

12
TWELVE

**WEEKS TO
FREEDOM**
From Addiction

Reformer's Unanimous of Cork

Every Friday, 7pm - 9pm, Unit B, Enterprise Park
Innishmore, Ballincollig, Cork 087-955-6224



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

START DATE

BOOK 3

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There are many who struggle under some addiction, and live lives of emotional isolation, shame and despair which is caused by the tyranny of their addiction. Addiction has been described as a moral weakness, a lack of will power, an inability to face the world, a spiritual illness and some even call it a sickness.

But addiction, whether it is to drugs, alcohol, gambling, overeating, pornography, depression, or nicotine, can only be described in one word... BONDAGE, and bondage is slavery. The world today says, “*once an addict, always an addict*”... but God says in the Bible “*for now will I break his yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder*” (Nahum 1:13).

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Introducing Twelve Weeks to Freedom

Twelve Weeks of Classes – A Lifetime of Freedom

Freedom! *“The state of being free; exempt from the power and control of another; at liberty; real independence.”*

For the next twelve weeks, you will walk the path of freedom, out of your addiction, and into a life of freedom from that addiction! Your freedom does not mean that you can live as you please, or that you can just go back into another addiction, but, it means you will be free to start living like you were meant to all along!



Each week, a rock-solid truth from the Bible will be thoroughly explained, and you will be given a list of things for you to do, called challenges. It will only take you 30 minutes a day, but the changes it makes will be worth it all!

It took you years to get where you are now, in the bondage and slavery of an addiction. So, don't imagine that it will only take a few hours or days to get completely restored. BUT, you can be made free from the grip and desire of your addiction, free to live differently, free to have a life once again... if you want it bad enough!

A Christian man once said to a curious friend, "I am not all that I should be or what I want to be, but thank God I am not what I used to be."

“And such were some of you!”

1 Corinthians 6:11

All sin, no matter how small or large, separates us from God. *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God."* (1Corinthians 6:9). End of story!

Look at the Bible's list in verse 10, of just SOME of the sins that we all committed regularly, without even thinking about it! Many of us lived in these kind of lifestyles that God says is clearly wrong.

- **Fornicators:** those who lived in sexual immorality before they were either saved or married.
- **Adulterers:** those who were unfaithful to a marriage partner and lived a life of infidelity. (Can also refer to those who live lives of unfaithfulness before the Lord!)

Introducing Twelve Weeks to Freedom

- **Effeminate and abusers of themselves with mankind:** those who lived a life of homosexuality, transvestism, and other gender perversions. (These sexual perversions were the downfall of the Roman Empire! 14 of the first 15 emperors claimed to be homosexual!)
- **Idolaters:** people who worship and bow down to false gods and false religious systems.
- **Thieves:** those who steal and take away from others.
- **Covetous:** those who in a greedy fashion desire what others have.
- **Drunkards:** those who are bound by alcohol and strong drink.
- **Revilers:** those who destroy with their tongues and wound with their words.
- **Extortioners:** those who take unfair advantage of others.

Those are all very harsh, telling words! But God saved the best words for last! In verse 11, "*And such were some of you.*" Some people actually try and live decent and moral lives. Not everybody was a drunkard, or an adulterer. But the truth is that no matter how little any of us may have sinned, we still were wicked and ruined before God.

Thank God for the word "*were.*" Praise God that any sinner can find forgiveness and can say, "Thanks to Jesus, I am not the man I used to be."

Paul was saying to these Corinthian believers, "That is what you used to be. That is how you used to live, but there has been a marvellous and glorious change in your life."

What kind of change was Paul speaking of in their life? "*But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*"

‘Washed’ is a great word! The sin, guilt, hurt, and embarrassment of our addictions can make a person feel so filthy and dirty. BUT, all of that can be buried and put firmly in our past, by being WASHED, and CLEANSED by God! Only God can wash away not only our sins, but the STAINS of our sins!

Sanctified! It is a word that simply means make holy! Can you believe that Jesus can actually make YOUR life into a holy life? Not where you walk around in monastic robes, but that you actually are no longer a slave to sins and addictive behaviour! Well, it is TRUE! And that is what this twelve week programme will do!

Justified! Now HERE is a truly amazing word. *Justified* means pardoned, and completely forgiven! God can forgive you so much that the record of all your sinfulness is actually wiped clean, and you can start completely, all over, just as if you had never sinned before!

All of this happens by the authority of the name of the living Son of God, Jesus, the Lord of all! The change that can take place in your life can only happen if Jesus does it. And if He does it, it is finished – there is nothing left to do but enjoy it!

Steps You **HAVE** to Take

*Things you **HAVE** to do!*

1. **Finish the 12 Week Course.** Don't start this course without the intense desire to see it through to the end!
2. **Expect hardness,** and obstacles, and many bad days! As with anything worthwhile, there are going to be loads of times you feel like you can't do something because it is hard. It was the same for everyone else, so why should it be different for YOU?
3. **Start to Think Differently.** Change is not something you feel, it is something you understand and choose.
4. **Do all your homework!** You will have to do more than just sit there and listen. YOU will have to do some things every day. Not much, but enough so that you actually learn and change. Every week you will have new things to do, and truths to understand. Don't miss one day's homework, because everything you do will build up to breaking the power of more past bondages.
5. **Fill-out the Personal Evaluation Form on the next page,** as honestly as possible. It will help you see all the areas that need to be worked on during the twelve weeks.
6. **Get yourself a real Bible** to read and learn from - a King James Bible! God says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17
7. **Be ready and willing to QUIT anything that will stop you from changing.** That includes letting go of Cigarettes, bad friends, laziness – anything that will lead you back to the same old bad habits and addictions that have you enslaved! It may take months to be rid of your addictions, but you at least need to be willing to let go of them all when asked to! Be ready to quit some things FOR GOOD!
8. **Change your mobile phone number,** and only give it out to very few people. The longer you allow the people who caused you problems to keep bothering you, the longer it will take to get free.
9. **Attend a Bible believing church as often as possible!** That means get out to it every Sunday morning, and Sunday evening (it is more important than attending Alcoholics Anonymous or N.A., or any other programme).
10. **Memorize the Twelve Scriptures of this programme!** You will discover that there is great, life changing Power in Memorizing Scripture!



The more of the above list that you do, the faster you will change! In other words, you GET out of this programme what you PUT IN!

Twelve Life Changing Truths

These are THE Bible's Truths That Free Us

1. Every Sin has its Origin in our Hearts

The first step to recovery is accepting that all your problems can be traced back to your own heart. According to the Bible, our Hearts are Evil. Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Without the Bible, the very words of God, you could not ever know what is in your heart. That’s because our hearts do not want to be exposed.

Jesus Christ says in Mark 7:18-23 that it’s not what you put in your mouth, or in your veins that defiles, it’s what comes out of the heart that ruins us!

Our heart is the breeding ground for every sin that we commit – for every bad habit – for every wrong thought.

2. We are Powerless Over Our Addiction

Admit that life has become unmanageable and that you are powerless over the effects of separation from God. Acknowledge helplessness and recognition that help is needed. The compulsion of the addiction is a form of idolatry.

Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.” Our heart is Satan’s strong hold. This is why we find it hard to get victory over addictions. We must have God’s weapons, and God’s power to bring down and defeat every sin and bad habit in our life! 2 Cor 10:4 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.”

