



# TODAY'S FUEL

*Parenting Resources from Kanakuk*

*Pornography* was written by Joe White President of Kanakuk Kamps and author of books for teens and parents including; *FUEL: 10-minute devotionals to ignite the faith of parents & teens*, *Wired by God*, *Pure Excitement*, and many others.

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## Pornography

*Joe White*

It was 1000 years B.C. Dark, difficult days for God's people. The times of the judges was mostly chaotic because the people of Israel had divided hearts! The book of Judges reveals over and over again that the people of God would go part-way with God, and then rationalize not going all the way. He would tell them to purify the land and purge it from all sin and people of sin. The Jews always had a better idea. They would give part of their heart and land to God and keep part of their heart and their land for their own impure desires. A few of God's people learned by acquiring wisdom, but almost all were stubborn in their wills and, like American men today, only learned by discipline and retribution. God's firm hand would cause them to repent and cry out to God for mercy. His loving kindness would restore them and then, like blind sheep, wandering into a wolf pack, they'd cycle back into a life of disobedience and sin. The nation was divided into many warring factions.

God knew they needed strong leadership, so He began to develop the taproot of a new, strong and mighty tree that would eventually unite His kingdom and make it mightier and more successful than at any other time in its history. The tree would build His temple and produce harvest after harvest of fruitful, godly men. Eventually the fruit of that tree would be King David, and upon that branch would arise the Messiah Himself.

To establish the taproot of this giant "Sequoia" of Israel, God first summoned a priest named Eli, who cried out to God for a young man to grow up in wisdom and be God's strong hand in a troubled nation.

I Samuel 2:22 – "Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel and how they lay with the women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting."

God spoke to Eli in his distress and said in I Samuel 2:35 – "But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always."

This faithful one was born to Hannah and was raised in the house of the Lord before Eli. When Samuel was young he heard the voice of the Lord and Samuel immediately responded, "Here I am." The Lord said to Samuel:



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I Samuel 3:11 – “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.”

Chapter 3, verse 19 goes on to say what I would pray for myself and all of you. “Thus Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fail.”

The drama that plays out before Samuel concerning the people of Israel in those days is the drama that plays out in the heart of every honest man in this building today.

I Samuel 12:9-10 – “But they forgot the Lord their God, so He sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them. And they cried out to the Lord and said, “We have sinned because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth; but now deliver us from the hands of our enemies, and we will serve Thee.”

As God answered their cry then,  
He answers our cry today.

I Samuel 12:14-15 – “Now if you will fear the Lord and serve Him, and listen to His voice and not rebel against the command of the Lord, then both you and also the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God. And if you will not listen to the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the command of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, as it was against your fathers.”

God continued to speak through Samuel in that day, as He continues to speak to us now.

I Samuel 7:3 – “Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, “If you return to the Lord with all your heart, remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your hearts to the Lord and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.”

In Chapter 12, verse 20 and verse 24, God says, “And

Samuel said to the people, ‘Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.’”

Men, our Ashtaroth today, as most of us in this gym are painfully aware, is pornography. In our high tech, multi-media saturated world Satan has scaled the walls of our visceral and visually induced hearts with images of women whom he has ruthlessly used like pawns on a chess board to erect temples for himself and to create sacrificial offerings unto himself in our hearts, that God has claimed as temples of the Holy Spirit. The battle it wages is no less than the battle that was waged in Israel.

Matthew 5:8 – “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

I Peter 1:16 – “Therefore you are to be holy just as I am holy.”

## I have a dream for you:

1. Your wedding night unspoiled.
2. Your tenth anniversary more fascinating than the first – that you and your bride have truly become one flesh.
3. Your twenty-fifth anniversary you can't believe how much better marriage has become.
4. Your fiftieth anniversary – you are still holding hands, the flicker of the candles on the anniversary cake a reflection of Jesus in her eyes.
5. Your kids will brag about a father of integrity.
6. That on THAT day – you meet Jesus unashamed.



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## No regrets – unspoiled intimacy – unashamed.

### The Thief – Pornography – the beguiling lure to self-destruction.

1. Ten million pornographic hits in America in 1973.
2. Ten billion hits in 1999. A thousand-fold increase – (US News & World Report)
3. #1 website of all Internet use – Playboy and Penthouse.
4. Pornography defined – anything you see, read or hear that is designed to cause sexual arousal.
5. Marital oneness and true sexual intimacy is mostly mental, spiritual and emotional – perhaps only 5% physical.
6. Most guys in America are either burned out with their marriage, cheating on their wife, or divorced – thanks to the pornographic influence in their lives.

