

DEVICE 7: Satan tells us, “It’s okay to look as long as you don’t touch.”

Remedy 1 – As the Bible says, don’t visit the neighborhoods where sin lives (¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. ¹⁵ Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. **Proverbs 4:14–15** (ESV)). [Looking at possible opportunities to sin requires that we spend time in the neighborhood of evil.]

Remedy 2 – Don’t expect victory over sinful behavior if you drool every time you think about it. Remove yourself from every occasion where you find yourself lusting over sinful fantasies [¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. **Romans 13:14** (ESV); ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. **1 Corinthians 6:18** (ESV)].

Remedy 3 – Remember that other Christians in the past had victory over sin by keeping themselves far away from every occasion that could lead to sin. Joseph fled his master’s lustful wife (¹⁰ And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. **Genesis 39:10** (ESV)).

Remedy 4 – When you are able to avoid occasions that could lead to sin, count it as evidence of God’s grace in your life. Don’t be proud of success. Be thankful to God for it [¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. **1 Corinthians 10:13** (ESV)]. [This avoids another possibility to commit sin.]

Questions

- 1. In your mind, what’s the biggest problem of “lingering a longer look” at what God forbids?*
- 2. If you “linger a little longer” how will you know when you’ve actually crossed the line and have begun to sin?*
- 3. Since repentance means turning away from sin, how does that compare to lingering for a longer look?*