3. Only God can salvage and restore a broken life! There is nothing impossible with God!

2Corinthians 12:9 “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Believe that God can and will restore you to sanity. That we can come to Him through His Son, and know God personally, and have a vital relationship with Him. (See John 3:3-67; Acts 16:31; John 1:11-12; Romans 3:9-12; 3:23; 6:23; 5:6,8; 10:9-13) We must affirm that we need to be saved from sin... its penalty, power, and control over our lives. You must be born again by faith in Christ’s shed blood.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

4. Only by following the life and teaching of Jesus Christ can we be made whole.

Luke 10:42 “But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Make a decision to turn your will and your life over to God, yield to His Word and accept His plan for your life (Rom. 12:1,2; Eph. 5:17). We must come to the place of entrusting our lives to God. If we admit that we are powerless, separated from God and our lives are unmanageable in ourselves, then this is the natural outcome. (See Rev. 3:20; Psalm 34:8.)

Luke 9:23,24 “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”

Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”

5. Only an Open, Honest, and Humble Life can be Helped

James 4:10 “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

You Must Recognize the Exact Nature of Your Sin (just how bad it is). Admit to God, and to yourself, the exact nature of our sins (James 5:16; Psalm 32:1-5; Psalm 51). You must expose the hidden sin so it can be admitted and then confessed to God.

After identifying the character traits that led to our compulsive behaviour, we can relieve the burden of the guilt and shame. This is done by admitting to ourselves and to another person our wickedness, and by confessing our sins to God. There must be a full confessing and a thorough repentance of the wrongs (1 John 1:7-10; Isaiah 55:7). Thankfully we do not need to confess our sins in detail to anyone but God.

Make a searching moral inventory of yourself (Lamentations 3:40). There must be a thorough examination of your behaviour, and a journey into self-awareness of the programming, habits, patterns, and sinful self-talk lies that are a part of the whole picture. There must be a recognition of the wrong belief system which is an integral part of the whole situation.

Then take responsibility! Begin to look at the dark side of our character, to identify and understand character weakness or defects (sins) and see how these have controlled our behaviour. Denial has been your biggest enemy up to this point, but now must be overcome by honesty.

An inventory must be made. Not a history of all your problems, but an inventory which reveal the weakness you would rather not acknowledge. Write down any resentment, fears, guilt, shame, and try and write out a detailed account of compulsive behaviours. THEN, God will step in and help you!

6. People Need to Be Free From the Bondage, Not Just feel Better

John 8:32 “[And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.](#)”

John 8:36 “[If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.](#)”

Be entirely willing and ready for God to remove all these practices, these sin patterns and habits of life (James 4:10.)

We must be confronted to change our habits, life-style and patterns of acting out. There must be a commitment to change. (See Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3: 5-14; Ephesians 4:30-32.)

Humbly (James 4: 6-10) ask God for a removal of these sinful patterns, and shortcomings (1 John 1:9). Allow God to bring a healing of damaged emotions, change the attitudes and transform the behaviour (Romans 12:2).

7. You Cannot Ignore Making Restitution.

Luke 6:31 “[And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.](#)”

Make a list of persons you have harmed, and be willing to make amends to them all. Restitution is very vital for ongoing change, and personal victory. Prior to recovery the person blamed every one else for their problems. We have all at times done this and possibly also blamed God. We begin now to release our need to blame others and also accept full responsibility for personal actions. From point four (the inventory) we would be aware of all the sinful and inappropriate actions and sin which brought injury to others.

Along with this is the need for forgiveness. We must cancel the debt (Matt. 18:23-27; Eph. 4:32) and ask forgiveness from anyone whom we might have offended as well.

8. Be Reconciled to Others You Have Wronged.

Matthew 5:23,24 “[Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.](#)”

Make direct amends to people you have wronged (stolen from, physically or emotionally hurt) wherever that is possible, except when to do so would injure them or others (Matthew 5:23,24). After making the list we must actually do everything possible to reconcile with those that we have hurt (1 Peter 4:8-10; Matthew 18:15; Mark 11:24,25).

9. Have a Daily Prayer Life. It is called, “Walking with God”

Micah 6:8 “[He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?](#)”

There must be a deepening of the life with the Lord, a daily routine of prayer and Bible meditation which will give you day by day victory over the past. Recovery must be relentlessly pursued on a daily basis.

You must seek through prayer and bible meditation to improve your conscious contact with God as set forth in the Word of God. Pray for knowledge of His will and the power to carry that out (Colossians 3:16a; 4:12).

10. Daily Monitor Your Life

1 Corinthians 10:12 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

Continue to take personal daily inventory and, when you were wrong, promptly admit it (1 Corinthians 10:12; Psalms 139:23,24; Romans 6:1-4; Galatians 6:1-5). Such a personal inventory is a daily examination of our strengths, and weaknesses, motives and behaviours. We need to monitor signs of attempting to manage our lives without God or of slipping into resentment, dishonesty, or selfishness. Also we must watch for rationalization about a gradual return to the former life style and sinful acting out.

11. Seek Joy Instead of Happiness

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

There is a big difference between real joy, and passing happiness. A follower of Jesus Christ knows that most of life will not be fun, but that there is great JOY that comes from God as we do what is right and good.

When we lose our joy, we need only to humble ourselves, admit we have been seeking only fun and ended up sinning, and then ask God to restore to us His joy and peace! Psalm 51:12 “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”


12. You Can Help Others, Once you Yourself Have Been Helped!

Galatians 6:1,2 “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we must take the message to others, practice the principles on a daily basis in all of life, and seek to win others to Christ (Galatians 6:1,2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

There must be an ongoing walk with the Lord in a positive way and with aggressive labour to help win others to the Lord and to see others set free from addictions.

The Ten Principles of Reformer's Unanimous



THE 10 PRINCIPLES

1. If God's against it, so am I!
2. Every sin has its origin in our hearts.
3. It is easier to keep the heart clean than to clean it after it has been defiled.
4. We cannot fight a fleshly appetite by indulging in it.
5. Small compromises lead to great disasters (Little sins lead to big sins).
6. Those who do not love the Lord will not help us serve the Lord.
7. Our sinful habits do hurt those who are following us.
8. It is not possible to fight a fleshly temptation with fleshly weapons.
9. We lose our freedom to choose when we give in to temptation. The consequences of our choices are inevitable, incalculable and up to God.
10. God balances guilt with blame. Accept the blame for your actions and God will remove the guilt.

The Last Four Weeks



“Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

(Romans 6:18)

Week 9 – Walking with God

What the Bible Says in Micah 6:8...

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

**WALK
HUMBLY**

I. Introduction

- A. What does God want from us? He wants us to _____
- B. God wants people to “see” His work in you (1 Cor 1:27,28)

II. Lesson

- A. Walk _____ God - You cannot walk with God unless you are in agreement with His ways (Amos 3:3). It means to _____ God – not for God to walk along with you!
- B. _____ with God (Psalm 5:2,3)
- C. _____ to God.
- D. It _____ to Walk with God! (Romans 12:1,2)
 - 1. _____ yourself – giving yourself as a gift back to God
 - 2. Allowing _____
 - 3. Using the Word of God, We Can _____ for a Clean Mind (Ps 139:23,24)
 - 4. The word of God enables the mind to be aware of a deceitful heart
 - 5. Dedicate your self (Luke 22:42)
- E. Jesus says that the cost of following him is _____ to your self – your feelings, plans, demands, and old habits! Letting them die so that God can replace them with a whole new life... every day!
- F. You don’t have to be perfect to follow Jesus, but one day you will be perfect because you followed. Col 1:21,22,23 *“Holy, unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight!”*

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Saturday

What the Bible Says in 2 Corinthians 5:7...

