

A Stop by Quiet Waters

By

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How to Walk in Moral Purity

I want to share with you some things I have learned as I have struggled to be and remain morally pure in an increasingly immoral culture. A few months ago I was having a tremendous struggle keeping my mind pure. It seemed that immoral thoughts kept coming at me. I spent time alone with the Lord and asked for His help. I asked Him, "What do you want to say to me about this struggle, Lord?" I sat expectantly with pen and paper at hand, as I often do, because He is faithful and I knew He would answer me. He put several things into my mind.

Acknowledgement

"It's wrong, Dick, to let your mind dwell on that," the Lord told me. I responded with, "I know that, Lord. I really do hate it but I can't get it to stop. I am in a constant battle with it right now." I heard Him say, *"I know you are."*

Friends, these impure thoughts, if not acknowledged and dealt with, can lead to dangerous, complicated and Spirit-grieving consequences. The first step we must take in fighting against the constant battle for our mind is to acknowledge the fact that impure thoughts exist and are taunting us as the Lord's servants.

Realization & Insight

"You are going to have to fight this one all your life. It is never going to let up on you so you must never let up on fighting it. You will have victory over it as you keep fighting it." I then asked the Lord, "Will it ever wear me down, Lord?" In response, He told me a third thing.

"It will never wear you down. You will have victory over it." He then told me a fourth thing about my struggle.

"It is an insidious thing, Dick. This is now a constant part of the battle between the kingdom of darkness and my kingdom and it will get worse and worse. You need to help my servants learn how to have victory over it, as well as yourself."

How gracious our Heavenly Father is to give us insight into the spiritual realm. We will be able to minister more effectively to those who are lost or living hindered Christian lives when we understand and have personal victory over the very same issues with which they struggle.

Victory!

Then I asked the Lord, "Lord, how do we have victory over it?" In response to this question, He put several more thoughts into my mind.

- *"Stay in my Word, keep reading it and feeding on it, keep listening to it and soaking it in."*

Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2 that we are not to conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Staying in the Word and memorizing relevant Scripture will renew our minds and help us to gain the spiritual endurance we need to live in victory.

- *"Pray against it. Pray that you will not succumb to it. Pray for its defeat. Pray that my children will see it for what it is, a beautiful allurements that leads only and always to self-destruction, misery, self-pollution, heartbreak for others, and deep disappointment in you by many, including Myself."*

We cannot forget that Christ is in us and greater is He that is in us than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4). Let us also not forget the power of praying Scripture.

"Therefore Father, prepare **my** mind for action, help **me** to be self-controlled, and set **my** hope fully on the grace to be given me when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:13 NIV (amp.)

- *"Pray for the downfall of those who are promoting immorality in all its evil forms."*
- *"Share your struggle with others and pray with and for each other."*
- *"Do not pick up or open any material which suggests this evil to you. Do not go to any such movies, TV shows, videos, books, and so on. Stay away from all of it in any form."*
- *"Control your eyes firmly because this is how these thoughts get into your spiritual system."*
- *"Renounce all immoral practices, and take back the ground in your life you yielded to the forces of immorality by giving in to those practices."*

To conclude, I have given you the very conversation I had with the Lord about this matter. I wanted to share with you what the Lord shared with me as I asked Him for His help in this area of struggle in my life.

I would be quick to add that to be tempted is not to sin, but we do need to learn how to turn away from, or turn off, temptations in the sexual realm when they come to us. The fact of the matter is, this is, in all likelihood, your single greatest area of spiritual struggle. I acknowledge that, next to my struggle with anxiety, this is my greatest struggle.

I was encouraged to know that I would not give in to it, discouraged to realize I would battle this one all my life, and greatly encouraged to have the Lord give me a workable plan of action for victory.

I have employed the steps He gave me, and I can tell you that the battle has not raged within me with the same intensity since that time. I praise God for this!

If you are currently giving in to temptation, or growing weary in the struggle, don't be beaten down any longer. Shed the light of Christ on your situation. Share your struggle with another of your gender whom you trust and with whom you can pray about such things, and watch God be glorified.

If you would like to you can email me (see our contact page) and I will do my best to help you.

Scripture Resources

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2 NIV

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." 1 John 4:4 NIV

"Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:13 NIV

"But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it." 1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV

"Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself. For God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NLT

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