



Seven Strategies to Become a Man of Sexual Integrity

STEVE WAGNER

WINNING STRATEGY 1

The Victory In Surrender



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Each day will encourage you **to clothe yourself in Christ's** righteousness, His Spirit's power, and your identity in Him. To do this effectively, you must **surrender your life to Him**. As you reflect on how you spent the last 24 hours, ask yourself if you lived those hours as if Jesus were the Lord of your life.

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Daily Devotional: In the Beginning

Do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? (Romans 2:4)

Read Romans 2:4, replacing “Do you show contempt for...” with each of these other Bible translations:

- a. Do you presume on the riches of...
- b. Do you disregard the riches of...
- c. Do you despise the riches of...
- d. Do you think lightly of the riches of...
- e. Do you have no regard for the riches of...
- f. Don't you see how wonderful the riches of...

1. Describe the value you place on His kindness, His patience with you, His grace, and His love for you? Does it change how you live? Describe why or why not?
2. In your own words, what leads a man to complete surrender and repentance of his sexual sin?

In the beginning... God chose you to be His before the world was created!

In the Beginning: Steve's Story

Objective: To realize that your freedom begins with surrendering to God.

I want you to know I personally understand the war of sexual addiction. When I was in the middle of my sin, I had been too much of a coward to confess my sin to anybody, especially my wife. Like many men, I feared how she would react, and I didn't want to hurt her. What I didn't realize was that the longer I hid, the worse it made it! When I finally confessed to my wife and another friend, I had to surrender my pride and accept I needed help. This was the beginning of my healing. You can read more about "Steve's Story" in the locker room at Revive40.com.

What is your story? Describe below why you want to quit looking at porn, masturbating, and engaging in other inappropriate sexual sins that have become an addiction, or at the least, a very tough habit to quit.

Describe in your own words what it means to surrender your life to God.

Why is completely surrendering your life to God essential for your healing?

Explain why a man can't be fully surrendered to God if he continues to act out sexually apart from his wife (this also applies to single men).

"The worst part about anything that's self-destructive is that it's so intimate. You become so close with your addictions and illnesses that leaving them behind is like killing the part of yourself that taught you how to survive." —Lacey L., Author

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Daily Devotional: Victory in Surrender?

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Father God and Jesus were both victorious in surrender.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. (Galatians 2:20)

We are victorious because we have surrendered our lives to Christ.

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My (Jesus) sake will find it. (Matthew 10:39)

If we try to hang onto or find our life here on earth, God says we will miss out on the life He made for us. To lose our life is to surrender our ways to His ways, realizing that His Ways are better than our ways. If we don't get this, He may allow our circumstances to drive us to understanding our need for Him.

1. Describe the various ways you may still be hanging onto your old life.
2. How will deciding to completely lose your life for Jesus's sake change your life for the better?

**Lifting your hands to the Lord can either be a sign of victory or surrender!
Or, can it be both?**

Victory in Surrender?

Objective: Understand why surrendering your life completely to God is a non-negotiable as a Christian and necessary for long-term freedom from sexual lust.

How can there be victory in surrender? The definition of surrender is to give up, which implies you have been defeated. In war, that might be true, but in your relationship with God, it is essential for a victorious life in Jesus.

Here are some scriptures to challenge your understanding of surrendering for victory:

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

"I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Because He gave up His life for us, we give up our lives for Him. We realize we are inadequate to run our lives and were created to depend on Him. We can fully trust Him to lovingly lead and guide us in what is best for us and what brings Him the most glory! Surrendering to Jesus is a daily decision to say, "Not my will but Yours be done." When you surrender everything to Him, you WIN! Living to please Him, not yourself, will bring fulfillment here on earth and rewards in heaven. The question is, will you allow Him to completely guide your life? Why or why not?

Is it possible to surrender some of your life to Him and stay in control of other areas of your life? What typically happens when you hang on to various aspects of your life?

Do you think you can do a better job managing your life than God?