“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”

**WALK BY
FAITH**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. What does the word “walk” mean? *(Circle the right answer)*
 - a. Repeated steps in one direction
 - b. A country stroll
 - c. A pan used in cooking Asian cuisines
2. Who orders our steps? _____
3. What does this verse say about how we need to go about our lives?

4. What does this verse say about how we should NOT go about our lives?

5. In your own words, what do you think it means to walk by faith?

6. Can you give an example from your life? Yes / No If Yes, How did you walk by faith at a specific time in your life? _____

7. Are we to always rely upon what we see with our physical eyes?

8. When should we be trusting in God? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through – Sunday

What the Bible Says in 2 Corinthians 6:16...

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

**GOD WILL
WALK
WITH YOU**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. What is an idol? (*Circle the right answer*)
 - a. Someone from America that can sing really good
 - b. A person, statue, or object that has our attention and affection more than God
 - c. Someone who is not doing anything at all
2. Have you ever had an idol in your life that was more important to you than God was? Yes / No if so, what was it? _____
3. Have you ever allowed an addiction to become your idol – needing a fix all the time and cannot live one day without it? Yes / No
4. According to this verse, what is the temple of God? _____
5. Who dwells in that temple? _____
6. Should the fact that God lives in you affect the way you live? Yes / No
7. Does God enjoy dwelling among idols? Yes / No
8. How do you think He feels about a Christian’s idolatry when He lives in their heart? _____
9. How would YOU feel if you thought someone loved you exclusively, and yet they made you live also with other people they also loved and adorned and served along with you? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Monday

What the Bible Says in Psalm 23:4...

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

**THOU ART
WITH ME**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. What is the “valley of the shadow of death”? (*Circle the right answer*)
 - a. This world?
 - b. This life which comes to an end?
 - c. The after life?

2. Why do you think that the author of Psalm 23 (King David) does not fear evil? (*Circle your answer*)
 - a. Because he is sinless and has no fear of sinning?
 - b. Because he is a good person?
 - c. Because he is born again, and simply trusts God to take care of him?

3. Who does the psalmist say that is with him? _____
4. What two objects bring comfort to the psalmist?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

5. What purpose would God use a staff for? (Think about what a shepherd uses a staff for) _____

6. What purpose would God use a rod for? (Think about what a shepherd uses a rod for) _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Tuesday

What the Bible Says in Galatians 5:16,17...

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

**WALK IN
THE SPIRIT**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. This verse describes an inner conflict which takes place in the soul. Do you experience this conflict? Yes / No
2. How do you think God is telling us that someone does NOT fulfil the lusts of the flesh? _____
3. What does the flesh lust against, or is at odds with? _____
4. What does the Spirit war against within us? _____
5. What two things are contrary one to the other? _____
6. We have all walked after the flesh all of our lives. What is now the most important action for you to take when you have obeyed your flesh and sinned?
(Circle the right answer):
 - a. Pamper the flesh?
 - b. Amputate the flesh?
 - c. Kill the flesh?
 - d. Stop, and now try to follow God and obey what His word tells us on how to live our lives?
7. Have you ever felt like there was a war going on within you, with you wanting to do right, and then another part of you stopping you and instead doing wrong? Yes / No
8. Is it common for everyone to have that kind of a conflict? Yes / No

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Wednesday

What the Bible Says in Psalm 1:1,2...

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”

**DON'T
WALK WITH
THESE!**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. What does the word “blessed” mean?
 - a. Grouchy?
 - b. Grumpy?
 - c. Happy?

2. Is a man blessed by God if he listens to advice from someone who hates God? Yes/No
3. Is a man blessed if he hangs around with sinners? Yes/No
4. Is a man blessed if he listens to people who complain all the time? Yes / No
5. What brings a blessed man delight? _____
6. What does the blessed man meditate on? _____
7. What does ‘meditate’ mean? _____
8. A blessed man desires to know God and to spend time with God. Can anybody be blessed by God if they don’t spend time with Him? Yes / No
9. Who should we NOT be around if we want to be blessed and helped by God?
 - a. The counsel of the _____
 - b. The way of _____
 - c. The seat of the _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Thursday

What the Bible Says in John 15:5...

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

ABIDE

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. What is Jesus referring Himself as? _____
2. Who are the branches? _____
3. Where do the branches on a vine get their strength and nourishment from? _____
4. What does it mean to “abide”?
 - a. To rest or dwell with something?
 - b. To remain with or to continue with something?
 - c. To spend time with someone?
 - d. All of the above?
5. According to this verse, will Jesus abide with you if you desire to abide with Him? Yes / No
6. So, if I abide with God, what will be the results of it in my life?

7. What do you think the verse is talking about when it refers to bringing forth much fruit? _____

8. Without Jesus in our life, what does the verse say that we can do?

9. Can you get victory over your addiction by yourself and by your own willpower? Yes / No
10. Who will give you the strength to get the victory over your addiction?

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Week 10 - How to Clean Up a Dirty Heart

What the Bible Says in 1st John 1:9...

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**AGREEING
WITH GOD**

Pondering Tonight’s Lesson:

I. Introduction

- A. Our heart is filthy and deceitfully _____! (Jeremiah 17:9)
- B. Our heart is evil from our _____. (Genesis 8:21)
- C. Our heart is the _____ of our sin. (Matthew 15:18-20)
- D. We can however, get completely clean even after we have sinned!

II. Lesson

A. The First Step in Cleansing Our Heart is to Get _____! (Acts 3:19)

- 1. Our heart cannot truly be cleansed until we have been converted
- 2. We cannot clean up our own heart _____. It is a supernatural process that _____ alone performs.
- 3. We cannot ever be “_____” to cleanse our own heart. (Romans 3:10; Ephesians 2:8,9)

B. The Next Step is to Begin _____ the Bible (Ephesians 5:26)

- 1. Once we are born again, our heart is perfectly cleansed. But it can begin to get _____ again as we sin and because we live in a sinful world.
- 2. The Word of God helps us understand our thoughts, whether they are godly, or ungodly. (Hebrews 4:12)
- 3. The Bible cleanses us and helps us draw nigh (near) to God (John 15:3,4)

C. Stay Away From _____ That Will Defile Your Heart (Proverbs 21:12)

D. Separate Yourself From Those Who Do Not _____ God (2 Corinthians 6:14-17)

- 1. Those who do not love God will not help you _____ God (Psalm 10:4)
- 2. Ungodly people will try to make you fall away from God (Psalm 11:2)
- 3. We need to _____ those people with those who WILL HELP YOU serve God and grow closer to Him. (1st John 1:7; Psalm 23:6; Hebrews 10:25)

Think It Through - Saturday

What the Bible Says in Psalm 119:9...

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

**TAKE HEED
TO THE
WORD**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. What do you think it means to “take heed”? (*Circle the right answer*)
 - a. To pay attention to something?
 - b. To obey someone’s instructions to you?
 - c. To ignore and disregard instructions?
 - d. To steal something?
2. Why do you think the Bible talks about a young man cleansing his way, and not a old man? _____
3. Are sins and habits started when we are young much harder to get rid of?
Yes / No
4. What does “Wherewithal” mean? (try using the following words in place of wherewithal, and see which makes more sense):
 - a. How?
 - b. Why?
5. Whose “word” can we trust to cleanse us and protect us from the effects of sin? _____
6. Is it important to teach our children and family the words of God? Yes / No

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through – Sunday

What the Bible Says in 1st John 1:6,7...

