

Addiction = Selfishness + Denial = Out Of Control

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

- Jesus (Revelation 3:20)

- **Pride** says that you can handle it and that you can maintain your current state of life; but addiction always gets worse, and it always blinds you to the truth. -*Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*
- **Addiction** not only places you in danger, but it places those you claim to love in jeopardy; such as your spouse, children, parents, and friends. -*Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."*
- **Selfishness** is destructive; causing our thoughts to be only about us, so that we neglect to logically think and ask questions about the welfare of our family, others, and our self.
 - What if I lose my job because of addiction? How will my family survive?
 - What if my marriage crumbles because of my addiction? Who will raise my children?
 - What if I take the life of another because of my addiction? How will others handle the tragedy I have caused? What about the shame that is placed on my family?
 - Is my addiction worth going to jail for?
 - Is my addiction worth losing the love of my family? Is it worth my life?

Priority Of Life

A person must first seek the forgiveness that only God can provide. Only through faith in Jesus Christ can a person be forgiven and justified in the eyes of God. You can be set free from sin and addiction, but you must be willing to hear and obey the word of God. -*John 8:31-32 "Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." "*

- **Admit that you have sinned and that you are a sinner**
 - Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
 - Romans 6:23 " For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"
 - Luke 15:21 " The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "
- **Believe that Jesus is God's Son**
 - John 3:15-18 "that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."
- **Call upon the name of the Lord**
 - Romans 10:9 " That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." "

Being Restored - Starts with humility

"Father, I know that I have broken your laws and that my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life and turn toward you.

Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your Son Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and can hear my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward.

Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. This addiction has gripped my soul and brought harm to my family, and myself. Lord I ask for courage and strength to say no to its temptation and pull on my life.

Lord I ask that you help me live in such a way that will restore the trust of my family. Dear Lord help me to be the person I am called to be, and to help my family be strong.

Dear Jesus bring us into your presence and into your House as a family. Strengthen us through your word, and use us for your service.

Father I pray that in time I will be able to bring assurance, to those family and friends that I have hurt and disappointed, that I have truly surrendered my life to you. Thank you for washing away my sin, my guilt, and my shame. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

Christianity is all about restoration. God takes that which is cast aside, and provides a way to be reconciled. He performed this by sending His Son Jesus Christ to die on Calvary's Cross for our sin. Jesus has taken the place of punishment for all those who have believed on Him by faith.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 " God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
- Romans 5:8 " But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Forgiveness And Trust From Those That Were Hurt - Forgiveness may come quickly, but rebuilding trust takes time. It is not hard to imagine that those who have been hurt by your pride, selfishness, and addiction would need time to see if your change is truthful and lasting.

Our walk with the Lord is noticeable, and the sincerity of our heart will be revealed.

- John 15:1-5 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
- Colossians 1:10-12 " And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light."

Can A Christian Say No To Addiction, Sin, And Temptation? The answer is YES!

"There isn't any temptation that you have experienced which is unusual for humans. God, who faithfully keeps his promises, will not allow you to be tempted beyond your power to resist. But when you are tempted, he will also give you the ability to endure the temptation as your way of escape." - 1 Corinthians 10:13

You Can And Must Resist - James 4:6-10