

OVERCOMING ADDICTION

Before our spirit became alive unto God, we lived from the outside in. We looked to the world for pleasure, to meet an inner need within.

Some of us became addicted to certain things. Alcohol, cigarettes, harder drugs, money, sex and the list goes on and on, it is called the desires of the flesh.

When we practice something long enough, it develops pathways in our mind that we travel on, thought patterns, ways of thinking that are recorded in our mind, and it is like a record that is played over and over.

When we try and overcome these addictions, we find our thinking goes down a certain pathway, we find ourselves thinking about something that we are trying to stop doing, and even if we are not thinking about it for the moment, things in life trigger these thought patterns.

There are also things that our body becomes addicted to, like certain drugs, not only are we thinking about it, but now our body is craving it and we end up finding that we keep doing the things that we now hate. We find that in and of ourselves we are powerless to overcome certain addictions in life.

It is called the law of sin and death. When our spirit desires one thing and our flesh another, we find that our spirit is not strong enough in itself, to overcome the flesh. When this inner warfare is going on, our spirit desiring one thing and our flesh another, it is only a matter of time that we end up yielding to the flesh. This is a spiritual law; it is called the law of sin and death.

The only way to overcome the law of sin and death is through a more powerful law.

8: ¹*There is therefore* (since these things are so) *now* (at this time) *no* (not the least) *condemnation* (the sentence pronounced, justification is no condemnation) *to them which are in* (intimate union with, oneness of spirit, heart, mind and purpose) *Christ* (the anointing) *Jesus* (the one who saves), *who walk* (continuous action, the whole round of activities of the individual life, to be occupied with and follow) *not* (conditional negative) *after* (object aimed for) *the flesh* (the seat of carnal appetites and desires), *but* (marks the opposite, on the contrary) *after* (of place-Indicating motion meaning down from a higher to a lower place) *the Spirit*. ²*For* (a reason, because) *the law* (a force or influence impelling to action, something that is parceled out, allotted, what one has in use and possession) *of the Spirit of life* (the vital principle of His eternal life, the Spirit of God indwelling us, our spirit and soul filled with His Spirit releasing power, the law of liberty, being led by the Spirit) *in* (intimate union with) *Christ Jesus hath made me free* (liberate from the power of) *from the law of sin* (governing principle personified) *and death* (separation from his presence-influence).

When our spirit desires one thing and our flesh another we cannot do what we wish, because there is a law at work in our members called the law of sin and death.

When the flesh comes into conflict with the spirit, the flesh always triumphs over our spirit and we cannot do the things that we want to do. This is a law. We can never change this law. It is called the law of sin and death. In the strength of our own will the law of sin and death always wins.

We have to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner

man that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith. That Christ might dwell in our thinking displacing the temptation to the addiction.

Our spirit has to be strengthened through the inflowing power of God's Spirit, so that our soul and body does not act independently of God, which is the flesh.

When our spirit is alive to God it becomes willing, we have a yes in our spirit to the will of God. But just because our spirit is willing does not mean it is strong. When the spirit is strong through the infilling of God's Spirit, we can overcome the weakness of the flesh.

The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus is what sets us free from the law of sin and death. The law of the Spirit of life is similar to the natural law of lift. The law of lift is superior to the law of gravity; it is the first law of arrow dynamics.

Bird men tried to fly but failed because they relied on human strength. Arrow dynamics uses the wind, in order to fly. The flow of wind that lifts a plane up is just like the way the infilling of Spirit works in our lives. But we have to be in the plane to receive the benefit.

The law of the Spirit of life only works when we are in Christ Jesus. It says Christ Jesus, not Jesus Christ. This is speaking of the anointing of the son. The word in means intimate union with and speaks of rest.

Just like being in the plane, we are in intimate union with the anointing that breaks the yoke of sin in our soul. We are strengthened with might in our spirit and our soul is conscious of the presence of God.

When we are filled with the Spirit, the Spirit is flowing in us like the wind and our spirit is strong and the law of the flesh is not pulling us down like gravity.

We are commanded to be continually filled with the Spirit, and if our spirit is not filled with the strength of God, then if the flesh becomes active our spirit in itself does not have the strength to resist and eventually is overcome.

As we learn how to get the gateways of our spirit, soul and body open and flowing with the life of God, then we begin to hear what the father is saying and see what He is doing, so that we can co-operate with Him.

By one sacrifice Jesus has perfected forever, those who are in the process of transformation. The first thing that the Father has to reveal to us, is that he sees absolutely nothing wrong with us, only what is missing in our personal experience of Him, which he is faithful to administer to us through His Spirit within us.