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

**WALK IN
THE LIGHT**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. Who can we have fellowship with (who is the 'him' in the verse?) _____
2. What do you think it means to have “fellowship with him”? _____

3. What two things is a Christian doing when they are walking in darkness?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. Who are you lying to when you try and play the balancing act between living in the light and living in darkness? _____
5. Spiritual darkness is a lot like physical darkness, you don't know where you are, where you're going, and you're unaware of all the dangers around you. What bad things have you had happen to when you have been living in darkness? _____

6. Sin separates us from fellowship with other believers. When you're in sin do you normally want to be around your Christian friends? Yes / No
7. How can we have fellowship with other believers? _____

8. Why should we walk in the light? _____
9. What cleanses us from sin and allows us to walk in the light? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Monday

What the Bible Says in 2Cor 7:1...

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

**CLEANSE
OURSELVES**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. What two parts of us need to be cleansed?
 - a. The filthiness of the _____
 - b. And of _____

2. What is the difference between the flesh and the spirit?
 - a. Describe what your “flesh” is: _____

 - b. Describe what your spirit is: _____

3. What is a good way for us to clean up the filthiness of our flesh?
 - a. Showering, Brushing our teeth?
 - b. Confessing to God about wrong actions of our bodies?

4. When a person disobeys God, what are they actually doing to the clean and forgiven life that God has given them? _____

5. Many addiction treatment programmes don’t work because they only help you clean up your outside. Sin must be pulled up by the roots, and those roots are NOT only in your flesh, but in what part of you? *(Circle the right answer)*
 - a. Your mind?
 - b. Your heart?
 - c. Your soul?
 - d. Your habits?
 - e. All of the above?

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Tuesday

What the Bible Says in Psalm 51:1-3...

“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.”

**WASH ME
THOROUGHLY**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. Who is King David talking to in the Psalm? _____
2. Why is God merciful to us?
 - a. According to His loving _____
 - b. According to the multitude of his tender _____
3. Do we have to acknowledge our sin for God to forgive us of it? Yes / No
4. Why do we have to acknowledge and agree with God about our sin before God will forgive us? _____

5. What was always in David’s mind until he finally admitted to God that he had done wrong? _____
6. Who is the only person who can wash us thoroughly from our sins? _____
7. What is “iniquity” just another word for? _____
8. List all the words that David uses for sin in the verse:
 - a. Transgressions is one of them...
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Wednesday

What the Bible Says in Isaiah 53:5,6...

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

**THE PRICE
OF OUR
CLEANSING**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. Who was wounded in the Scripture? Who is the ‘he’? _____
2. For whose transgressions was he wounded? _____
3. What are “transgressions”? _____

4. This verse says we are like sheep. Are sheep smart animals? Yes / No
5. Do sheep always obey? Yes / No
6. Where do sheep usually run off to? *“have gone _____”*
7. Who is it that actually laid on him the iniquity of us all? _____

8. What four words describe God’s judgment upon our sin?
 - a. *“he was _____ for our transgressions...”*
 - b. *“_____ for our iniquities...”*
 - c. *“_____ of our peace was upon him...”*
 - d. *“With his _____ we are healed...”*
9. How many people have gone astray from God and need a Saviour to take their place in condemnation? *“_____ we like sheep...”*

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Thursday

What the Bible Says in Proverbs 28:13...

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

**CONFESS
AND
FORSAKE**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. What happens to someone who hides their sins?
They “*shall not* _____”
2. What happens to the one who confesses and forsakes their sin?
“*shall have* _____”
3. What does it mean to *cover* or hide your sins? _____

4. Who do we usually try and hide our sins from? _____
5. Who are we to confess our sins to? _____
6. When would be a good time to tell God that we know we have sinned against him, and admit it was wrong and forsake ever doing it again? _____

7. Describe how you could forsake a sin? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Week 11 - Joy is Better than Happiness

What the Bible Says in John 16:33...

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

**BE OF GOOD
CHEER**

Pondering Tonight’s Lesson:

I. There is a Difference between ‘Happiness’ and ‘Joy’

- A. Happiness is a good feeling about things going on around you. It looks at circumstances and events and when it sees much good, it feels good.
- B. Joy is a _____ sense of happiness, even when circumstances have changed for the worse!
- C. No one can live without joy. Without joy, all you have left are frustrating bits of happiness that leave a person empty and hurt.

II. What the World Only Offers

- A. Loads and loads of “fun things to do!
- B. False promises
- C. Entertainment that is only “Happy sin” – leave you feeling guilty for watching
- D. The pleasures of sin only last for a _____ (Heb 11:25)

III. Why We So Desperately Want to have Fun? _____

IV. Joy is Something that Only _____ Offers (John 15:11; 1st John 1:4)

V. Joy is the Very Opposite of _____!

VI. Experiencing the Fullness of Joy. How to live in joy?

- A. Joy comes from _____ (Gal 5:22)
- B. God’s Joy _____ all other emotions, no matter how dark
- C. By surrender to _____ will, and then to the will of Others.
- D. Patient _____ (Psalm 30:5)

VII. Losing and Regaining Your Joy (Psalm 51:12)

Think It Through - Saturday

What the Bible Says in Psalm 51:12...

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”

**PRAY FOR
JOY**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. What do you think “restore” means? *(Circle the right answer)*
 - a. Give back something that is lost or missing
 - b. Reopen a store that has gone out of business
2. What brought joy to David when he wrote this Psalm? _____

3. Did David lose his salvation? Yes / No
4. What did he lose? _____
5. What does the word “uphold” mean? *(Circle the right answer)*
 - a. To reach for the sky as far as you can
 - b. To support or to sustain something or someone from falling or slipping.
 - c. To hold up someone at gun point
6. What did king David request God to uphold him with? _____

7. Is God’s Holy Spirit in the bondage of some sin, or is it free and unlimited?

8. How do you want to live? In the bondage of some sin, or free? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through – Sunday

What the Bible Says in Isaiah 61:10...

“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”

**JOY IS A
CHOICE**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. Looking at the scripture above, who do you think wrote this verse?
 - a. God?
 - b. The prophet Elijah?
 - c. The prophet Isaiah?

2. Right in the beginning of the verse, who was bringing the writer such great joy? _____
3. What two reasons does the writer say that he was so joyful over?
 - a. God had clothed him with the _____ of salvation
 - b. And God had covered him with a robe of _____

4. What does the writer compare these “garments” with?
 - a. Like how a bride-groom puts on _____
 - b. And like a bride adorns herself with _____

5. Should joy in a Christian’s life be as visible as what a bride and her groom wear? Yes / No
6. Does your joy show? Does anyone notice your joy? Yes / No
7. or do people manly notice your sorrow, and depression, and frustration? Yes / No

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Monday

What the Bible Says in Psalm 30:5...