Proverbs 6:27 – “Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?”

## Ten factors that make pornography a dream stealer:

1. Photographic etching in the darkroom of your mind. Psychologists tell us that pornography releases a hormone called epinephrine, which etches the pornographic picture permanently in your memory. Affects of this are significantly heightened by the combined usage of pornography and masturbation. (In Your Face – In Your Mind by Steve Watters)
2. Pornography is virtual cocaine.
  - a) Pornography is instantly addictive.
  - b) Pornography releases dopamine just like cocaine; a virtual high – a stimulus – an elevated pulse – and an out-of-reality experience. Dr. Robert

Wells of the Sexual Recovery Institute of Los Angeles says, “The internet is the crack cocaine of sexual addiction.” The internet has a triple punch. It is cheap, it is easy, and it is anonymous. The internet sends pornography into hyperspace.”

3. Pornography causes girls to be sex objects – pure and simple. (No mind, no heart, no soul. Transfers to your dates, your fiancée and your wife.) Pornography degrades women. Pornography re-defines women.
  - a) Toys and animals (bunnies and playmates)
  - b) Sport – to be played physically and psychologically. (The success of Sports Illustrated – I hate it.)
  - c) Property – can be bought or conquered.
  - d) Their value based solely on looks – overlook their Christian character.
  - e) Makes you believe that women like rape. Porn fantasizes rape and sadomasochism. It shows women tied up, beaten, and humiliated, and then it shows they love it and want more. If left unchecked, this will become your dates, your wife and your children.
4. The user becomes psychologically bi-polar. Every man has three lives:
  - a) His public life that everybody knows.
  - b) His private life that only those close to him knows.
  - c) His personal life that only he knows.

With pornography, the distance between his public life, his private life, and his personal life widens. As a husband and father, he can't be known by his wife and kids, can't be known fully by anyone.



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5. Porn diminishes sexual fulfillment.

The porn user needs bigger prizes, more decadent, more graphic, more explicit. Pure God-intended sex will never happen. It will not satisfy.

6. Porn is counterfeit intimacy.

Guys crave intimacy – that special place in your mind (heart) becomes filled with synthetic, temporary intimacy.

7. Pornography disenfranchises your wedding vows.

The girl comes to the wedding with her bridesmaids. The guy comes to the wedding with his bridesmaids (the pornographic pictures in his mind.)

“\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife? Will you love her, honor her, comfort her, keep her, and give her your intimate love exclusively? Will you give her your honor, your devotion, and your sexual purity?” Your pornographic females in your life go with you on your honeymoon.

8. Pornography escalates to higher forms of degradation.

II Peter 2:19 – “A man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.”

a. Early exposure.

b. Addiction – brings you back for more.

c. Escalation – more graphic, more explicit, more degrading.

d. Desensitization.

e. Acting out – rape, unnatural sex, and child abuse. Ones who fall all say, “That will never happen to me.”

9. Pornography causes continual adultery.

Matthew 5:28 – “Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

a. The porn user is in prison to adultery for the rest of his life.

b. He is never truly married exclusively to his wife. True marital intimacy has a price. It doesn't happen because you like sex.

10. Pornography creates a roadblock for God's richest blessings.

Sin inhibits God's blessings in your life (peace, fulfillment and intimacy with God.)

Matthew 5:8 – “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”

## PART II:

I Kings 2:2-4 - “ I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn.”

We know the story well. God commissions Samuel to appoint Saul as king over Israel to unite the kingdom and bring freedom and justice to the nation. Saul ruled 32 years, but his heart grew far from the Lord, so God replaced Saul with David, who presided over Israel for 40 years, from 1011 B.C. to 971 B.C.

David had it all. His faith was strong, like no man in all Israel. He was brilliant. He was extremely winsome with people. Most importantly, the hand of God was upon him. He would have fit well into this gym and into the Nike shoes and Kanakuk shorts you wear today.