The father has reconciled us to himself through the finished work of the cross, on his part there is nothing separating us from him. He sees us perfect because we are in Christ. This is already a spiritual reality that must become a personal revelation to us; otherwise we are going to feel unworthy.

All the feelings of guilt and shame are not the result of the flowing of God's Spirit within us. The Holy Spirit takes the reality of who we are in Christ and ministers that to us in a flow of His Spirit, that cleanses and transforms us as the cross becomes a personal experience in our lives.

The cross is a trading platform in the heavenly realm, where we let go of the pain of addiction and receive double honor for our shame.

Luke 4: ¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because (two words 1-of place, where 2-meaning on account of) *he hath anointed* (action that happens in a specific point of time- supernatural investiture, a deposit of the Spirit, the pouring of the oil of the Spirit bathing us, interpenetrating us, breaking the yoke, a divine ability) *me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

It is the year of jubilee, the redeeming of pain, to be bought out of slavery, where we receive our inheritance, the anointing of the Spirit breaking the yoke of addiction.

At the cross we trade our pain and sorrows for his joy, through the cross he becomes whatever we need. At the cross is where we receive our identify as a son of God.

The Spirit of the lord is upon me, heaven invading earth. When the Spirit of the Lord is upon us we become aware of the heavenly realm.

In order to get cleansed and free we have to enter into the heavenly realm. It is a spiritual reality that we can perceive in our spirit, we are aware of the presence of God upon us.

As we enter into the kingdom, a spiritual dimension, the blood is applied to our life and we are clothed with the Spirit of God. The attributes of God penetrate into us.

All change comes through exposure to God's presence. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom from addiction. We open our spirit to the Lord and he comes in. It is in our awareness of the Lord that we receive the flow of strength in our spirit and our soul goes through a process of transformation.

When the life of God is flowing into our spirit our soul comes into agreement with the revelation we receive in our spirit, but our soul has been trained to yield to our flesh for instant gratification and has to be renewed or restored to the image of God.

Our soul has been subjected to images that are not of God, it has received manifold impressions from the world and these have to be cleansed out of it. The life force of our soul which has been independent from the Spirit of God's influence has been corrupted to different degrees in our life. Our soul has been damaged, our personality influenced by our life circumstances. Our soul is our individual life which has been developed through our habits and pursuits and circumstances that we have experienced in our life.

Our flesh has to be crucified, delivered over to death until it is rendered powerless so that it has no more influence in our life. As long as the flesh desires that which is contrary to our spirit, we will find ourselves disabled in our ability to do what our spirit desires.

Our soul has to be restored or renewed in the power of God. We do not have direct control over our soul, but our soul must be transformed so that it is enabled to live by the power of our new born spirit in fellowship with the Spirit of God.

The life forces of our soul-the thoughts and feelings that are contrary to the Spirit of God have to die, and a whole new way of thinking, and feeling have to displace it.

Ideas, emotions and attitudes which were once the guiding forces of our life (soul) must be displaced by a whole new set of values and perceptions (the result of God's thoughts flowing into our minds).

Through the infilling of the Spirit new motivations begin to dominate us. Our mind must come into a complete renewal, we must experience an entire physic change (the transformation of the soul).

Once we experience an entire physic change then the desires that are contrary to our spirit can easily be controlled.

A walk in the spirit is not a matter of mental control or will power. Something more than human power is needed to produce this change in us. The reason we lose the power of choice is because of the deceitfulness of desires that are contrary to God and our inability to control them.

When there is unrighteousness in our heart, we find that we have a mental obsession (thoughts and feelings contrary to the Spirit of God that will not leave us but persistently keep coming until in a moment of weakness we give in to them).

These are called familiar spirits; anyone who has struggled with addiction has to admit that they are struggling with a mental obsession that is a living thing. They need a power greater than themselves to overcome it.

Jesus stands at the door of our spirit and we have to let him in. The infilling of God's Spirit creates a right spirit within us so that the power of the Spirit can rest upon us. It is the power of the Spirit that enables us to offer our body as a living sacrifice so that our soul can be transformed or renewed.

What we need is a spiritual blood transfusion. The life of the flesh is in the blood, the word life in the Hebrew means soul. The blood of Jesus will cleanse our soul of any unrighteousness in it.

We must drink the blood of Jesus Christ and partake of His flesh. His soul and flesh were made a sin offering. When we partake of Jesus blood we are partaking of the life force of His soul. It is the infusion of the Spirit of God in our soul that empowers us to say no to the flesh. It is only as our soul comes under the influence of the Spirit of God that our flesh is rendered powerless.