“For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

**JOY WILL
COME**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. Who’s anger do you think the psalmist is writing about? _____
2. How long does God stay angry for? _____
3. Where is a person’s real life found? _____
4. Is it wrong to be sad and to weep? Yes / No
5. Is it wrong to live our lives sad, depressed and defeated? Yes / No
6. If you believe God, and trust Him for the future, what is guaranteed to come in the morning? _____
7. Are we supposed to stay stuck on all the sorrow and suffering that we go through in life? Yes / No
8. If we give our burdens and our sorrows over to God, do you think He will remove them from us and give us joy and ability to go on with our lives? Yes / No

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Tuesday

What the Bible Says in Isaiah 51:11...

“Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.”

**EVER-
LASTING
JOY**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. Who do you think are the redeemed of the Lord? (*Circle the right answer*)
 - a. The Jewish people
 - b. Anyone who has put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation
 - c. Those who were slaves and had been bought and set free from their slavery
2. When they return, what will they be doing? _____

3. What will be upon their heads? _____

4. What two things will they obtain?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. What two things shall flee away when the redeemed of the Lord return?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Wednesday

What the Bible Says in Isaiah 61:3...

“To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”

**THE OIL OF
JOY**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. God often writes things in the Bible to encourage us. In the above verse, people were mourning? What does that mean? _____

2. God promises that he can and will replace the following sad and bad things with what good things?
 - a. _____ for our ashes
 - b. The oil of _____ for our mourning
 - c. The garment of _____ will replace our spirit of _____
3. God compares believers in Jesus Christ to trees of _____
4. Can trees usually withstand storms? Yes / No
5. Who will plant a troubled life if they will just let him? _____
6. Who gets all the glory and praise when a Christian is changed from being defeated and ruined, into someone who lives free and is victorious over their sins? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through – Thursday

What the Bible Says in John 15:11...

“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”

FULL JOY

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. Who is speaking in the above verse? _____
2. Why did the speaker say some things that he did? So that our _____ would be _____.
3. Whose joy can we have? _____
4. Was Jesus a joyful man? Yes / No
5. If our joy “remains” in us, what does that mean? _____

6. How can a person get Christ’s joy IN us? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Week 12 - Free to Serve!

What the Bible Says in Galatians 6:12...

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

RESTORE

Pondering Tonight’s Lesson:

I. Introduction (Mark 5:1-20)

- A. I want reminding you where you came from. Read Mark 5:1-20
- B. If you were delivered from an addiction, then YOU have a testimony too.
(What it was like, What happened, What it is like now)
- C. You also have a command, *“go tell your friends what Jesus did for you!”*
- D. You were made free to serve God by telling others about how that happened.
- E. The Gaderene had a plan for his life after he got saved but it was not the same as what Jesus had planned.
- F. **Have you been helped by Jesus in your life?**
- G. **You Can Help Others, Once You Yourself Have Been Helped!**

II. Lesson

- A. **Serve the Lord** _____
- B. **Serve** _____
- C. **Serve out of** _____ (Philippians 2:4-8)
- D. **Serve out of** _____ (Galatians 5:13; 6:1,2; 1st Corinthians 13:1-7)

SERVING IS LOVING, AND LOVING IS SERVING

- E. **Serve in** _____ (Ephesians 4:1-3, 15,16)

III. Conclusion

- A. You were placed in the church by the Lord as part of the RU outreach. RU is part of the church. But not everyone is taking part and this is where the mission collapses, the body (church/RU) is missing body parts and is limping into all the world
- B. Don’t let that happen here, play your part in RU/church. The enemy has crippled our outreach by causing division among believers, this is why the Lord has commanded us to love one another, not that we feel better but so that the job of outreach would get done. Its not about us it is about others
- C. The Gaderene demoniac played his part - he told people what the Lord did for him.
- D. What has the Lord done for you? And what will you now do for HIM?

Think It Through - Saturday

What the Bible Says in 2nd Corinthians 5:20...

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

AMBASSADORS

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. An ambassador is someone who represents his home country to people in a foreign country. Is this a big and important job? Yes/No
2. If you were an ambassador in a foreign country, what do you think is your most important function? _____

3. As an ambassador are you allowed to
 - a. Say what you want? Yes/No
 - b. Do what you want Yes/No
4. As an ambassador for Christ, I am speaking on His _____,
_____ (begging) people to be _____ to God.
5. In your own words how could you say that someone is *reconciled* (made right) with God? _____

6. Should an ambassador take his or her job seriously? Yes / No
7. If an ambassador does things that are evil, what would people think of the person and country that the ambassador is representing? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through – Sunday

What the Bible Says in Colossians 3:23, 24...

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

**DO... AS TO
THE LORD**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. Who is this verse speaking to?
 - a. An Saved person?
 - b. An Unsaved person?

2. Have you ever done anything just for the Lord Jesus? Yes / No
3. If so, what did you do just for Him? _____

4. Have you ever helped someone (for the Lord) and have been turned down or rejected? Yes / No
5. How did that make you feel? _____

6. Did you ever think that it was not worth doing because of the other person’s reaction? Yes / No
7. According to this verse, who are you serving? Are you actually serving the person you are helping, or the Lord? _____

8. So what do you do when someone rejects your help? _____
9. Why? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Monday

What the Bible Says in Galatians 5:13...

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

**DON'T
ABUSE
LIBERTY**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. Have YOU been called by God unto “liberty”? Yes / No
2. What does that mean?
 - a. I can do what I like
 - b. I am now freed from sin (and from my addiction to it)
3. Have you been freed from sin? Yes / No
4. If yes, can you give an example of something that you used to not be able to stop doing, and yet now, because of following Jesus, it is now gone?

5. If you are not yet free from any sin, why do you think you are still in bondage to your sin? _____

6. If you have been delivered from addiction, what is the danger that this verse speaks of? _____
7. How do I overcome my tendency to walk after my flesh? (look at the verse)

8. What is the best way to show that I love someone? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Tuesday

What the Bible Says in Galatians 6:2...

“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

**BEAR
BURDENS**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. This verse speaks of *burden bearing*. Do you have burdens of your own?
Yes / No
2. What kind of burdens do you carry? _____

3. Would you like it if someone were to come alongside you and offer to help you carry them? Yes / No
4. How would you like to be helped?
 - a. Have someone listen to you?
 - b. Have someone encourage you?
 - c. Have someone talk about the help you need?
 - d. Have someone tell you about the real burden bearer?
 - e. Have someone actually meet your needs?
5. If you met someone's needs, have you helped them? Yes / No
6. So, explain now, How is the law of Christ fulfilled? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Wednesday

What the Bible Says in Romans 15:1-3...

“We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself”

**CHRIST
PLEASED
NOT
HIMSELF**

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. Does it encourage you to see that the strong Christians are told to care of the weak ones? Yes / No
2. Is someone who has been freed from addiction strong or weak?

3. Do you think that they were always strong? Yes / No
4. If you are weak, what should you do?

5. If you are strong, what ought you do?

6. According to the verse why don't usually we want to help others?

7. The verse says we have a responsibility to help others. Do you know someone who needs help? Yes / No What ought you do them for them?

8. Will it always be easy and be pleasing to help others? Yes / No

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

Think It Through - Thursday

What the Bible Says in Matthew 25:21...

“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

WELL DONE!

Pondering the above Scripture:

1. According to this verse, will our work as Christians come under scrutiny by the Lord? Yes / No
2. What does the Lord call this man? *“thou _____ and _____”*
3. Why does God call him that (you can read the previous verses to see what is going on)? _____
4. The servant is praised for being *“faithful over a _____...”*
5. What does he promise this lowly servant? *“I will make thee _____”*
6. Does this promise encourage YOU to serve the Lord? Yes / No
7. Why? _____

| Prayer List | Praise List |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

Now PRAY, and then thank God for the above things you listed!

