediately a joy and fortitude to obey from the Holy Spirit entered my soul. I had now truly believed in 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 of the Father patiently guided me out of my addiction to pornography and masturbation. Because Christ dwelt in me, I was no longer a slave to sin.

However, I do not want you to think that abstinence from pornography and masturbation came instantaneously at my conversion. Rather, it was then that I began to make war on my sin and strive daily to flee this sexual immorality. At times I perceived that I was standing strong, neglected to protect against temptation, and lamentably fell back into sin. This went on more times than I can recount. Nevertheless, I now cherished the truth that, “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). The times I fell I confessed, and did not look to what was behind (Phil 3:13-14), rather to what was ahead—the call of Christ heavenward. I fought in this manner for quite a while. I fought through prayer and through Scripture reading and memorization - “How does a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to your Word” (Psalm 119:9). I fought alongside other brothers in Christ who had been through similar struggles and were there to help strengthen me (Romans 15:1).

Because of this Spirit-empowered fighting, I can say, praise be to the Father in heaven through whose grace I have not fallen to this sin for many years now! He has given me freedom through Christ and strengthen me over this temptation 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! You might be in a season right now where it feels like you will never get

free of it, but that is another lie from the enemy. Galatians 5:1 and Romans 6:6-7 are clear that we are freed from slavery to sin. We must believe that and live in the beautiful promise of it.

*If you would like to reach out to talk with someone, please send a message to [strugglewell@allthingsministries.com](mailto:strugglewell@allthingsministries.com)*

*This account is only accessed by our full time staff at All Things Ministries. Our staff has a combined experience of walking with college students through issues like this for well over 20 years. They look forward to either walking through this with you to help you “struggle well” in it or connecting you to someone with greater experience than themselves in the specific area you are struggling with. They will not connect you to anyone else or share any of your information without your direct consent.*