

GOD RESCUED ME FROM SEXUAL SIN

I was indoctrinated with sexually explicit images at a young age. I grew up with pornographic materials in my house for as long as I can remember. I devalued women and saw them merely as sexual objects instead of God's creation. I didn't know that God had created them with a body with parts that were only meant to be seen in the privacy of a relationship between a husband and wife. This led me to pursue women for sexual gratification, not relationship.

I have had sex with many different women over the years, some of which I don't even remember their names. Many of these sexual encounters centered around alcohol filled evenings at bars across the country. I wanted to drink, I wanted to party, and I wanted to fill my need for sexual pleasure. It was an empty pursuit, I could never get fully satisfied. Temporary pleasure I found in sex outside of marriage was something that was fleeting, it was empty, and it covered me with shame and regret.

I eventually found a woman I wanted to marry, but our sex lives did not honor God. We were sleeping together before marriage and I was engaged in filling my sexual desires in sexually explicit movies and magazines. It was hurting my marriage and it gave me a false sense of what reality was. Movies, magazines, books, they all create some sort of fantasy that no person can ever fulfill. It creates expectations in marriage that are not realistic or fair. These fantasies have destroyed marriages, have prevented spouses from meeting unrealistic expectations and have corrupted the minds of unmarried men and women across the world.

I eventually started going to church and learned that this lifestyle was not what God wanted for my marriage. I became convicted with my sin and my past sins centered around sex. I also condemned myself, wondering how Jesus could ever forgive some sexual deviant like me. But, the more I went to church at The Way, the more I learned about God. Sermons on Sunday and classes throughout the week helped me learn so much about God. I learned about who He was and what His promises in scripture told me about Him. His word says He loves me, even with my past sins. Even with my current sin. And even with my future sin. I learned that Jesus came to earth to forgive me for my sins, to give me right standing with the Father, to give me the Holy Spirit to help me in the midst of my temptations! The more I grew in my faith, the stronger my desires were for my wife. I wanted her more than I wanted some fictitious fantasy on a TV screen.

My wife and I ditched all the sexually explicit materials in our home. We actually sat down and prayed for forgiveness of our past sexual sins outside and inside of marriage. We felt like we were given a fresh start, and boy oh boy has it been great! It's satisfying, fulfilling, and full of joy! The only way the joy remains though is because we put Jesus first and we go to Him to fill us up. John 7:37-38 says, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the scriptures declare, Rivers of living water will flow from his heart." If we fill ourselves with Jesus, the things of Jesus will come pouring out of us. If we fill ourselves with sexual sin, it's like drawing water from an empty well, never to be filled, and it certainly will not give life.

God set me free from my sexual addiction, but, being forgiven and pursuing Jesus doesn't mean I am still not tempted to return to my old ways, I am! However, what I do in the midst of that temptation is what matters. Do I act upon it, no! Do I let my mind wander into some fantasy about another woman

who isn't my wife, no! Do I take my thoughts captive and give them to Jesus, Yes! I pray constantly and I thank God for my wife! I can even call my friends and ask for prayer. Life with Jesus has led to letting go of shame and regret from my past and enjoying a fulfilled life with my wife!