

SUBJECT: "And Be Not Drunk" (ADDICTIONS and STEPS to FREEDOM)
SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:18. "And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit."

INTRODUCTION

PART ONE

The word "addiction" is not in the scriptures. However, the scriptures have much to say on the subject. Instead of the word "addiction," we find the following words: bondage, servant, slave, power, captive, yoke and entangled.

There are addictions to things that are sinful, and there are addictions to things that are not sinful in-and-of-themselves, e.g., eating, shopping, etc. Addictions are desires that are out of control. It is important to realize that anything (including relationships) can become addictive.

The word "addict/addictions" means: To devote or surrender oneself uncontrollably to something habitually.

The following words and their definitions are scriptural words that correspond to addictions:

- **BONDAGE:** A state of being bound usually by compulsion; captivity. Servitude to a controlling person or force.
- **CAPTIVE:** Taken and held prisoner; owned or controlled by another; being in a situation that makes departure or inattention difficult.
- **ENTANGLE:** Ensnare; deeply involved; to make tangled.
- **POWER:** Possession of control, authority or influence over others.
- **SLAVE:** A person held in servitude; a person who has lost control of himself and is dominated by something or someone else.
- **YOKE:** An oppressive agency, servitude, bondage; a wooden bar by which two animals are joined at the head or necks for working together.

The main factor in addiction is control. It is something that controls you; not you controlling it.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

- Galatians 5:1. Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty with which Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.
- 1 Corinthians 6:12. All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient; all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

- Romans 6:12. Let not sin, therefore, reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in its lusts.
- Romans 6:16. Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
- Romans 7:23. But, I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.
- 2 Timothy 2:26. And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil who are taken captive by him at his will.

THE CAUSE OF ADDICTIONS: The Fall of Man

Genesis 1:26. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping things that creepeth upon the earth.

At the creation of Man, God gave him dominion over all the earth. Man was to be in control; he was to rule.

Man has always been a three-part being (spirit, soul and body). Before the Fall of Man, Man had the ability to choose and to perform God's will. After, the fall, Man lost the capability of choosing after the spirit, and instead chooses after the body or the flesh. Now, instead of Man controlling all the earth – the earth now controlled him.

When Man rebelled against the command of God, he transferred all that God had given to him, to the enemy.

Luke 4:6. And the devil said unto him, All this power (authority) will I give thee, and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it.

Romans 7:17 – 21. Now, then, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 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. For the good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

Since the Fall of Man, Man's natural tendency is towards evil, or towards good things "out of control."

Galatians 6:17. 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.

AREAS OF ADDICTIONS

Addictions can take place in any area of a person's life. As it has been stated before, anything can become addictive. The following is a partial list of additions:

- **ENTERTAINMENT** – Television, music, sports, parties, video games, etc.
- **FOOD**
- **DRUGS** – Caffeine, nicotine, hard drugs, prescription drugs, etc.
- **TALKING** – compulsive talk, gossip, lying, jokes, telephone, etc.
- **GAMBLING** – Bingo, casinos, lottery, etc.
- **SEX** – impure and illicit relationships, pornography, sensual novels, lusts, etc.
- **SHOPPING**
- **RELATIONSHIPS** – Friends, relatives, “lovers,” etc.

PART TWO

John 10:10 states, “The thief cometh not but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

From the words of this scripture, we see Satan, the thief, working to steal, to kill, and to destroy from mankind. One way in which he achieves this purpose is by moving upon the legitimate desires of man and stretching those desires beyond their rightful, God-given boundaries.

But, this same scripture, in John 10:10, goes on to tell us that Jesus has come to give mankind life, and life more abundantly. This life comes to us through the work of Jesus on the cross. God has sent His Son into the world to redeem us from sin as well as from every bondage that has a hold upon us.

Romans 6, says that at the time of regeneration, the Believer becomes united with Christ in His death, His burial and His resurrection. Verse 6 of this chapter proclaims, “That our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that, henceforth we should not serve sin.”

STEPS TO FREEDOM

- **Acknowledge the addiction.**
In order to be free, the truth must be faced and owned.
Psalm 51:3. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- **Confess your faith in Jesus Christ.**

Jesus Christ alone is “the way” to freedom. Without Him, there is no deep, lasting freedom. Make sure that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Lord.

Romans 10:9. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

1 John 3:8b. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

- **Confess the sin/addiction to God.**

Confess means “to say the same thing as.” You must agree with God that the addiction is sin.

Proverbs 28:13. He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Psalms 32:5. I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hidden. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD, and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

- **Receive God's forgiveness.**

Once confession of sin has been made, God has promised to cleanse and forgive.

1 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.

- **Avail yourself of the spiritual weapons God has provided**

2 Corinthians 10:4, For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

Prayer. Romans 10:13. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered (saved).

The Word of God. Psalm 110:11. Thy word hath I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Self-Mortification. Romans 8:13. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye, through the Spirit, do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

To mortify means “to put to death,” through weakening, the habit of sin so that its power to express itself is subdued.

- **Trust in the sufficiency of Christ.**

Realize that you are unable to contend victoriously against the power of sin/addiction. The following scriptures reveal that our help is in Christ, alone:

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.

Philippians 2:13. For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

Philippians 4:13. I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

2 Corinthians 12:9. And He (Jesus) said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Isaiah 40:28 – 31

Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

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