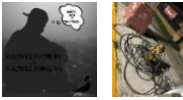


Porn is Not Our Only Problem. <https://wp.me/p7jDK1-9Wp>



If there is one thing we have ingrained in us who have been raised in America is that if we want something done we want it done quickly and without a lot of effort. The easier and faster we can make things happen the more we like it.

In 1970 the number of fast-food restaurants was about 60,000. Today that total is 204,555...an increase of 340%. As much as I like a fresh brewed cup of coffee I have lowered my standard to Starbucks Instant coffee to save time.

However, most things that take time to create have a greater value. For example, I could paint the entire interior of my house...walls and ceilings in about a week at most. Michelangelo took 4 years to paint the 12,000 square feet of the Sistine chapel. And believe me there is nobody coming to my door and asking if they could see my paint job.

Now let's use this measure of thinking to consider how long will it take me to stop looking at porn? I know we all want it fast and easy...and we all by now should know that it is not fast and will not be easy. It is not do these 5 things and in 3 months you will be free from your sexual addiction. That is what I call the Zap Trap where you want God to Zap you into purity so that you can be about the other parts of your life.

Now let's think about this for a moment. Recovery is a long and gradual process. It takes a lot of time, and it will only be completely finished the day we step into heaven. I know...some people claim that God has healed them instantly or in a short period of time. I am not going to doubt their word because I know with God all things are possible.

Yet, what I also know is that these three factors are present in every person's life until they enter heaven.

1. We all have an internal enemy called our sin nature or flesh still within our bodies. We are new creations in Christ once we are born again but just like Paul and James teach us there is this internal force of sinful desires still in us until our earthly body dies. And it will manifest itself through evil desires whether they are sexual or not.

2. We all have an external enemy who is satan and his demons who tell us lies about ourselves, others, and even God. Their job is to help satan do what Jesus said the devil would do and that is to steal, kill, and destroy. What has he stolen and destroyed in your life?

3. We are all living behind enemy lines. Not only is porn available almost anywhere and at almost any time...there are other addictions and temptations that we face because we are in a battle whether we want to admit it or not.

Then there is also a wide range of sins that can capture us in addition to porn and sexual sin. Here are some of them Paul mentions in Galatians 5...

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.”

Just as important as it is for us to learn how to live a life of godly purity there other issues that we will still have to deal with right? I imagine that for you, as well as me, sexual temptation is only one of a number of sinful behaviors with which I must deal. How about anger, greed, gluttony, selfishness, pride and lying...to name a few.

So, let's look at the larger context of our life. We do not just have a problem with porn. We have problems with other things which are sinful and damaging to ourselves and our loved ones. Sure...it may seem like porn and sex are at the top of the list, but if you never looked at porn or masturbated ever again do you think you would be living a life of purity and godliness? I am guessing that answer would be a big NO!!!

I believe that God wants to do an entire restoration of our lives. He wants to cleanse us from all sins and ultimately that will happen in heaven. But we can make progress in the here and now and move forward into being more Christ-like a little more every day...or not!

The great thing...and this is really a very great thing is that God is wanting and willing to work at changing you a little bit more each day in every area of our lives. We are in the process of being conformed to the image of Christ. On the one hand it is not going to happen quickly. However, on the other hand it is not an impossible task.

God knows what our lives are like. He knows we only have 24 hours in a day. He knows we have a lot of responsibilities that demand our time and energy. But would you honestly say that you are not growing in Christ because you do not have enough time? Or, that you are not using your time as you should.

It does not take hours a day for bible study, meditation, worship, and prayers to be done for change to happen. It does take effort and time...but less than you imagine. The key is consistency. Daily time with the Lord that is well planned, going through good materials you can understand and are suitable for you and your struggle.

And the other thing...and this is really a HUGE thing...if you want to become more like Christ and find the strength to say no to sin. That one other thing is you need to find a community of other men fighting the same fight meeting weekly for accountability AND supporting each other EVERY DAY...learning the biblical truths we need to know!!!

You can find that in our 180 Online Support Teams. They are amazing and helping so many men begin this work of art of being transformed into the image of Christ.

A Lone Sheep is a Dead Sheep

And

Recovery Happens in Community never Isolation.

Contact me - and I will share with you the schedule of when the 14 OSTs meet weekly so you can find one that fits your schedule and can change your life.