

Over the years I've taken the time to ponder the nature of evil. Evil is a cancer of the heart and mind which metastasizes to infect and harm all of those around you.

It is the nature of evil to begin by presenting a simple temptation that seems harmless at first but, once you give in to that temptation, shame moves in to stay. Shame tells you that you are tainted, corrupted, and ruined. You can't talk to anyone because they won't understand. No one will accept you after what you've done. You are isolated and on your own.

It is the nature of evil and shame to work together to goad you into further depravity until the unimaginable becomes the norm and even the most insane and detestable act seems not only reasonable but inevitable.

It is the nature of evil to continue to present temptation in such a way that to refuse it seems impossible, but shame is quick to remind you that you are making every choice of your own free will.

It is the nature of evil to do all of this slowly over long years, even generations, not merely because it is patient, but because it savors every moment of the destruction of its host.

For much of my life I was a slave to evil's dark ways. I could talk at length about the chain of events which opened the door for me to give in to temptation at the age of eleven. I could talk of the futility of trying to fight and resist on my own, the crushing shame and fear of my day to day life, and my mental and emotional breakdown at age 13. I could talk of finally giving in completely, not because I wanted to, but because I had no hope. I could talk of my terror and simultaneous relief when I got arrested and it was all over. I could talk about all of this and more, but the most important part of my story didn't begin until June 10, 2011.

That was the day I let Jesus become my Lord and Savior. It was on that day that the old me died and the new me began the battle to take back what the enemy stole from me. I'm no longer enslaved by evil's schemes. Shame no longer rules my heart. I am finally becoming the man I was created to be. The journey is long and the fight fierce but I will overcome because I am not alone. I no longer have to fight alone.