The desire of our spirit must become so strong that our soul is flooded with the life of God, and then we experience the Power of the Spirit. When we are filled with the Spirit not only our spirit but our soul is filled with God. Even if our soul cannot feel God, our spirit is strong enough not to yield to the flesh. Just having the desire is not enough we must experience God's power in order to not yield to the flesh.

We cannot resist the pressure of the flesh to sin, if our soul has not been transformed. Once our soul has been transformed with the life flow of the Spirit, then the desire of the flesh is so weakened that it has no more power, all we have to do is keep our soul in submission to the life flow of God in our spirit and not touch the unclean thing.

When our soul yields to sin, it gets tied to the sin and a strong hold is developed. We have thought patterns contrary to the Spirit of God that we have set in motion.

Our soul must go through a transformation, where the thought energy of sin is displaced by the thought energy of the Spirit of God. We experience an entire physic change where our whole attitude and

outlook is changed, we begin to experience God's thoughts, and anything contrary to the Spirit is not given access. Our thinking begins to be inspired and we become God conscious because we are God centered.

As long as there is a civil war going on inside of us and an opportunity comes along in God, we will have no energy, no resources and no ability to meet it. It is through the sanctifying work of the Spirit of God in us that we find the way to unify ourselves in God so that we are no longer double minded-two souled in the Greek.

One moment our soul is agreeing with our spirit and the next minute our soul is agreeing with the flesh. Once our soul comes into the renewing of the mind, then the flesh has no more power over us because the principle of sin is rendered powerless. It is as the word of God abides in us that we no longer yield to sin, because the spiritual mind is life and peace.

In order to get free from an addiction, we have to get the life of God flowing into our spirit strengthening it. Our spirit is dimensional so once the life of God is flowing into it, we can enter into the spiritual realm where the throne of God is receiving mercy and grace.

Confession of sin is just agreeing with God, receiving his thoughts concerning the thing that is destroying our lives. We own it, because we yielded to it. We renounce it, making a decision in God to abstain from it, not yield to it. We receive divorce papers from it, the verdict that through the cross we are free from it. We apply the blood to blot it out from our memory.

Sometimes it takes awhile for the mind to be renewed, so we have to resist the thought patterns of the addiction, or the familiar

spirits that are involved, because they have no more legal right to access our thinking, and have to leave.

We may have to suffer in the flesh to cease from the sin. We have to embrace whatever pain is involved in not yielding to temptation, but we cannot focus on it, but receive the strengthening of our spirit in communion with God, and the ministry of the angels in strengthening us. We endure the cross for the joy set before us, until our soul is restored and renewed.

It is in the salvation of our soul, that we are enabled to love God with all our heart. All that is within us comes into conformity to God.

We cannot live on a human fleshly plane thinking carnal thoughts and walk in the spirit. To the degree that we come into the renewing of the mind, to that degree we are enabled to walk with God.

We must come into the place where we are totally unified in our drive for the Lord, where the flesh with its desires and affections are no longer warring in us but are in a place of inactivity because they are no longer yielded to. This is the sanctification of our spirit soul and body.

The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus sets us free from the law of sin and death, so that the law of sin working in our members is eliminated. No longer is our flesh warring against our spirit. The Spirit of God liberates us from all the sin that is in the flesh, through the renewal of the mind where our mind becomes set on the Spirit and the result is life and peace.

We cannot continually think about sin and the flesh without it becoming effective. It becomes effective because we have given our thought and our mind to that which is death to the things of the Spirit, so that our mind cannot walk in the things of the spirit. This is not

referring to actions, but to an inner conflict inside of us. We have to be delivered from the bondage that is in our mind. We have to offer our body a living sacrifice but it is the Spirit of God that sanctifies our mind.

As we learn the difference between our spirit, our soul and our body we can begin to understand the mystery of how God transforms us from the inside out.

Once our spirit is set on God then we can begin to deliver over our flesh to be crucified. If we don't learn how to set our spirit upon God every day, our soul will not be able to come under the influence of the Spirit. We have to feed our spirit and starve the flesh. It is through the Spirit that we are enabled to deliver over the flesh for crucifixion.

As we learn how to sow to the spirit, our spirit is filled with God overflowing into the soulish realm, as this process continues long enough it eventually reaches into the flesh, the Spirit of God quickens our mortal bodies so that the principle of sin in them is rendered powerless. The inner conflict gives way to inner victory. The unregenerate flesh must give way to the principle of the righteousness of God. The Holy Spirit the Spirit of righteousness dwelling in our spirit and soul causes the flesh with its affections and lusts to be crucified.

