

## The Lord's Program to Free Me from Pornography and Wandering Eyes Rev. Mike Flynn

Like many men, I was a multiple user of pornography. When I got to my 30's I began seeking a way out of it. It wasn't just one or two dynamics that got me free of porn. Each item in the list below could be expanded; if one of them doesn't make sense to you I'd be willing to converse via phone or email.

1. Confession and forgiveness. FORGIVENESS. In the Episcopal eucharist you confess your sins weekly, which I did from age 15 on. All that forgiveness added up to help set me free, for I finally began realizing that the Lord really did forgive me every time I confessed my sins. I also realized that faith operates in the will, so my job was to decide that I was forgiven and then start expecting evidence that it was true.

2. Baptism in the Holy Spirit, 1972. God managed to get me to the point where I said, "OK, if this Holy Spirit stuff is real, then get me filled." He did that. In the grace of the new life I used no porn during a sort of honeymoon that went 6 months. Then it was time to walk by faith. POWER. For the first time, I had the power to resist the temptation to use porn.

3. Anointing for Inner Healing, 1974. HEALING. My definition of using porn: illicit self-comfort. The Lord got me into the presence of Agnes Sanford who laid hands on me and told the Lord to give me her anointing for inner healing. After awhile I realized that I could use it to pray for my own hurts, fears, and guilts. The more inner healing I got, the less I needed illicit comfort through porn.

4. Going to store to buy magazine, c. 1975. HONESTY. One day I noticed the cover of a sexy magazine. It kept coming back into my consciousness. Finally I told the Lord "I'm going to buy that magazine; stop me if You can, but I'm hooked." As I walked into a store just 2 blocks away, a young man at the check-out line came over to me and asked me how to handle temptation. When I told him I told myself also and was able to walk out without buying that magazine. I went into glory because of that success.

5. At the bank, c. 1976. I went to the back to make a deposit. There were foxy women everywhere. IMMEDIATE SUPPORT. Back at my office I said to the Lord, "What am I supposed to do out there, wear blinders?" Jesus quickly answered me: 1. "Was I ever successfully tempted?" I answered: "No." 2. "Am I in you?" I answered: "Yes." 3. "Why don't you put those 2 together?" Jesus is in us to successfully resist temptation if we let Him. So each time I was tempted I'd say, "Go sic 'em Lord," and the temptation would immediately begin to diminish.

6. Giving eyes vs. taking eyes. ATTITUDE. Job 31.1, "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl." So when I see an attractive woman, I say "God bless her", which changes my attitude from having taking eyes to having giving eyes. The Lord also showed me by experience that peripheral sight is 99.99%: you don't have to put your .01% direct sight on female body parts. When my peripheral sight notices a female body, I can avoid turning my direct sight on her.

7. Self-deliverance. DELIVERANCE. One day on the 210 freeway in the east LA area, I became aware of the possibility that my numerous uses of porn might have allowed an evil spirit to enter me. Right then I ordered a spirit of pornography to get out of my body. I felt a difference before I drove under the next bridge.

8-10. In 1988 I experienced eleven months of double temptation doing 22 conferences. One was before a conference, the other was after. I fought off these temptations over and over. But after the last one, I went on a 2-day sin binge with xxx videos. I was so broken afterwards that I

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offered to resign from the priesthood. The Lord directed me to get Inner Healing with a Vineyard team in Anaheim. That took several visits. INNER HEALING FROM OTHERS. Secondly, He told me that I was operating as a lone ranger and that I needed prayer support. I recruited 18 intercessors. I wrote them a monthly letter stating on the first page what their prayers did for me. On the back page I mentioned what I needed prayer for the next month. I've done this now since January of 1989. PRAYER SUPPORT.

The third thing He told me was to confess to 2 local church buddies. We met weekly and if I had messed up, they heard about it. That interaction became an eminently useful tool in my character growth. ACCOUNTABILITY.

11. In the 90's I had a minor car accident and the Lord said, "pay for it yourself." Then I had neck pain, then half a pay check, then an associate quit. I was only using porn a few times a year, but the Lord told me that these events were DISCIPLINE. Heb. 12.5 "the Lord disciplines those He loves." That helped me get totally free of porn.

12. It gradually became evident to me that the enemy has limited access to our thoughts. That's what a temptation is. I asked the Lord what to do about it and He put in my mind the idea of THOUGHT CONTROL. So now when I experience a temptation or sinful thought I just say, "I rebuke that thought, Lord." Then I turn my attention to other things and the satanic thought diminishes and goes away.

My challenge is that you start using several of these tools so that God can give you victory over this assault on your integrity, your conscience, and your walk with God. The Lord probably has other tools that pertain to the particular person that you are. Be honest with Him. Tell Him when you've screwed up. Ask His forgiveness. Also ask for His tools that can be utilized to free you from the bondage of porn or whatever else the enemy has planted in you.

Warfare is one of the chief dynamics operating in this world. And as long as we collaborate with satan, the Body of Christ is losing the battle. But it is also true that the more we collaborate with the Spirit, the more the Lord and His Body are winning. If you're interested, there's a chapter on warfare in my first book, *Holy Vulnerability*.