

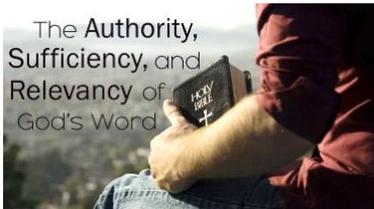
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Addiction to Online Gaming

Q: How would you advise a youth who is addicted to online violent or diabolical gaming to stop it before it is too late?



A: That is a relevant question. There are reasonable limits in enjoying some educational online games that promote sound general knowledge and the fear of God, but this is not always the case. Have you heard of Resident Evil, Diablo, Minecraft, World of Warcraft, Apex legends, Roblox, Fortnite Battle Royale, Sea of Thieves, Dota2? These are some of the popular online games of our times for the young people. Addiction is a serious and prevalent problem in our times especially during this raging health crisis where we are to stay at home and internet gaming addiction during the pandemic has exacerbated as shared in an article in the Strait Times on 6 Feb 2022 entitled Gaming Addiction on the Rise Among Youths. On 24 Jan 2022, a 14-year-old boy killed his father who tried to restrict him from his excessive online gaming. Another youth set his parents back by \$20,000 recently when he played games on the internet and charged it to their credit card. Many gullible and unsuspecting youths are caught in this serious snare. Some have consulted professional help in psychiatrists to try to resolve this matter. An expert said 6 out of 10 youths are addicted to gaming in one way or another and it could get worse. (See ST article dated 6 Feb 2022)



The inspired Bible is absolutely authoritative and sufficient to guide us in all things including the spiritual, social and moral ills of our times. The principle of Honoring God in our stewardship of time is the first thing to consider. We need to ask a honest question when we engage in an activity, is this the best use of our time

in the light of eternity? This can apply to anything from watching Netflix movies, TV, listening to secular music, addiction to the handphone with their social media obsession like Tik Tok, Instagram, Chatrooms and Twitter or playing games till late at night. Does this have the potential to also distract my attention

from my studies and work, from seeking, knowing, worshipping, loving God and reading His Word and prayer and Christian fellowship? Is there a possibility for these things to become an idol for me and displace my love for God (Col 3:5; Rev 2:4)? Below are some practical pointers to ponder regarding playing video games or any other earthly pursuit.

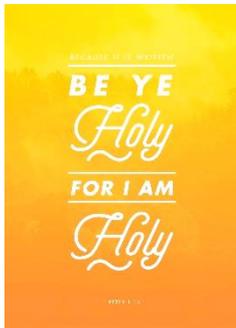
1. Will these computer games build up in me a good mind in the fear of God?

To edify means to build up. Will playing these internet games build up your devotion for God, the knowledge of Him in His Word, and our effective outreach



to save souls or our ministry to others? Yes, everything is allowable but is it spiritually profitable, positive or constructive (1 Cor 10:23-24; Rom 14:19)? There is a proper place to unwind or for relaxation, but it is to be a spiritually uplifting activity or praiseworthy to God. Philippians 4:8 says, *'Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.'*

2. Will this playing of internet games promote violence and the occult or the fear of God in the end?



Games like *Resident Evil*, *Dark Souls*, *Dead by Daylight*, *Darkest Dungeon*, *5 Nights at Freddy*, *Dark Moon* and *Zombie Vikings* deals with profound violence or evil in its theme and actions God's will for His children can be summed up in His greatest commandment, *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind';* and *'Love your neighbour as yourself'* (Luke 10:27). Our world has been polluted by sin, violence, immorality and the occult. Because we have been saved from our selfish desires, we should

surrender our will (Phil 3:7-9). God's will should transform our will (Psa 143:10). Progressively, His desires for us should become our deepest desires as well.

To be sanctified or set apart for God is a command of God (1 Pet 1:16) for every Christian and it is a lifelong process that we must strive to be holy and be consecrated to Him and fight against temptations and worldliness. It is our joy and privilege to ask God to give us the power to delight in Him and His Word and prayers instead. We should delight to do His will always (Psa 40:8; Heb 13:21).

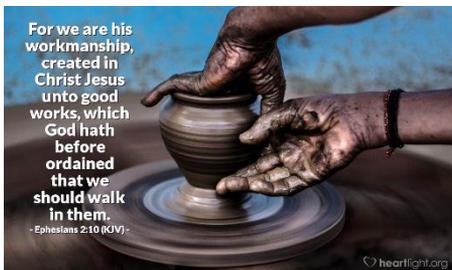
3. Does the internet game gratify self or the flesh or promote an interest in the occult?