We have to discipline ourselves to have an encounter with the Lord. Discipline is all about communing with the Lord. Discipline is all about enjoyment; there is nothing greater in life than having fellowship with God where we are experiencing his presence, because in His presence is fullness of joy.

So we are learning the difference between moving in self, and moving in our spirit being filled with His. Where the life of God flows out of heaven into our spirit and out through our soul and body into the world around us.

What we are learning is how in our weakness to appropriate his power. Strength is the key to transformation; because God's Power is perfected in weakness. This means that his strength flows into what we are not.

It is the embrace of His Spirit that strengthens us. The Lord sees us perfect, because we already are in the kingdom realm of the Spirit. As we enter into this dimension we are clothed with His righteousness, which interpenetrates us.

The lord embraces us in our weakness because he sees nothing wrong with us and intensely wants a relationship with us. The problem is that we do not see ourselves the way that God see's us because of our weakness; we become focused upon it and what we are not.

When we are focused on our weakness in a negative way, we actually strengthen it because we become what we are focused on.

The key is learning how to boast in our weakness where our focus is not on our weakness but his strength. Weakness gives us permission to boast, because if we did not have that weakness we would not be in the position to experience his strength flowing into that space within us.

2corn 12: ⁹And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient (occurring now-be sufficient, satisfy, to be strong and able to assist someone) *for thee: for* (because) *my strength* (being able, capable, a spirit of strength, energy, a manifestation or instance of miraculous power. It may even mean to will) *is made perfect* (make perfect by reaching the intended goal, to complete) *in weakness* (impotence, lack of strength, courage, feebleness, imperfection). *Most gladly* (the superlative of sweet- in reference to eating and drinking most sweetly) *therefore* (now) *will I rather* (in preference, to a greater extent, in a higher

degree) *glory* (rejoice, to boast of a person or thing, a testimony to) *in my infirmities* (weakness), *that the power of Christ may rest upon* (two words 1-in 2-to dwell) (To descend and abide upon, rest upon, or live in, abide, dwell) *me.* ¹⁰*Therefore* (on which account)*I take pleasure* (occurring now-1-well-good 2-to think)(to be well pleased) *in infirmities*(weakness), *in reproaches* (injurious treatment), *in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for*(because) *when I am weak, then* (at that time)*am I strong.*

The grace of God is the flow of His Spirit into us; it satisfies us and strengthens us making us capable. His grace is made perfect in weakness. It accomplishes its goal in our weakness because we no longer rely on ourselves but look to Him. His strength is miracle working power enabling us to do what we could not do without him. Through our dependence upon him- It comes into manifestation and accomplishes its goal, it completes us.

As we begin to experience his grace, the flow of his Spirit into us, (as we are drinking and partaking of it) we rejoice and give testimony to who God is for us. Our weakness has opened the door for us to experience the inflowing of His strength. Most gladly (the result of drinking his presence), now we rejoice in our weakness, our complete dependence upon him, in order that we can experience the inflowing of His power into us.

It is in the moment that we realize that without him we can do nothing; it is in that moment that we can draw upon the provision of His Spirit to meet the need. When we are weak, at that moment we are strong. Just like Samson, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon us and we can do what we could not do before.

It is our total and utter dependence upon the Lord that necessitates that we come into an intimacy with the lord. It is from this

place of intimacy, that we realize that we are the beloved of God, that He shares His glory with the ones He loves. His glory is his nature and abilities.

It is our privilege to go through life, fully loved. All our change procedures come through being incredibly loved. This is why we love change and the process of learning. It is the flow of His love into our spirit that motivates us to hunger and thirst after being filled with it.

If we experience all our changes in the love of God, we become excited about who God is for us, and who we are becoming in Him.

He chooses us in our weakness and loves to meet those needs with His strength. He strengthens us through His presence in those low places in our lives, those weaknesses. He does not just give us strength, He becomes our strength.

Our weakness is the low place where God steps into our inadequacy. He inhabits that place with His own courage and strength.

If He were to step out of that place that he inhabits (that space in our life where we are now filled with his presence), we would still be weak. The increase of His Spirit in that area of our life is not that He has given us something to fill in the gap, He-himself is our increase.

Relationally He inhabits our weakness, and we learn the pleasure of His Presence there. We can boast about our shortcomings, because when we become aware of where we are falling short, he can fill that shortcoming with Himself.

We are learning how to turn an inadequacy in our life, into a place where God can now inhabit.