A Final Evaluation

What still has a grip on your life? On a scale of 1 – 10, mark what struggles you have with any of the following habits, addictions, or attitudes.

This is a time to be brutally honest with yourself! You can't move FROM where you are at until you ADMIT where you are at! This is and will be kept Confidential.

| DO YOU HAVE AN ISSUE/PROBLEM WITH... | Yes? | <i>No problem</i> | | | | | | | <i>Big Problem</i> | | | |
|---|------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------|---|---|----|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Anger and Bitterness | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Self Mutilation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Occult | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anxiety, Panic Attacks | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Depression | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Isolation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unable to Sleep, or Rest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Constant TV and Movie watching | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lying, Dishonesty | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crime (thievery, etc). | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drinking | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Binge Drinking | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cigarettes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hash | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marijuana | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cocaine | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Heroin / Methadone | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Amphetamines - Meth | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glue, Aerosol and Petrol Sniffing | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gambling | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pornography (internet, magazines) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lust | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food Addiction | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bulimia, Anorexia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Excessive Computer Games | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | |

What Prescription Drugs are you currently taking?

PORNOGRAPHY – Can Anyone Avoid It?

In Matthew chapter five, Jesus is preaching, and He said, “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out...” One old preacher said, “Just pluck it clean.

It is better to have it empty than have it full of filth.” “...pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell” (Matthew 5:27-29).

In “Homer’s Odyssey,” there is the story in that famous classic, and in that story, there is a certain island that is inhabited by these little sea creatures that they call sea nymphs. And the island was called the Island of Siren. And ships, the story goes, would go sailing near this island, and were pulled toward this island with a strong, compelling force. As that shipped was being pulled toward this island, these sea creatures and sea nymphs would begin to sing these songs that would captivate men’s attention. Not only captivate them, but would tempt them. These men, in listening to these songs, and the strong melody that would come off this island, would forget about their homes. They would forget about their wives. They would forget about their children. They would forget about everything that was dear to them, and they would jump overboard to get to this island, and their bodies were hauled by the sea upon the rocks, and the rocks would break their bodies all to pieces. It is said the bodies of these broken men were strewn up and down the shore, upon this island. They called it the price of yielding to the songs of Siren.

There is a Siren song in our society today that is pulling men. Listen, pornography in this country has so much power and so much pull, it is destroying and wrecking lives from the highest seat in our society, to the lowest in the streets.

Pornography has the power that promises forbidden love, promises hidden fun, promises imaginable pleasures. Its melody and images leave men so close to the shores of destruction that they are jumping overboard and are being slung into the rocks of destruction. They are losing their lives. They are losing their wives. They are losing their homes. They are losing their children. They are losing their future. They are losing everything. They are losing it all to this thing called pornography.

Homer’s hero in the book found the way to avoid Siren’s song, and as his ship began to sail near that island, where so many others had lost their lives, he took his men and put wax in their ears. He had himself tied to the mast of the ship, so that the island and the songs would not tear him loose to destroy his life like so many others.

The lure of pornography is coming into this country from every direction. It is coming in upon our lives, in our homes from every direction. There is not one place you can name that pornography does not have its tentacles into. It is coming in through the televisions. Pouring volumes of Hell’s sewers, right into our homes. It is coming in through music, glorifying the images. It is coming in through advertisement.

Advertisement uses porn to sell its products. Movies glamorize it. It is coming in through the videos, where people can have their secret pleasures. It is coming in through the telephone, so people can fill their ears with forbidden words. It is coming

in through the computers, so they can fill their eyes with the images of Hell. It is coming in through the billboards, so you can keep your mind off Heaven. You keep your mind on that when you are driving down the road. It is coming in through the bookstores. Every bookstore you go in displays it. It is coming in through the newspapers. They undress their world in our homes, even in the newspapers. You can't name one thing that pornography doesn't have a hold of.

You better find more than wax to stick in your ears, to get away from this power. That wax, you better stick in your ears, better be the grace of God, because that is the only thing there is that is ever going to give you any hope of escape. That mast you better tie yourself to is called the cross of Calvary, because that is the only thing that can defeat it. There is nothing else. There is not a program. There is not a medicine. There is nothing that can defeat pornography, outside of the grace of God.

Listen, we live in Noah's day. In Noah's days, it says "That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose" (Genesis 6:2). And then it says, "that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). Listen, the magic of makeup can make the ugliest girl in the world attractive today. The daughters of men are fair. And they turn the heads of every male, and all their thoughts are evil today. We live in Noah's day.

We live in Paul's perilous times, where men were "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:4). And they enjoy their unnatural affections. We live in John's peek into the future, where John said "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication" (Revelation 17:4). The thing about the world is, they enjoy watching that.

We live in Jude's warning, when he said in Jude 19, "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Listen, they separated themselves from holiness, they separated themselves from the Holy Bible and they separated themselves from the house of God. They separated themselves from hope. They separated themselves from Heaven. They separated themselves from honesty. They separated themselves from having the Holy Spirit. I'm telling you, this world and all of its pornography crowd have separated themselves from God.

We live in Peter's prophecy, where he preached, "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin" (2 Peter 2:14). We live in James day, where he said, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14). We live in the times that Jesus said in our text, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

We are fixing to enter into a new millennium, and the world is excited about it. I'm going to tell you, it is going to be a millennium of misery. And I'll tell you why. The fruit of this past century is going to ripen into destruction in the next millennium. You see, forbidden sins are now public pleasures. There is no turning back. The seeds are in the ground, and "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). I'm telling you, they have done sown this filth and you are going to live to see the most abominable things that you ever imagined that came out of this EVIL century.

A fearful day approaches. Jude says “Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints” (v.14). You may ask, “Why is He coming?” “To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed” (v.15). And don’t look for the government to help us, because porn is protected by the government in its “free speech.” Don’t look for the government to protect it, but for God to punish us, because of our enjoyment of such pornography.

Promoters of porn say that the constitution protects it. That is why you can’t get rid of it. Promoters of porn call it a victimless crime. Promoters for it say it is a harmless entertainment. This is what they argue before our government. This is what they say when they stand and argue that it is protected by the constitution. Nothing can be done about it, because the public wants it. That is what they told the government. And our government said, “Amen” to it. Listen, the devil in Hell has joined forces with the hearts of wicked men, to demoralize, to destroy, to damn and darken every mind.

I tell you, it is a conspiracy to get every mind. It doesn’t just want the world. It doesn’t just want our children. It wants every town. It wants every mind, every marriage, every man, every mother and every mother’s child. You are caught in the middle of the worst invasion ever come upon the shores of America. This army of pornography is an army out of Hell. Its troops are soldiers of sex, and they are determined to seduce and rape this land. They want to take everyone prisoner. They want to tie everyone down. They want to torture every mind with its filth, until we submit to it. They want to tear every life apart. They want to torment us to death. They want to terrorize our children and turn our country into Sodom and Gomorrah.

Listen to me. Porn wants every virgin. Porn does not want there to be one virgin girl. That is why they have to teach them all that sex education, and starting to pass it in the fourth grade. Porn doesn’t want a virgin. It wants every virgin on the altar of passion. It wants every virtue. Do you want to know what porn wants to do? It wants to get its hands around every virtue, strangle it to death, so there is not one decent thought in this whole land. It wants everyone a victim. It wants every mind vile. It wants every thought to be evil continually. It wants to vex our souls with the filthy conversation of the wicked.