How can Romans 8:28, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose," help you release and trust God with ALL your life?

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Daily Devotional: Obstacles to Surrendering to God

You are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, so then, throw off everything that hinders you and the sin that so easily entangles. And run with perseverance the race marked out for you,² fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3, Personalized)

You have been given your own race to run. There are going to be obstacles and hinderances that will try to keep you from finishing your race. Jesus didn't want to be separated from His Father as He took on Himself the sins of the world. But He got past this hinderance by focusing on the joy all of heaven and earth would experience after His death on the cross. He surrendered completely when He prayed to His Father, "Not My will but Yours be done."

1. Reflect on Hebrews 12:1-3 above and ask what obstacles or hinderances are keeping you stuck in your sin. Write your thoughts below.

If you are at the end of your rope, let go and God will catch you.

Obstacles to Surrendering to God

Objective: To discover why we may have a hard time surrendering our lives to God in our culture today.

Over the next few days, we will examine several obstacles to surrendering your life to God.

Obstacle #1: Our culture is highly sexually immoral and has the power to influence our thoughts and beliefs.

We have become desensitized to the severity of porn, sleeping with women other than our wives (fornication), and to honoring the marriage covenant we vowed to keep on our wedding day.

Many studies claim that up to 70% of Christian men regularly view porn. The majority of college aged Christian men believe that it is more sinful not to recycle than to look at porn (can you say desensitized). Because so many men are looking at porn and sleeping with multiple women, it has become NORMALIZED.

The thinking has become, “Come on, it’s not that big of a deal. We are men, we have urges. God will forgive me, He understands. He is a gracious God.” Strip clubs are now called Gentlemen’s Clubs. It’s no longer adultery, it’s hooking up. Men who visit prostitutes are now being called hobbyists.

This is clearly not God’s way of living life. This is not God’s NORMAL Christian life! Read Jude 4 and then describe what God is saying to us (you) in this Bible verse: *“For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”*

God invented sex. He placed a desire for a wife in us so we would procreate and fill the earth (Genesis 2:18), while having a lot of fun with our wives in the process! God is calling men all around the world to fight against our warped sexual culture. Do you want to be a part of this fight? Why or why not?

What are the three biggest cultural lies that have influenced your thinking and led you to believe that viewing porn and engaging sexually with multiple women is OK?

Write a “New View Statement” about how you want to think about women from this day forward. (Memorize and reflect on it daily):

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Daily Devotional: Sin Can Callous Your Heart

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)

Do not put out the Spirit's fire. (Thessalonians 5:19)

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but he who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.¹⁴ Blessed is the one who always fears the Lord, but whoever hardens his heart (heart is calloused) falls into trouble (disaster). (Proverbs 28:13-14)

Unlike women, most men are not in touch with their emotions. Often, this is due to hidden sin in their lives.

1. Read Proverbs 28:13-14 above several times. What do you believe the Lord is trying to impress on you?
2. Describe how a believer can grieve or put out the Holy Spirit's fire.

***Sin and pride hardens many men's hearts into stone...
but there are none God can't turn to a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)***

Sin Can Callous (Harden) Your Heart

Objective: To identify if your heart is calloused and, if so, what to do about it.

Obstacle #2: A calloused heart can't feel the damage sin is causing in a person's life. We live in such a sexualized culture, and we are incredibly desensitized to how wrong, how immoral, and how destructive our sexual lust is to our lives (often not realized until we get caught in marriage).

A callous forms on a golfer's hand from the repetitive friction of the club against the skin, creating a protective layer that prevents pain in that area. Similarly, sin acts like sandpaper on our hearts; over time, a callous develops to keep the heart from feeling the guilt, shame, and conviction that sin should cause in our lives. You will often hear men in our group say, "I never thought I could go this deep in my sexual sin. I don't know how I got this far away from the Lord." The following scripture reveals how this can happen to any of us:

*"They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them **due to the hardening of their hearts.**"* (Ephesians 4:18)

The good news is that Jesus came to remove the callous on your heart so that you can feel right from wrong again. This next scripture reveals Jesus' desire to heal our hearts.