Some computer games glorify violence, lewdness, immorality and even the occult like Geomancy, witchcraft, necromancy, spells casting and incantations. Some of these games require the person to fight against demons, ghosts, imps, spirits in graveyards, or even hellish characters and some even to cut off heads and limbs and to brutally kill someone virtually. Are these actions right before the thrice holy and just God? Some role-playing games have caused phobias and irrational fears and compulsive obsessive behaviors in some of its players. Some have even reenacted them in real life and get into trouble with the law. (Ie a Thai youth robbed a taxi driver in real life after stimulating a similar game on it and was caught and convicted) As Christians, we should be interested in those activities that bring glory to God and help us to grow in the knowledge and grace of Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, *'Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.'*



4. Does the playing of these constitute a form of good works or good testimony commanded of God?

We are created in Christ Jesus for good works for His sake (Eph 2:10; Tit 2:11-14 and 1 Pet 2:15). Every Christian should strive to do something with their lives towards this end. A good example and testimony is important. What will others think of us if we engage in this activity? Slothfulness and self-indulgence are not consistent with God's sovereign purpose for us. Discipline and diligence are. We are to focus on the Lord and to grow in our faith and to be engaged in edifying things to glorify God and to minister to others as well (1 Cor 15:58; Gal 6:9-10).



5. Will the playing of internet games improve my temperance or self-restraint?

While it is not wrong to play an educational game or a mentally stimulating game but the question is can this online game become an addiction or an obsession in itself for me? We are not to be slaves of anything for Christ has set us free. The problem with drugs, alcohol and smoking some of the enslaving activities and we can be brought under subjection. Paul warns us of disciplining the body so we may win the prize. Christians have a greater motivation to live a consecrated life of temperance to gain the everlasting prize in heaven one day (1 Cor 9:25-27).



6. Will the playing of these games help me to redeem the precious time that is going by?

Ephesians 5:15-16 says, *'See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.'* All of us will give account for how we employ our limited times. Can you account for



spending so many hours playing a game before the Lord at the judgment seat of Christ one day (2 Cor 5:10)? Think about it prayerfully. Let us choose to live for God and not for fleshly reason or pandering to our selfish desires only (1 Pet 4:2; Col 4:5, Jas 4:14, and 1 Pet 1:14-22) and employ our time for eternity's sake.

7. Does it pass the test of 1 Corinthians 8:9?

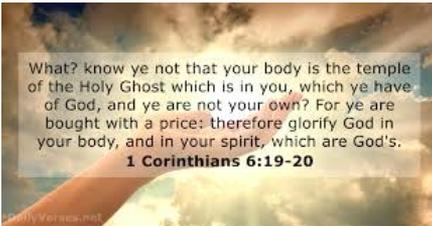
1 Corinthians 8:9-12 says, *'But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.'* When you are obsessed with playing online games, your testimony is at stake and your focus on secular things is a bad example to others and may even stumble some. Do not let this happen and destroy your good influence in



them for Christ peradventure you may share the gospel to them? Do not be a stumbling block but be a steppingstone for others in their walk of faith. Let us do all things for Christ and for our brethren's sake.

8. Will the playing of these internet games fit in with my overall life goal for God? In the shorter catechism, we are reminded that “The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”

Ask yourself, will these amusements fulfill my life purpose or aims of glorifying God as a Christian (Ecc 12:1)? Paul in Acts 20:24 says, *'But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.'* Am I regressing in my spiritual life and be part of this crooked and depraved generation (Phil 2:15)? Are we really different from the world as Christ has made a significant difference in our lives by saving our souls from sin and damnation?



The joy of knowing, loving, and obeying God should be our highest priority (Phil 3:7-10). Will playing computer games demonstrate my faith and consecration to God or on the contrary, my lust for the things of the world which should not be? Remember Demas who fell away

in 2 Timothy 4:10 which says, *'For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.'*

9. Will the incessant playing of these games give me an eternal purpose or hope?

Christians have the hope of eternal rewards in heaven if they are faithful on earth (Matt 6:19-21, 1 Cor 3:11-16). Note that we cannot serve two masters, God and mammon and we need to make up our minds to choose God (Matt 6:24). God gives us strength and enjoyment through times of work, rest and relaxation (Ecc 5:19; Mat 11:28-29; Col 3:23-24). There is a time for everything and we must find that balance between work or studies and a time for sound recreation. When we do set aside time for relaxation as Jesus did (Mark 6:31), we should choose edifying activities like

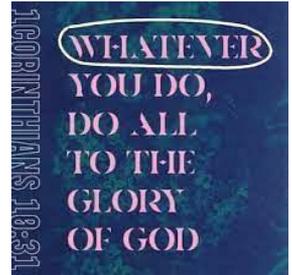


jogging, swimming, reading a book or spend an edifying time fellowshiping with godly friends and family.

