

The Righteousness That Comes by Faith

What if we were to look at our struggle with our sexual brokenness in a different way? I know that when I was still struggling with the lusts of my flesh and working very hard to stay connected with God and with other people it was a battle that was consuming me. I knew it was going to be hard...but I did not know it was going to be this hard.

I think part of my problem, and perhaps a problem for some of you is that you seem to be thinking about lust and porn a lot just to keep fighting it. Some of you know that there comes a time when you have confessed your sin instead of hiding it, getting help from others instead of remaining in isolation. You have created good boundaries with strong consequences and have weekly accountability and daily support.

Many think that once they have established all of that they need to stand guard facing the enemy to remain vigilant in what they are going to have to do the rest of their lives. And that my friend is a huge mistake. Doing the basics and being connected every day is critical but standing on guard watching for the enemy and the slightest temptation that might arise is **NOT** what God has for you and not what you should be doing.

Yesterday we looked at Paul in Philippians 3 that he did not care about his accomplishments in his life...which were many. He says those achievements were about as valuable to him as a follower of Christ as a pile of manure. Because what he learned to believe was not how great he was as a Pharisee...not keeping his eye on his accomplishments.

Instead, he turn around, putting all that stuff in the rear-view mirror and learned how to have a **righteousness that comes by faith**. See God has not saved us to help us be a better sinner. That, if you are successful, becomes like having a righteousness because of the good work you have been doing. Paul wanted to experience the power of Christ's resurrection.

God's intention for us is not that we would become better sinners with incremental improvement to our defenses. He does not want us to, now that we are born again, to not only try and make ourselves better people...He wants us to receive a righteousness that comes by faith.

God did not want to save you...tossing you the keys to your life and saying..

***“Ok now...good luck and I will see you in heaven
after you have finished your life of trying to make yourself better.”***

The Christian life was never meant to be something for us to grow into by our own strength. God knows that is impossible. In fact, the greatness of our salvation is not that we work our way **INTO** being a better Christian. It is a gift by the grace of God by faith and we become born-again into God's family.

However, at that point He does not say to us that now there is a righteousness that we need to earn and maintain by ourselves. Just as we are saved by grace through faith we can grow in righteousness by faith. In fact, God has already given to us everything we need to walk in holiness and deepen our sanctification...and how, you may ask, do I know that?

Before I answer that critical question how do you feel about God? Are you living in fear that He wants to punish you because of your porn addiction? That He is shocked at the choices you have made so you try to change and make promises to Him that are broken time and time again.

Listen...God knows everything right? And He has always known everything and that means He has known everything about us in our past, present, and future. He did not save us, giving us new life in Christ to then begin testing us for the rest of our lives to see if we will pass or fail. This is not a battle we are in that God has not done everything He needs to do so that we will not only survive...but conquer our battles and be becoming more righteous.

How do I know this is true? The answer to that is simple. When you accepted Christ and went from being dead in your sins to being alive in Christ...at that very moment God sealed you. He sealed you with the Holy Spirit as your **Guarantee** and your body is now The Temple of The Holy Spirit. He dwells inside of us. Jesus said that He would not only be with us but will be in us...***FOREVER!!!*** You can read this for yourself in John 14:16-17.

Now notice what Paul said after counting all of his trophies as a pile of crap...

*“...but **I press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

The problem many of believers have by becoming addicted to porn and sex is they are not...

PRESSING ON...THEY HAVE PASSED OUT!!!

They believe that God is finished with them and so now they are on their own and this battle with porn is our day-to-day exam to see if we can keep ourselves as members of God's family.

Congratulations, the devil has convinced you that your salvation is now based on your ability to do good works instead of being the free gift of God by GRACE through FAITH.

Well...I have good news. The terms of your being a member in God's family have not changed. Our salvation is the free gift of God. Given to us because Christ has completely paid the penalty for all our sins. They are forgiven and we have been cleansed.