*"For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. **Otherwise, they might** see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would heal them."* (Matthew 13:15)

If you search the internet for how to remove a callous, you will find it says you must stop the repetitive action causing the callous. This is how to remove a callous from your heart.

A few ways to know if you have a calloused heart:

1. You can sin with no feelings of guilt.
2. You feel emotionally dead in most areas of life.
3. You start thinking about acting out and have thoughts like: "I will ask God to forgive me afterwards." "I've done it so many times, what is one more time?" "It's not that big of a deal." "Nobody will ever know."
4. Do you believe your heart has become calloused? Explain why or why not?

What are a few potential consequences of a hard, calloused heart?

How would removing a callous from your heart help you fully surrender your life to God?

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Daily Devotional: A Flawed Belief System

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name and in Your name drive out demons and, in Your name, perform many miracles?'²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers.'²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (Matthew 7:21-24)

It is easy to get off-track and believe we are doing all this good stuff for God. The people in the passage above thought they would be saved by doing things for God. However, what he really wants is to "know" us and for us to surrender our lives completely to Him.

1. God wants our obedience more than He wants our service. Do you see how these people formed a flawed belief system? In what areas of life do you hold wrong beliefs that don't agree with the Word of God?

**I would rather go through life broken, believing I am a sinner...
than go through life prideful trying to convince myself I'm not!**

A Flawed Belief System

Objective: To examine your beliefs and challenge yourself to see if they align with what the Bible teaches. To identify any lies you have bought into.

Obstacle #3: Identifying beliefs that don't line up with the Word of God can get you off track spiritually and can form a flawed belief system.

The Bible says in Proverbs 23:7, "*For as he (a man) thinks within himself, so is he.*" NASB. This verse illustrates that our beliefs can significantly influence who we are and how we behave. This is why we will spend significant time later in the WIN book focusing on our identity in Christ, allowing the Bible to define who we are.

Our beliefs must be sifted through the strainer of God's Word. Our lives must align with the Word, or we will never be able to surrender fully to God and His desires for our lives. You will find it extremely difficult to put sexual lust behind you **unless you understand the false beliefs about women you may have developed over the years.**

Let's take a look at a few beliefs that could alter your life:

1. Do you believe God is trustworthy?
2. Do you believe you are unconditionally loved and forgiven by God if you confess and repent of your sins?
3. Do you find your value from performing at work or church, having a nice car or a great body, being funny or knowledgeable, or being desired by women?
4. Do you believe nothing is impossible with God?
5. Do you believe the Word of God is flawless?
6. Do you believe you have the power to choose if you will look at porn or not?
7. Do you believe with God's help, you will overcome sexual lust? Keep it short, memorize it, and repeat it often until it changes your beliefs.

What beliefs do you have that keep you from breaking free from porn and sexual lust?

The Word of God says in Matthew 5:28, "...anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." How does/should this scripture alter how you live?

Are you willing to surrender your life to live obediently to what the Word of God teaches? Explain:

Reflect on These Quotes

- Beliefs have the power to create and destroy! - Tony Robbins, Speaker
- As humans, we question all our beliefs, except for the ones we truly believe and those we never think to question. – Orson Card, Writer

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What was the main thing you got from God this week as you asked Him to search your heart about how you lived your last 24 hours? Did you see any patterns?

What do you want to repeat in the future? What do you want to change next week?

Weekly Power Scripture

Write below the scripture from this week's study that touched you the most.

Your “Top 3”

Write below the **three main fundamentals** from your WIN recovery workbook this week that impacted you. It may be a principle, a scripture, or something that you believe God is teaching you. Bring your workbook to group with you.

Be prepared to share your “Top 3” with your R40 team every week!

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“O God, give us the serenity to accept what cannot be changed, the courage to change what can be changed, and the wisdom to know the difference.”
—Reinhold Niebuhr, Theologian

Reflect