

3. Accept responsibility for yourself.

- The main reason people remain in sexual bondage is that they refuse to follow directions!
- They make the false assumption that we can never change our actions until we first experience a change of feeling.
(changed feelings = changed thinking = changed behavior)
- But the practical truth for someone in bondage is the reverse!
(changed behavior = changed thinking = changed feelings)

Autobiography in Five Short Chapters (by Porcia Nelson)

Chapter 1 – I walk down the street. There's a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I'm lost, I'm helpless, it isn't my fault. It takes forever to find a way out.

Chapter 2 – I walk down the same street. There's a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again. I can't believe I'm in the same place, but it isn't my fault. It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter 3 – I walk down the same street. There's a deep hole in the sidewalk. I see that it is there. I still fall in. It's become a habit. My eyes are open, I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out immediately.

Chapter 4 – I walk down the same street. There's a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.

Chapter 5 – I walk down another street.

4. Remember the effect on your family.

- **Exodus 20:5b-6 (NLT)** - *I do not leave unpunished the sins of those who hate me, but I punish the children for the sins of their parents to the third and fourth generations. 6 But I lavish my love on those who love me and obey my commands, even for a thousand generations.*
- ARTICLE FROM USA TODAY: Absent dads scar daughters for life

5. Run!

- The Bible has one word for sexual temptation – RUN!
- **2 Timothy 2:22a (NLT)** - *Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust.*
- **1 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT)** - *Run away from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.*
- Joseph was a COWARD when it came to sexual temptation. He didn't try to see how strong he was. He didn't play with it. Instead, HE RAN! **LEAVE YOUR COAT!** Get out of it NOW!

If you've messed up, that's what the grace of God is for. START NOW!
Don't go back to your sin. Don't even look back. LEAVE YOUR COAT!

Faith Under Fire

The Life of Joseph

A Midweek Bible Study Series

Part Two – Leave Your Coat

Genesis 39:6b-12 (CEV)

^{6b} Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷ and Potiphar's wife soon noticed him. She asked him to make love to her,

⁸ but he refused and said, "My master isn't worried about anything in his house, because he has placed me in charge of everything he owns.

⁹ No one in my master's house is more important than I am. The only thing he hasn't given me is you, and that's because you are his wife.

I won't sin against God by doing such a terrible thing as this."¹⁰ She kept begging Joseph day after day, but he refused to do what she wanted or even to go near her.

¹¹ One day, Joseph went to Potiphar's house to do his work, and none of the other servants were there. ¹² Potiphar's wife grabbed hold of his coat and said, "Make love to me!"

Joseph ran out of the house, leaving her hanging onto his coat.

● **CHRISTIANS MUST LIVE PURE LIVES!**

1 Timothy 2:8 *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*

● **BENEFITS OF A PURE LIFE:**

1. **SALVATION** – **Matthew 5:8** *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*
2. **CONFIDENCE** – **Hebrews 10:22a (CEV)** *So let's come near God with pure hearts and a confidence that comes from having faith.*
3. **ANOINTING** – **Hebrews 1:9 (NLT)** *You love what is right and hate what is wrong. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.*

● **THE WORLD TEMPTS ME TO HAVE AN IMPURE MIND AND LIFE.**

- While I am trying to lead a decent, restrained life, TV and movies propagate the notion that everybody else is having a wild, debauched time and that I may be missing out.

- That is the true power of mass media – the power to redefine normal. The harmful behavior that we see glamorized not only conveys powerful messages of what’s ACCEPTED, but what is EXPECTED. The unreal world of the media becomes, over time, a self-fulfilling prophecy.
- About 350 characters appear each night on prime-time TV, with an average of 7 of them murdered every night. If this rate applied in reality, then in just two months, everyone in North America would be killed – and the last one left could turn off the TV!
- Every year on prime-time TV, there are 65,000 sexual references. Seven out of eight of the sexual encounters in TV dramas involve extra-marital relations. Reality? A 1994 University of Chicago study showed that both sexual satisfaction and frequency is greater among married people than among single people. But in Hollywood, the only kind of sex that seems to be banned is intimacy between husband and wife!
- UCLA sociologist James Q. Wilson points out a curious fact: On city streets where broken windows have gone unrepaired, the crime rate immediately soars. Why? The broken windows make an announcement to the public: Here, standards have broken down. Here, no authority applies. Do what you like, without consequences.
- TV and movies have become a gigantic broken window to the world. The portrayal of life without standards and behavior without consequences sends out a message that impurity is normal!
- **The media is a seducer!** In the film “Indecent Proposal,” a character is offered a million dollars to spend one night with a billionaire. It became the topic of conversation on talk shows, in offices and schools. The film implied that everyone has a price!
- It’s not just in movies! Recent Jerry Springer Show topics included:
 - The Babysitter Stole My Husband!
 - I’m In A Lesbian Affair With My Niece!
 - Baby, I’ve Been Bad!
 - Prostitution Sex Scandals
 - I Want To Marry My Daughter!
 - I’m Sleeping With My Brother and My Sister!
 - My Daughter Married My Husband!
 - My Dad Stole My Wife!
 - I’m Cheating With Your Dad and Sister!
 - Lovers Battle It Out!
 - I Will Break The World’s Sex Record
 - War Of The Wounded Lovers!
 - Explosive Transsexual Affairs
 - I’m Marrying My Sister!
 - My Mom Is Sleeping With My Boyfriend!
 - Revenge Of The Jilted Lovers!
- It would be laughable if the effects were not so tragic on our society!
- **The sad thing is that the church has not escaped!** The distinction between the world and so-called “Christianity” is quickly evaporating.
 - 19% of Christians watched MTV this week (24% of non-Christians)
 - 70% of Christians subscribe to cable television (70% of non-Christians)
 - 76% of Christians watched a PG-13 or R-rated movie in the last three months (87% of non-Christians)
 - 9% of Christians watched an X-rated movie this quarter (16% of non-Christians)
 - 27% of Christians have been divorced (23% of non-Christians)
- The Single Adult Ministry Journal reported in January 1991 that, of Christian single men who attended church faithfully, only 33% were virgins. 35% had had four or more sexual partners, and 23% had been sexually active in the past six months.
- **I NEED GOD’S WORD IF I’M GOING TO HAVE A PURE MIND!**
 - **Psalm 119:11** *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*
 - **Romans 12:2a (NLT)** *Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*
- “I know **YOU** don’t need this, but the person beside you desperately does. Tell them, ‘I’m taking notes for you right now!’” 😊
- The Bible teaches that there are five major kinds of sexual immorality:
 1. Sex before marriage with anyone (fornication).
 2. Sex after marriage with anyone but your spouse (adultery).
 3. Sexual activity with anyone but your spouse.
 4. Sexual activity by oneself for the purpose of sexual arousal.
 5. Lustful thoughts.
 - **Matthew 5:28 (NLT)** *But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
- **FIVE WAYS TO AVOID SEXUAL TEMPTATION:**
 1. **Realize that sexual sin hurts God.**
 - The prevailing attitude seems to be, “I love to sin, and God loves to forgive!” But that attitude breaks the heart of God!
 - “When lust takes control, at that moment God becomes quite unreal to us.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
 2. **Recognize the consequences of sexual sin.**
 - **Proverbs 6:32 (NLT)** - *But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool, for he destroys his own soul.*