

Victory Over Sexual Bondage  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-9  
The Foundations of our Faith, part 15

- You can change by the grace and power of God.
- Our thoughts and our actions carve out neurological pathways in our brains that can become like four lane highways that lead to strongholds of behavior.
- The good news is we can be forgiven and we can renew our mind and create godly pathways of behavior.

**1. Positive Reasons for Abstaining from Fornication v.3-4**

- Abstaining from fornication is central to:
  - A. Pleasing God, v.1
  - B. Obeying God, v.2:
  - C. Doing God's Will, v.3
  - D. Honoring my Body, v.4

**2. Negative Reasons for Abstaining from Fornication, v.5**

- Proverbs 6:24-35 tells us nine reasons to run from lust:
  - A. Evil:** You will participate in evil, v.24.
  - B. Poverty:** Adultery leads to Loss, v.26
  - C. Burned:** You cannot get away with it, v.27-29
  - D. Hated,** v.30-31,35
  - E. Foolishness:** You'll lack wisdom, v.32a
  - F. Destruction:** You'll destroy yourself, v.32b
  - G. Wounds:** You'll create your own wounds, v.33; Proverbs 5:11.
  - H. Shame** and disgrace, v.33
  - I. Revenge:** You'll lose every time, v.34

**3. Lowdown of Fornication, v.6**

- A. You are Overstepping your boundaries:
- B. You are Committing Fraud:
- C. You will experience God's Revenge:

**4. Victory Over Fornication, v.7-8**

- How do we live in victory over this sin? How can we overcome its powerful influence on our flesh?

**A. Resolve to Conquer in Your Calling, v.7**

- Will you deny your calling to be holy as God is holy and live as the world around you?

1 Peter 2:9; But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that he should shew forth the praises of Him who hath CALLED you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

**B. Refuse to Cast Off God, v.8a**

- Will you reject God and His Word when it does not fit your sinful pleasures? (Luke 7:30; Luke 10:16; John 12:48; 1 Corinthians 1:19)

### **C. Rejoice in Communion with the Spirit, v.8b**

1 Thessalonians 5:19; Quench not the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30; And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

• **Five practical suggestions:**

1.) Write an "IDENTIFICATION letter:" Who is Christ to you? What has He done for you? And who are you now in Christ?

2.) Write a "CONSEQUENCE letter:" That is, if you sin, what will be the consequences in your walk with God? What shame, dishonor and guilt will be yours? What consequences will this have in your family, with your spouse or children?

3.) Praise: Sing Songs out loud in praise to God. Sing hymns, spiritual songs. Let your voice be heard in the halls of heaven!

4.) Prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (A.C.T.S)

5.) Fill your mind and your mouth with God's Word: Speak, and memorize Scripture out loud.