I will tell you today why Christianity is not rising up, marching and crying against it, because she has lived daily, listening to the conversations of the wicked, so her soul is vexed and she does not have the desire to fight it, because she is so used to it. That is why the church isn’t fighting it. That is why no one is preaching against it, because they have become used to it. We see it every day.

You can’t go anywhere without it being there. You can’t go to the grocery store. You can’t read the newspaper today. You can’t look at a billboard without it. You can’t even get behind a car wheel. Your neighborhood is caught. You can’t watch a movie. You can’t listen to radio, where porn has not broken through. And behind every dirty picture, behind every half-exposed magazine is a home destroyed. It looks so innocent. She is half dressed. And behind every picture there is a home destroyed. Behind every picture there is a child without a family. Behind every picture there is a man in prison. I’ve walked in the prison cell blocks where they have put those boys who have lost their minds to porn, all this crazy filth, and they have their cells wall papered with the most filthy pictures in the world. And they look and stare at that all

day long, dreaming of the day when they get out. If I preached it, you would vomit to think of some of the things they have done to American boys and girls when they got out of these prisons. I can't even preach it like I need to preach it. I can't pass on the stuff I have read and saw, trying to put this together. There is no way to do it. Only God the Holy Ghost can take it and put a fear and a hot foot. Behind every picture there is a woman assaulted.

Behind every picture there is a marriage torn apart. Behind every "innocent" picture you see on a magazine rack, there is a victim. Behind every picture there is a demented mind. There is a boy who is never going to be a man, a father. There is a girl who will never be a mother or a lady. Behind every picture there is a suicide. Behind every picture there is a drug addict. Porn is a hot log that is slowly burning its way across America, to destroy everything in its path. And let me tell you this, it cannot be stopped. It isn't something that we can wish away. It is not going away.

A Federal judge has ruled that the First Amendment gives every individual, man or woman, boy or girl, the right to keep porn in their lockers in school, in their dorms, in restrooms, in homes and their bedrooms. They have the right. The Federal government has given them the right.

In Wichita Falls, Texas, a Federal judge ordered that two picture books with gay themes be returned to the children's area of the city library. "United States District judge, Jerry Buckmeier of Dallas, granted a restraining order sought by the A. C. L. U. that the books, 'Daddy's Roommate' and 'Heather Has Two Mammams' are directed at children with gay parents, and earlier this month, the city council ordered that these books be moved from the juvenile section of the Wichita Falls Public Library and placed in the adult section." The Federal government has now stepped in and said to take it out of the adult section and put it right back in the children's section. They aren't for us. They don't care. If you elect a Republican or a Democrat, they aren't for us. You can't even send your children to the library. You have to go with them. The Justice Department and Janet Reno have weakened porno laws, so if you are going to survive, you are going to have to fight it or die with it.

I want to give you some reasons why you shouldn't look at pornography. Number one, the society you live in. Physical violence is produced by pornography. You look at our society and want to know what's wrong? Why is everyone so violent? Why is everyone so cruel? Why all the atrocities, butchering and slaughtering? We pick up the newspaper, and read that a woman in a resort area had her head cut off. And you wonder where is all this coming from? It is coming from pornography.

A man assaults a young girl, abused her life, abused her death, chewed on her body, because he had been looking at porn since he was six years old. If you are not going to blame the drugs, nor the television, you better blame porn for the violence. Nine million people a day click on the Internet for porn. Listen to me. Nine million people a day click on the Internet for porn. Five million of them are men. Fifty percent of them get hooked. Fifty percent of them are married. Cable and the net have poured porn into these homes, into these hearts, into these lives, and I tell you, the next millennium is going to produce a society of millions of these who sit and look at violence, so that they have to go kill someone. You don't understand it, but you get into it, you have to hurt someone. It unlocks such passion, it unlocks such wickedness in the heart of man that he never knew was there.

Porn is the preparation, motivation and instruction for violent atrocities. In Saint Petersburg, Florida, two boys, one seven years old and one nine years old, took a pair of pliers and a screwdriver and killed a little baby girl, because they had been looking at porn all day long. Porn took two little innocent boys and turned them into devils. It turned them into monsters. And you are going to sit there and tell me you can handle it. You are going to keep it under your mattress and you are going to look at it on the tube, and then you are going to tell me everything is going to be all right in your life? I'm telling you, it isn't. It destroys people.

Porn is after every individual. It is after every position in society. It doesn't play any favorites. It plays with the rich. It plays with the poor. It plays with everyone. It is after every male and every female, young and old. It doesn't make any difference to porn.

Let me take you into the dean's office at Harvard University, a man that was a theologian. They said he had expanded the roles of religion and morality in public life. He was honored at Harvard. This man was forced to resign in shame, when a thousand pictures of porn were found on his university computer. I tell you, there is not a place that porn doesn't want to go. It wants in every office, every university and every church.

Listen, porn isn't scared of you. It isn't scared of your church. It is not scared of your children. And it is not scared of your friends. It is louder and more violent than I am. I couldn't get as mean as porn.

A man named Ted Bundy tortured and murdered thirty-three young girls, chewed half of them up. They put him in an electric chair in Florida in the United States. Before he died, he said, "Porn did it." Do you know where he got his first porn book? It was from his grandfather. His grand daddy turned his grandson into a monster. And we think it is all right. We think it is okay to sit and thumb through the pages, thinking everything is going to be all right.

Can I take you into a church called the Zion Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas? The pastor Don Carlson is there. Did you know that the custom agents raided his church and home, and found child porn? There is no position that is sacred. It doesn't care if it is a church or not. It doesn't care if you are saved or not. It doesn't fear a church. It doesn't fear a pastor. It doesn't fear a pastor's wife. Porn will get hold of anyone.

Can I take you into the mayor's office of Port Huron, Michigan? There was a man, Gerald Ackerman, who had been honoured and awarded by the National Association of Social Workers. He had been advertised as a roll model for children. And now he is charged with six counts of first-degree criminal sexual assault. He is charged with five counts of criminal sexual conduct. He is charged with two counts of production of child porn material, and one count of indecent exposure. He faces prison now.

You ask, "What in the world could take a man that has all that education and all that recognition and notoriety, and all that position, what could walk into his office and take him, pull him out and send him down the road to where the children are, take those hands and put them around little innocent children? What could be that cruel?" And I'm tell you, porn did it. And you think it is not going to hurt you, Rambo? Listen. A person looking at porn, he doesn't care what he does to people. He has a selfish passion that he is going to satisfy. He doesn't care if it is you, your boy, your girl, or anyone. He doesn't care. He has lost his mind.

Can I take you over to Deer Park Elementary School, where a school teacher by the name of Ernest Davis, thirty-eight years old, was just sentenced to life in prison in the city, because of porn material, child porn? Police searched his home and found his computer full of it. He was voted the teacher of the year, and you are going to trust your child to the teacher of the year? He took those students, he brought them into his house, he set them before a television screen, he plugged in those tapes and put that garbage into their minds. He abused those children. What could take a man, a teacher of the year, and bring him down and destroy, not only him and his wife and family, but also dozens of children?

