

Hi guys,

You must have heard of this line: "Every temptation is an opportunity to do good". I want to elaborate on that, writing out of my own experience the past days/weeks.

The Holy Spirit is more present in my life. He reveals things to me about my own life in the sense of: "David, this is what I want to do for you. Here is where I want you to cooperate with Me." Tonight I was lying on my bed, evaluating the day. During the day I had this "eureka" moment about temptation on the sexual area. Let me give you some background info on how this came to pass.

The past few weeks I've had all the freedom in the world to test things and for these tests I had to use the Internet (I am testing mobile Internet UMTS/GPRS). Most of the times I was on my own, busy testing and trying. I even had to test if peer2peer programs such as Limewire will work properly. I can tell you that I repeatedly heard this sneaky voice: "Why don't you....go that way? It is what you want, it is what you need. Isn't it? Nobody'll know, it's a freebie." In the past this kind of freedom on the Internet in combination with peer2peer file sharing has been a snare I ran into "with pleasure" (that is why I have made restrictions on my own laptop). As stated in James about inner desires enticing you to sin; so I experienced the truth of this verse. So I constantly asked God to help me since I was too weak to handle this myself. He did, He helped me to avoid temptation and to do my job and keep my thoughts focused on pure things (such as work). Thank You Holy Spirit.

So what is this "startling revelation" I've had today and became clearer to me tonight?

The Holy Spirit is building my character. He wants to make me that man for my future (don't know her yet) wife today. He wants to develop faithfulness and self-control. So actually I am "married already without being married". With this I mean that the faithfulness and self-control necessary in a marriage are formed "today" (every day) and that I can live in this knowledge: I can live as if I have made my vow to her already, I can practice to be faithful on the three areas.

- how I think about women
- how I look at women
- how I cope with the (sometimes mutual) feelings of attraction

Consequently I am no longer fighting as hard as I can to stay inside the borders, but I am in a process of getting chances to choose as Christ would do in my situation.

Instead of "I must obey...or else..." this changes into "I want to obey, because His commandments are for the good of the significant other and myself." This makes obeying Him to stay pure in the sexual area a joy (because of the goal God has through letting me choose to run to, and follow Him when tempted) rather than a matter of trying to live up to an unreachable goal to obey God out of obligation which is nothing more or less than legalism (self-justification).

In summation: from law to grace, from me to Holy Spirit.

Does that mean I am invincible? Does this mean I am "there"? On the contrary: I have learned from experience that pride and haughtiness are lurking on the corner to grab me. So I won't dwell in this "spiritual moment", but I have asked God to keep me vigilant. Temptation still is temptation. Nevertheless, He who is in me is greater than he who is in the world and I wanted to praise Him by sharing an example of His power in my life with you guys.

David.