But, as testosterone flows in our veins today, so it flowed in David's veins. In II Samuel 11 we read the all too familiar lines,



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11:2-4 - "Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

- a. Note that he was not out in the battle. He was home with his weapons hung up on the door.
- b. Note that it was evening.
- c. Note that that arose from his bed.
- d. Note that his eyes deceived him first.
- e. Note that he committed adultery in his heart.

THEN he became a worm.

11:27(b) "But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the Lord."

Though David was severely broken and disciplined by God, I am encouraged to know that God doesn't cast him aside. Indeed, David became the restored man who would be known as "the man after God's own heart." The remainder of his life was righteous, fruitful and bountiful.

David's command to his son, Solomon, is the commission that I offer before God on behalf of each of you in our final hour together today.

I Kings 2:2-4 - "I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn."

## Show Yourself a Man!

### Seven essential steps to break free from pornography:

1. See it for what it is – Satan!

John 10:10 – "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy."

I Peter 5:8 – "Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

The PG-13 and R movie with nudity that "has a great plot" or the CD with immoral lyrics that "has one wonderful song" lure you because Satan is called "the angel of light." He makes SIN look good!

2. Confess the sin Biblically.

a) Agree with God – all porn is porn – it's sin.

b) Take it to the cross – take it to Jesus. Ask for and accept His forgiveness.

I John 1:9 – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Romans 8:1-2 – "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."

Psalms 51:10 – "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

c) Turn – repent – it's a military term for a 180 degree turn in the opposite direction. King David, who had fallen, was able to be the man after God's heart after he prayed,

Psalms 32:5 – "I acknowledged my sin to Thee, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" and Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin."



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## 3. Enact the power of the will.

II Timothy 2:22 – “Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

Be a man. Set a goal. Stick with it. Your will is the strongest muscle in your body.

Psalms 101:3 – “I will set no worthless thing before my eyes.”

## 4. Fill your mind with Scripture.

Psalms 1:1-2 – “How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

Psalms 119:1-6 – “How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart. They also do no unrighteousness; they walk in His ways. Thou hast ordained Thy precepts, that we should keep them diligently. Oh that my ways may be established to keep Thy statutes! Then I shall not be ashamed when I look upon all Thy commandments.”

The greatest example is Jesus being tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Three times when Satan tempted him, Jesus simply said, “It is written” and then quoted Scripture to him.

## 5. Set Olympic Standards

Marriage is GOLD. Intimacy with God is GOLD. Don't go for the bronze. In Choosing a movie or a television show, pornography and profanity is out! If you truly want the best, don't straddle the fence. Almost ALL PG-13 and R-rated movies have pornography and/or profanity in them. Seldom will you find an exception.

## 6. Develop Accountability

James 5:16 – “Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.”

Find a man or a group of men who love you enough that weekly (every week) will ask you tough questions:

Are you pure?

Has there been anything pornographic in your life this week?

## 7. Hate Sin

John Wesley said, “Give me a hundred men who hate sin and I will change the world.”

Psalms 139:21-22 – “Do I not hate those who hate Thee, O Lord/ And do I not loathe those who rise up against Thee? I hate them with the utmost hatred; they have become my enemies.”

## 8. Guard Your Heart

Put burglar alarms on your eyes, ears, and fingertips.

Proverbs 4:23 – “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”

## Guiding Principles for Mental/Moral Purity

A. The eye and the ear . . . window to the mind and heart.

Matthew 6:22-23 – “The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

B. The principle of ownership – ‘who owns your mind?’

II Corinthians 10:5 – “We are destroy speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the



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knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."

C. Solidarity – the power of the will.

Psalm 101:3 – "I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not fasten its grip on me."

D. Giving approval.

Romans 1:31 – "And, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

E. A pure heart.

Matthew 5:8 – "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

F. A higher calling for leaders.

James 3:1 – "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment."

G. Pursuit of authentic holiness.

1 Peter 1:14-16 – "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior."

H. Mental adultery.

Matthew 5:27-28 – "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Hebrews 13:4 – "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

I. An authentic heart.

II. Chronicles 16:9 – "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."

J. Profanity – who do we really love? Who are our enemies?

Exodus 20:7 – "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."

Psalm 139:19-22 – "O that Thou wouldst slay the wicked, O God; Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed. For they speak against Thee wickedly, and Thine enemies take Thy name in vain. Do I not hate those who hate Thee, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against Thee? I hate them with the utmost hatred; they have become my enemies."