Can I take you to N. A. S. A? A space engineer worked on the space station and worked on the space flights, and just went to prison. Porn got an engineer. Hey, it doesn't care who you are. It doesn't care what position you have. It doesn't care at all. You see nakedness and nudity is devilish, and the devil knew if he could ever get the clothes off Adam and Eve, he knew violence was going to follow. I'm telling you, society and all over this world, they are pulling their clothes off and the minds of men are becoming worse than devils. There is no stopping this deadly flow of wickedness. It has flowed uninterrupted into universities, government offices, businesses, churches, homes, schools and corporations. It cannot be stopped. It will not be stopped.

In Las Vegas, Nevada, a nineteen year old boy named Jeremy Stockmeier pleaded guilty to molesting and strangling a seventeen year old girl. A nineteen year old boy took his nineteen year old hands, put them around the throat of that little girl and choked the life out of her, carried her off to a bathroom stall, where security cameras shot the whole thing. His Mamma stood before the judge and said evil influences got into his life. And the judge asked, "What evil influences was that?" She said, "He bought a computer seven months ago and started looking at porn." It only took seven months to take a nineteen-year-old boy and turn him into a murderer.

Some of you reading this have been looking at it longer than that. And you don't have much longer left. You are going to make the front page of the paper. I'm telling you, you better listen to me. But you aren't listening. If I really told you what I saw, you would be sick.

I went to a library and checked out their books. They have books, thick ones, down there on the effects of porn on this society. I'm skirting around the edges, but they didn't. Seven months, and this teenager became a monster. Seven months, and he became a murder and a molester. I wonder how long it is going to take you to destroy your life?

Can I give you another reason why you shouldn't look at porn? It is because of sanity. Porn destroys the soundness of the mind. It affects the reasoning of the mind. It influences the senses, the thinking and thoughts. Do you see the violence of Noah's day? Remember that the Bible says, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). Their violence had filled the earth, and it had everything to do with the daughters of men. They were fair.

You see, what porn does is, it begins to pound on the door of your mind, until you let it in. And once it gets in the mind, it gets those keys, unlocks those forbidden chambers down in the heart. Then it goes down into the heart with those keys and unlocks doors down inside your heart, opens up rooms and lets things out that you

never thought were inside you. It causes violence of a mother that will cause her to take a butcher knife and slaughter two boys of her own flesh and blood. And you think it is so simple, so innocent.

Porn freaks surf the Internet, they live in the chat rooms. They come through the chat rooms, boasting and lying and deceiving, looking for victims, just to satisfy their lust and please their passions. That is all they do. They live in those chat rooms, like a spider weaving a web, waiting for an innocent insect to fly into it. Then they walk outside, wrap that web around and around, until they can't move. They stuck the blood out of the victim and leave an innocent shell. That is exactly what they do. They sit there, days and nights, filling their minds and hearts with the most filth that comes out of Hell. Then they go looking for you. You wouldn't believe how many cars are patrolling your own neighbourhood, just looking for innocent victims. And you think you can handle it all, but you can't.

Another reason why you shouldn't look at porn is because of suicides. You know, anything must be feared that will cause people to destroy their own lives. Porn can cause, has caused, and will cause many deaths in the form of suicides. A retired Air Force General committed suicide recently in Maine. He walked out on the second floor of his apartment, took the American flag, turned it upside down and raised it, which is a universal sign of distress. He walked right back into his house, took a plastic bag and pulled it over his head, tied it with a shoestring and committed suicide.

It was the fourth man in that ring that had done it. You see, what they had done, they started an international porn ring made up of prominent men. They had a chat room called "The Wonder Land." They lured young boys and girls into their business and sold their pictures all over America, until the Federal agents found them. Can you, Lord, spare someone of the misery, taking them and killing them? They deserve worse than what they got, and got everything they desired when they got to where they were going.

You are going to step into the Wonderland chat room. You are going to talk to a child you think is your age, a guy you think is so in love and looking for companionship. You will walk into the hands of monsters. That army General was just too much. Wars couldn't kill him. Enemies couldn't kill him. The battles couldn't kill him. In his retirement, porn killed him. That means porn is stronger than any battle, any enemy, any fight that he was ever in.

There was a man by the name of Robert Paul and he was seventeen years old. He overpowered a teenage girl in Baltimore. He poured gas on her body and burned her alive, went home, got a gun, went down to a school, shot one student, shot up the school, went back home and shot himself. They walked into his bedroom and found him lying dead. And it was because of the power of hardcore porn. Go ahead, keep reading it. Enjoy it. It will destroy your life. It is going to destroy your body. And you honestly think you can handle it.

Let me give you this thought. Another reason you shouldn't look at porn is because of the Scriptures. Do you know the Bible teaches us, as the first lesson in the Bible, you better be careful of what you are looking at. We see Eve, and all she is doing is looking at the forbidden fruit. That is all she is doing. You find her looking, just looking. And she looked until she reached out and took it. And she was so stupid

she had to give it to someone else, and then the whole thing snowballed, and the Bible says, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12). Why? She looked. Why do people die? She looked. Why did her baby boy die? She looked.

All men became sinners. Porn is just like that. You look at it, until you have to take it. Eventually, if you keep looking, you are going to take it. You can't help it. Stronger men, wiser men, more prominent men, more educated men than you, have fallen into its trap. You will look until you take it, and when you take it, you will want to give it to others. They are going to take it and they are going to destroy other people.

Do you know what the Bible says in Acts 2:29? “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David...” The Bible calls David a patriarch. A patriarch is a father, worshipped and honoured father. A patriarch is a founder, almost godlike in the eyes of the people. And listen to this patriarch, who was the Sweet Psalmist of Israel, a man after God's own heart. “And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon” (2 Samuel 11:2). He was just looking. That's all, he's just looking. But David sent messengers and he took her. He looked, until he took her. And you are going to look until you take her. You see, I just didn't preach what the Bible says. I preached to you what is happening today. Listen to what Nathan says when he comes in to preach to David. “But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him” (2 Samuel 12:3-4).

Who cares who she belongs to? He had done looked. He doesn't care if that is someone's daughter. He doesn't care if it is someone's wife. He doesn't care. They get their passions from looking. He doesn't care if it is your daughter. He doesn't care how much you bring her to church. He doesn't care how much you love her. They are never going to care. The only thing they care about is satisfying the passions of their heart.

May I take you to Calvary? “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:3-6). Do you know what God the Father did? He took that bucket of slime. He took all the filth of our lives. He took all that stinking sewer of Hell, poured it on His divine, precious and perfect Son. Every deed, every wicked thought, he poured it on the Son of God. The Bible says there was grief that brought death. If it did that to Jesus, it is going to do it to you, cable watcher. It is going to do it to you, HBO lover. Showtime? It is going to do it to you.

Do you know what Revelation said? It said, “And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds” (Revelation 2:21-22). God is going to throw America into Hell. God is going to throw every man, every woman, every boy and girl, who enjoys the filth and slime of this world and this thing called pornography. I’m going to tell you how you ought to heed the invitation. Some of you better get your children and take them to an altar. Husband, you better get your wife and come to an altar. You better come if you have that grief against you. Every one of us feels the temptation of it every day. We know how strong it is, and we have grace. Do you think for one minute you can handle it? You cannot. You better come, while you can come, or it is going to destroy your country, your church and your home and life, children and everything.

There is no escaping it. You are going to have to fight it every day for the rest of your life. It isn’t going away. It wants everything you have. And without the grace of God and the Word of God, we haven’t a hope. We better feel the fear of it, because it doesn’t fear us.