

BATTLE PRIMER



The Heart of the Matter

By Paul Klassen, Broken Strength Executive Director

But this is the one to whom I look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

-Isaiah 66:2

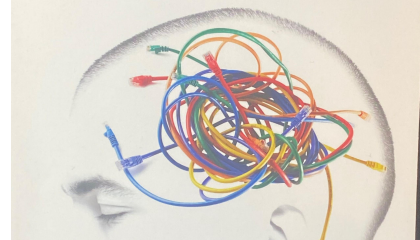
As we consider the most interesting people in Scripture, Peter has got to be near the top of anybody's list. We can empathize with him, villainize him, feel bad for him, and want to be like him, all within a matter of a few chapters!

My favorite account of Peter is Matthew's account of Jesus' walking on the water. Interestingly, Mark's account of the same event, which draws heavily on Peter's eye-witness input, does NOT include Peter's amazing steps on the water. As impactful as that experience must have been for Peter, I wonder if Jesus' immediate reaction left a greater impression on Peter than the actual act of walking on the water. Right after Jesus rescued Peter from sinking, Jesus says, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matt. 14:31). For the disciples, Peter's willingness to step out of the boat must have seemed courageous, yet Jesus simply says, "Why didn't you trust me more?!"

When Jesus promised his disciples, in John 14:12, that they would do even greater works than He, we can be assured that this was not limited to walking on water, physical healing, demonic extraction, etc. Since He is most interested in our

Resource of the Month

Wired for Intimacy. How pornography hijacks the male brain. By William M. Struthers.



Stat of the Month

*From 2016 Porn Phenomenon survey	Practicing Christians	All other participants
Comfortable with how much they use porn	39%	68%
Prefer to not use pornography	40%	18%
Feels guilty when they view porn	33%	20%
All (ages 13+) who watch porn regularly	13%	42%
Males 13-24 who watch porn regularly	41%	72%
Males 25+ who watch porn regularly	23%	55%

maturity in Christ and our walking by faith, not by sight, we must not limit God's blessings to our health, our financial security, or "how well things are going." Indeed, God's biggest blessings are much more significant and long-lasting than what meets the eye: deny yourself daily to follow Jesus, prioritize a humble and contrite heart, consider others as more important than yourself, use your gift to benefit the church . . . You get the idea.*

This can help us better define victory over sin in our lives, don't you think? We certainly ought to be overjoyed and give God glory for 2-week, 2-month, or 2-years of porn sobriety or for victory over other sinful habits. But we also know the greater work is as we are offering our righteousness (Rom. cross and denying our deepest core earthly in us (Col. 3:5). As we enter 2024, may our hope in the battle not depend on how far we've come (or not come) in battling lust and pride. Rather, our hope is in the victory that Jesus has already won, for the new person that He's molding and shaping, for the undeniable, eternal truth that His grace is sufficient for each of us. May God bless you richly as you step out of the boat yourself in 2024!

Thus says the Lord:
 "Heaven is my throne,
 and the earth is my footstool . . .
 But this is the one to whom I will look:
 he who is humble and contrite in
 spirit and trembles at my word."
 -Isaiah 66:1,2

happening in our hearts physical bodies to 6:13), daily taking up our self (Luke 9:23), and at putting to death what is

*See 1 Peter 1, Colossians 1, James 1, and John 16 for further study on God's goal for us gives us reason to rejoice in suffering and meet trials with joy.

We invite you . . .

- *Do you know a church or individual who would like to be informed or be added to our prayer team? Send an email to pklassen@apathtopurity.org*
- *Would you like to help us continue to offer our services for free so as to help more churches broach the topic of pornography and sexual integrity? It is our goal not only to increase the conversation but to provide a solid means of hope, freedom, and victory. You may donate to the ministry at www.apathtopurity.org*

This month's updates

Thank God with us for . . .

- 99 Prayer Partners (THAT'S YOU!) and 22 Prayer911 Warriors! Know someone who wants to battle with us through prayer? Let me know.
- A great December 6 gathering of supporters. We had 24 people gather to hear updates, a church testimony, and interact around ministry direction.
- God's grace, forgiveness, and long-suffering. He will always be there for us in any and all circumstances. We can't be thankful enough for this!
- Continued unique opportunities to engage pastors, churches, and communities with the powerful intersection of God's righteous standard and our sinfulness. The gospel is that intersection point!

Pray to the Lord with us for . . .

- Guidance, protection, and courage for the 12 Scheduled Events:
 - January 13, 2024 | Alexandria Covenant Church, Alexandria, MN (Paul)
 - January 20, 2024 | Milaca E Free Church, Milaca, MN (Paul)
 - February 2, 2024 | Red Mountain Comm. Church, Mesa, AZ (Paul)
 - February 2, 2024 | Chicago lake Baptist, Chisago Lake, MN (Joe)
 - February 3, 2024 | Family Bible Church, Chandler, AZ (Paul)
 - February 16, 2024 | River of Life, Hastings, MN (Paul)
 - March 26, 2024 | River City Church, Minneapolis, MN (Joe)
 - April 5-6, 2024 | Camp Lebanon Men's Advance, Upsala, MN (Paul)
 - April 8-9, 2024 | EFree North Central District Workshop, MN (Paul)
 - April 13, 2024 | Grace Church, Memphis, TN (Joe)
 - April 19-20, 2024 | Piedras Negras, Mexico Men's Retreat (Joe)
 - April 27, 2024 | Buffalo Evangelical Free Church, Buffalo, MN (Paul)
- Men choosing to share their testimonies in front of their peers. Pray that their stories would shed light on God's amazing grace and power to transform.
- Protection over Paul, Joe, our board, and the many church leaders, church champions, and men willing to share their story and lead others. The enemy is constantly working to get any foothold.
- Effective use of new video (event footage and Paul and Becky's testimony). Pray for YouTube traction and for the right people and churches to find hope through them.
- Long-lasting fruit and joy from the powerful truth we just experienced at Christmas.