



LifeSpot ... Pure victory

Claim your promise

As soon as there was creation, there was procreation. Adam and Eve received an amazing gift, an essence of the Creator himself. This gift was the capacity to be intimate; the ability to reproduce, to create again. What a God! And what a risk. As long as the gift inhaled the atmosphere of Heaven, it flourished. But when our first parents opened a window to the atmosphere of evil, the gift took on a new capacity—the sin of lust. But now consider this. God brought in a complete plan to restore men and women to the pure atmosphere of Heaven. “The blood of Jesus ... purifies us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7 (NIV). The more deeply we’ve contaminated ourselves with sins of impurity, the more fully we can claim this incredible promise. Again, what a God!

Set your focus

The apostle John gathered all sins under three headings—impurity, selfishness, and pride (1 John 2:16). These three are interwoven. Impurity reeks of selfishness and bursts with pride. Impurity shifts my focus from others to me, from God to me. That’s why sexual sin is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). It’s self-worship. It’s every man’s battle, every woman’s struggle. And Jesus died for it. Our struggle may go on and on, but Christ goes even further. When we make our bed in hell, he’s there. He knows how we’re formed, remembers we’re “dust”. He’s slow to anger, compassionate. He forgives, purifies. We set our focus back on him—and in this choice, we find our victory. (See Psalms 103, 139.)

Clarify the connection

“The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled.” 1 Peter 4:7 (NIV). The world we live in disagrees. Society promotes filthy minds and uncontrolled self-expression. If I don’t make a radical distinction, I’ll be poisoned, and the poison will devastate my eternal life. But check out the reason why Peter counsels clear minds and self-control—“so that you can pray.” Here’s the key. Prayer connects us with God, and the connection must remain clear! Like nothing else, impurity stifles the signal, drops the call, distracts the conversation, limits the relationship. Want more self control? *Pray!* Want deeper, better prayer? *Practice self-control!* You cannot do this. But God can, and he will.

Go to the place of peace

“The flesh” and “the spirit”. It’s an important contrast in the Bible. The spirit is willing, the flesh is weak. The flesh and the spirit are in a war with each other. Believers choose to live by the Spirit, not by their flesh. The flesh is the natural, sin-cursed nature in each of us, and it’s acutely demonstrated in sins of impurity. Pornography is a particular curse. Pornography is not merely the absence of light—it’s an invited darkness. In this struggle and every struggle, we have a place where we can find peace and strength. Paul cries, “Wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?” In a moment, he finds his answer—“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 7:14–8:11 (NIV).