

For every filthy word
that I shall say.....

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....My friends will make me
give to Penny - A - Day.

A Good Thought About Dirty Thoughts.

Ever since you were a boy you've heard the words, "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God."

Have you ever thought out the compliment they imply? Our Lord pays you a tribute. He assumes you are sold on the necessity and advantages of chastity of the body. He leads you onward and upward to a higher, nobler, harder ideal: chastity of the heart.

That leaves you in a strange, even contradictory, position if you're addicted to dirty thoughts-- and even to dirty stories, because: "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." In other words, harbouring dirty thoughts purposely or emitting dirty speech purposely, in a sense, unmakes a Christian. A fellow may be a Phi Beta something or a first class longshoreman or a white collar business executive and think up and enjoy bad thoughts. But if he does, he's no Christian. Our Lord could not have made Himself plainer: "He that lusteth after a woman hath already committed adultery with her in his heart."

The Positive Side Is Cheerier.

Why waste time on bad thoughts when God offers a prize for good thoughts? "Blessed are the clean of heart for they shall see God!"

Why idle away the day and night paging foul pictures? Foul pictures can only suggest foul thoughts. And too often, what was not intended in the beginning, foul thoughts lead to tragedy. Not only does chastity escape from your heart. You defile the Temple of God. And about that St. Paul fairly screams: "If any man defile the Temple of God, him shall God destroy."

Why lose a half-hour, perhaps a whole night, as one dumb part of an inane, profitless bull-session? "For every idle word that men shall speak they shall render an account of it on the day of judgment." Bull-sessions are good when you learn something good.

No, there's no arguing: the positive side is the cheerier side. "Blessed are the clean of heart for they shall see God." It may cost you something; it may cost you a lot; it may cost you the jibes of companions; it may even cost you a friend (but not a very good friend). But it's worth it. It's worth anything to see God. And lest you be under a common misapprehension, don't think that a man has to indulge in a certain amount of filthy talk to hold his place in the gang; don't think the gang regards the MAN who won't talk, when the talk is filthy, a sissy. They stand in awe (secretly) of the clean of heart. They say, in weak moments, to one another: "How the deuce does he do it? He's different. I wish I could do it!"

Even Old Foulmouth Himself CAN Do It, But

It takes watching and prayer. "Watch ye and pray that ye enter not into temptation." To guard against evil thoughts, a man must be John-on-the-spot. He can't compromise. If ever the proverb, "He who hesitates is lost," applies, it applies most inevitably and most fatally when it comes to delaying in the face of bad thoughts.

At the first suggestion, the first image, the first evil motion in imagination or memory, the will must act: "NOT INTERESTED--AND WON'T BE."

The smart-aleck may be politely suppressing a sneer: "My, my! Isn't the Bulletin editor melodramatic tonight!" But ADAMANT, UNBENDING RESISTANCE AT THE BEGINNING-- with no going back, no second consideration, no half-regret, is the only SURE-BET to fight off bad thoughts, to protect chastity of the heart. * * * A split-second of hesitation, one curious reconsideration, one specious argument ("But this wouldn't be a mortal sin") can be too much. The leak in the dyke has sprung; it widens; then the flood. The pressure becomes terrific if any consent is given. * * * RESIST BEGINNINGS, the Scripture says. And your common sense adds, STICK IN THERE!