

# Camp Aurora Testimony/Talk - “Making Your Life of Faith Your Life” - Notes

## Introduction:

- (Introduce yourself)
- Recently I had the inspiration to give a talk, or more of a testimony, about something that I and many people struggle with
- After talking with Aunt Heather, I began writing my testimony, and through prayer and thought, my testimony formed into what it is now: “Making Your Life of Faith Your Life”
- My testimony will illustrate how making my life of faith my life has helped tremendously to deal with a serious problem

## Testimony:

- The problem I am talking about is pornography addiction
- Like probably a lot of you, I am a porn addict, and I consider it my greatest problem and my greatest shame
- I accidentally found it, and it quickly became a habit that I knew was wrong, but wouldn't address it
- Of course, I didn't involve God, my parents, or anyone; who would want to?
- I later tried to stop by myself, with no one and nothing, and of course, in doing that for a few years, nothing has come from it
- In the midst of trying to quit without God or my parents, I began to develop my life of faith
- I began reading DP and TPs words more, being more interested in what's going on in the church, some of you know that I even gave a sermon 6 months ago
- More recently, I began to truly work on myself through journaling.
- From my first entry, pornography inevitably had to be brought up. But I thought journaling would help me quit pornography on my own, so I

wouldn't have to involve anyone or anything else, that thing being my faith life.

- But it didn't. In fact, I felt the problem getting worse.
- One night, journaling in frustration and shame at myself, a thought popped into my head: "Do what you've been avoiding, tell your parents!"
- Now, what is perhaps the biggest concept of our movement?
- There are several "biggest concepts", but for us specifically, one of them, after not dating, is our relationship with God, Heavenly Parent, and our parents.
- Quickly, if you don't know, why are the parents so important? Why is it so key in our life of faith to involve our parents with stuff and have a good relationship with our parents?
- TPs have said that if Eve or Adam went to God about what Lucifer was doing, the Fall wouldn't have happened.
- Furthermore, the DP states that if Eve went to God, her *parent*, with her problem, "The providence to restore Eve would have been relatively easy because, although Eve had fallen, Adam would have still remained her perfect subject partner" (DP 65).
- Our parents are God's representatives, and are in God's position.
- And in developing such a big life of faith, I came to a point where I had to decide whether my life of faith was going to be my life.
- Because in developing my life of faith, my serious problems of life and my faith life couldn't exist separately.
- Not to mention, besides sharing with your parents being a big part of a life of faith, it's also the HARDEST
- (express how hard it is to tell parents, 2 possibilities of parents reaction)
- But I knew there was no other way to stop, I tried everything by myself
- How could I do all this churchy stuff if I wasn't living it and making it a part of my life?!
- I couldn't keep them separate anymore, which is why after a ton of prayer and willpower, I told my parents a day later.

## Inspirational Advice:

- I'm so thankful to my parents for hearing me and being supportive.
- They gave me advice, such as how doing porn comes from undealt anger, and how even in the rest of the world, in programs to quit addiction, like my Dad did for smoking, its acknowledged that you need to go to a higher power.
- And since telling them my situation *has* improved
- Unfortunately though, none of us have perfect parents, and the fear of rejection, punishment, and shaming are not unwarranted (examples here)
- This is where you have to have faith and take a chance; this is where you decide whether to make your life of faith your life
- Do preparation though before telling them: Let them know you wanna talk about something important, do a prayer condition, prepare them to receive you
- And if your fears are realized, and your parents don't react well, then you can tell someone else, like an elder brother or sister
- The important thing is that you have made your life of faith your life; you've set the condition.
- Even if it's not ideal, you still acted by making God and your life of faith a part of the solution

## Conclusion:

- Now, why'd I share this with you? To make you uncomfortable, to brag?
- Problems like pornography, we can't solve on our own and we need our parents and our brothers and sisters for support.
- I'm here for you, don't hesitate to talk to me about this more! Your counselors are here, your parents are here, God is here
- But the process only starts when you make your life of faith your life.
- If "Make Your Life of Faith Your Life" isn't catchy, try PSWM. It really works. It's helped me, and it can help you.