

Sexual Integrity for Men - Spring 2009

Session 5 – The Word and Dealing with Temptation

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The power of the Word

- provisional steps
- momentary actions

"How can a young man stay pure? By obeying your word. I have tried hard to find you— don't let me wander from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I praise you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us. I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word." (Psalm 119:9-16)

Do what it says!

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing." (James 1:22-25)

Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." Luke 6:46-49

"comes to me" - So often we come to Jesus on our way to something else. We make him an icon, and make his teaching more about what we can get from him now than what He has done for us. "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3

"hears my words" - If you ignore His words, there is danger. If you want to feel deeply you need to think deeply.

"In truth, you cannot read too much in Scripture, and what you read, you cannot read too carefully, and what you read carefully, you cannot understand too well, and what you understand well, you cannot teach too well, and what you teach well, you cannot live too well. The devil, the world and our flesh are raging and raving against us... this evil, shameful time is not the season for being lazy, for sleeping and snoring." Martin Luther

"and puts them into practice"

- Sometimes the person whose house gets knocked down isn't uninformed Christian
- doctrine is for living
- When was the last time the word of God and teaching of Jesus changed your plans? When Jesus is preeminent He pushes other things aside

The Bible is living, active, and enduring (Heb 4:12, 1 Pet 1:23) "long for the pure milk of the Word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation" (1 Pet 2:2) "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Resisting Temptation

Temptation is an affair of the mind. "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5)

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." (1 Cor. 10:13)

"The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." (Romans 13:12-14)

Momentary Aspects taught in Scripture

"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 new 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) "putting off" and "putting on" are momentary decisions

"Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him" (Colossians 3:9-10) "laying aside" and "putting on" moment-by-moment decisions

5 things to do in the moment

- repudiate the lies
- recognize the idolatry
- remember the promises
- reestablish God as the true provider for your needs
- redirect yourself

Homework

Breaking Pornography Addiction - David Powlison