Conclusion

There are legitimate games that promote educational learning, understanding nature, history, geography, general knowledge of even the deeper understanding the Bible and we do well to learn from it. But we need discernment lest we indulge in unsound games that has the potential to deceive, addict or harm us in this health crisis? The important question we should all answer: Will I glorify God in this activity or edify myself or others which is our chief end in life as a good steward of Christ?

Let us pursue God- honoring activities in 2022. Let us live and prepare for eternity for the world is passing away soon and the lusts thereof (1 Jn 5:17).



Let us remember the atoning sacrifice of the Lord who died on the cross for our sins and gave Himself a ransom for our souls and by God's grace and enablement, let us humbly seek God for his pardon and strength and to stop this obsession or addiction for Christ and for our own soul's sake before it is too late.

Jack Sin

(For deeper studies, read Mark Shaw, ***The Heart of Addiction, A Biblical Perspective***, 2008)

When an Accidental Act is a Result of Divine Providence

Mat 24:14 *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”*



Something amazing happened on 12 Feb 2022. A man called Mr Jeffrey Chua found a copy of our 6 Feb church weekly on a food court table in Simei (accidentally left behind by our member Anthony) and read the sharing by Eld Habakkuk Mang on the book *“Christian Perspective of the Pandemic”*. He called me, came down to church and waited for more than an hour for me to meet me in church and bought 2copies of the book though he is not a Christian. He responded on Sunday that he found the book interesting and informative. To God be the glory.

Pray for his salvation as we witnessed to him and gave him our church gospel tract, and for his family too who will read the book that has an evangelistic message that peradventure hearts may be converted to Christ.

You never know what the Lord can do with a church weekly accidentally left behind. Do not be ashamed to give out a gospel tract.



Let us keep witnessing for Christ in 2022 and pray for Nagesh of Tamil Nadu, a migrant worker who has

received the gospel tract during our morning exercise, and for the salvation of Angie’s uncle Whye Koon who received a Chinese gospel booklet from



us during a recent CNY visitation.

Jesus Saves! Let us be the witness for Him.

Act 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Jack Sin

Greeting for SHBPC 4th Church Anniversary

Dear Ps Jack and sister Angie,

Praise God for His covenantal faithfulness toward you all, and we especially rejoice with you for the 4th anniversary of Sovereign Hope. We saw the videos you shared, Praise God.

Rev Dr George Skariah

Pastor, Covenant BP Church, Bangalore, India

SOVEREIGN HOPE
bible presbyterian church

16 - 18 JUNE THU - SAT 2022

CHURCH CAMP

Biblical Precepts for a Vibrant Christian Walk
Camp Speaker: Rev Dr Jack Sin

All attendees must be fully vaccinated

DAY 1 8:30am - 4:00pm
Morning : Message
Afternoon : Workshop
Evening : Free and easy

DAY 2 8:30am - 6:00pm
Morning : Message
Afternoon : Outing to Pulau Ubin
Evening : Free and easy

DAY 3 8:30am - 1:00pm
Morning : Message

@ CHANGI COVE 351 Cranwell Rd, Singapore 509866

TWIN SHARING \$260^{nett} PER PERSON* | **SINGLE ROOM** \$390^{nett} PER PERSON* | We welcome DAY TRIPPERS! \$20^{nett} PER PERSON for 3 days

* Stay-in Campers : Camp fees includes breakfast only. All other meals on our own.

Register by **30 April 2022** with Dn Yue Kay @97450311 or Joseph Wee @90171772

Memory Verse

Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Rev Nathan speaks today on “**Heavenly Precepts for Daily Living**” (Col 3:1-11), the quarterly theme of “Christ-Centred Principles for the Local Church”, a study on the Epistle to the Colossians.
3. Pastor is preaching this morning at Gospel Light BP Church.
4. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “**Christian Virtues to Put On**” (Col 3:12-17).
5. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - Understanding Biblical Eschatology & related Topics – Joseph
 - Studies in Numbers – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Burmese Bible Class - James
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
8. In accordance with the Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) that is effective from 1Feb, our Sunday worship services are for vaccinated worshippers. The measures do not apply to religious classes ie. Sun School and Bible Study classes and hence all are welcome to attend. The church can organize a **monthly worship service with holy communion for the unvaccinated on the 3rd Sat of the month at 4pm in church, limited to 5 worshippers** according to the safety measures. **Interested kindly inform Pastor by the second Sunday of the month.**
9. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 4 Mar 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
10. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
11. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
12. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
