

*Once  
an  
Addict,*

**NOW  
FREE!**

RODNEY WILLIAMS

## **Once an Addict, NOW FREE!**

Rodney Williams has written his second outstanding book on helping people overcome addiction. In his new book “Once an Addict, Now Free” Rodney explains how Satan uses a pleasure trap to enslave people. He brilliantly explains how the pleasures of this world produce dopamine, a chemical in our bodies that makes us feel euphoria. Euphoria is a state in which a person experiences pleasure or excitement and intense feelings of well-being and happiness.

This feeling is so intense that it causes extreme pleasure and causes us to crave that feeling again. Ultimately it causes addiction. Rodney shares how he overcame a life of addiction and how you can too. I would highly recommend Rodney’s new book.

Kerry Pharr, Host of the TV Show In your Corner.

[contact@inyourcorner.com](mailto:contact@inyourcorner.com)

Nashville, Tennessee

Rodney Williams has hit the nail on the head with “Once an addict, NOW FREE!” The challenge to surrender to God through the Lord Jesus and the cross of Calvary is compelling. Jesus is the only way to be free from addiction! The truth shall set you free! Easy read for anyone.

Pastor David Williams

Temple Baptist Church Moss Point, Mississippi

I remember Rodney Williams, when he walked in complete darkness. On June 19, 2002, he received 2nd and 3rd degree burns while cooking methamphetamine and surrendered his life to Jesus Christ on the way to the hospital. I have personally seen God take Rodney from darkness to light, from addiction to freedom.

Jimmy Grafe

## About the Cover

God gave me a vision of a man held captive in a cell. The cell that holds him is his addiction. The shackles are off and the door is open by the cross of Jesus Christ. He sits there in bondage because his mind fails to see he is free. Jesus is proclaiming to the captive, “I have bought your freedom: receive it by faith and be free!”

**Luke 4:18** - *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”*

When I saw artwork by Jason Pittman, I knew he would be the one to design the cover. Jason Pittman is a commercial mural artist with projects ranging from oversized rock icon portraits featured in a national restaurant chain to themed children’s ministries environments. His work focuses on simple compositions filled with high contrast and vivid colors. Everything he creates is guided by the wise words of his earliest mentor, Wyatt Waters, “Get a few things right, and you’ll be alright.”

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Scripture Quotations are from the King James and New King James Versions of the Bible.

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## **Foreword**

I have been married to Rodney for 10 years in June of 2017. It has not been an easy road as we both carry deep scars from our pasts of abuse and addiction. We both are being transformed day by day, sometimes quite painfully, into new creations in Christ. I know Rodney better than anyone else, and I can tell you he lives to see people set free from the bondage of addiction. He doesn't compromise in his pursuit of Jesus. Through this book, Rodney shares many teachings that I have personally seen transform his life.

When I first began to follow Christ, various programs taught me steps that were designed to keep me clean and sober. Although they gave me a basic framework for sobriety, they did not provide an adequate foundation for living out the teachings found in the Bible. As a matter of fact, many of them were contrary to the teachings of Jesus. As I grew in my relationship with Jesus and studied the Bible more, I found my mind radically transformed and I found truly living out what the Bible said required me to drop some of the thinking and practices I had learned from AA and NA (much to the displeasure and outright hostility of some people I know.)

When I studied for both my undergraduate and graduate degrees, I was immersed in the history and sociology of 12-Step programs by Dr. Christopher Freed, to whom I will ever be grateful. This knowledge helped me to understand why I experienced cognitive dissonance with my worldview based on the Bible being the inerrant word of God and my participation in various self-help programs that forced me to identify myself as an “addict “ and

“alcoholic.” What I learned academically, along with what I was experiencing personally, greatly disturbed me as Rodney and I tried to help people with substance use disorders.

It is estimated that there are close to 30 million people in America with a substance use disorder or addiction. This experience is marked by compulsive and persistent use of a substance or the continuation of behavior despite the harmful effects. Drug addiction and treatment is a multi-billion dollar industry in America. There are over 14,500 addiction treatment centers in America and close to 80% of those adhere to 12-Step teachings which view addiction through a medical model lens whereby addiction is seen as a physical “chronic and progressive” disease. This viewpoint is so prevalent that most insurance policies refuse to pay for addiction intervention unless it prescribes to the medical model and judges typically adhere to similar practices when sentencing offenders to drug treatment programs.

Although millions attend AA and NA groups, no other field in medicine is less founded in modern science. Dr. Lance Dodes of Harvard Medical School estimates the rate of success of 12-Step programs to be between 5-8%. The 12-Step programs of AA and NA were founded on pseudo-science and disseminated to the masses through a remarkable public relations campaign the likes of which most Fortune 500 companies never see. I can think of no other more emotionally charged topic than to introduce drug addiction as sin to someone that has been taught that drug addiction is a disease. I can only compare it to the intensity of debates between pro-life and pro-choice groups. Rodney has, in fact, endured more than one threatening encounter because of it.

In this book, Rodney presents a Biblically based worldview of addiction as an alternative to the medical model. He explains what the Bible says about addiction and challenges the prevalent view of addiction in America. After Rodney explains what is truly happening when a person's life is consumed by the pursuit of addiction, he gives practical information that, if applied, will break the bonds of addiction once and for all. He also instructs and provides support to family and friends who endure the heart wrenching experience of helping those they love seek treatment. Rodney confronts culturally accepted views of addiction and realigns his readers' beliefs with the Word of God.

If offense rises up inside you as you read this, I beg you to pray that God would open your mind and give you the willingness to examine the evidence and hear another point of view based on the Word of God. And if you really want to learn more, I am willing to share vast amounts of peer-reviewed articles and historical resources documenting the "discovery" addiction as a disease. Please feel free to contact me through the email address listed in this book. My heart's desire is for you to graduate from clean and sober to Free! For 75 years, America has used a broken model for addressing addiction. May I present to you a more excellent way?

Jennifer Williams

*Jennifer went home to Jesus, May 16, 2023*

## **Acknowledgements**

I dedicate this book to God my Father and to my Savior and King Jesus Christ.

I acknowledge the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, who enabled me to write this book.

Thank you to my wonderful wife Jennifer and our children Samuel, Karalena, Winston, India and Belle.

I want to acknowledge my mentor and friend Hansel Gray, who is now with Jesus.

Thank you to all who have supported our family and God's ministry.

*It's been a journey for all to see,  
One surrendered life to King Jesus to be free  
Forgotten dreams manifested in a lifeless tree  
Fruit bearing life for all to see.*

## Introduction

Alcoholism, substance abuse, pornography, gambling, workaholics, compulsive overeating are all types of addictions that are rampant in today's culture. Addictions cross all ethnic, cultural, educational, age, and socioeconomic barriers. There are an estimated 15 million alcoholics and 10 million drug addicts in the U.S.

The reason why I wrote this book is not to help you get sober. I was sober before I ever began drinking and doing drugs. I got clean and sober a few times through my journey, only to return to my addiction. The purpose of this book is for you to see what it means to be free. God alone has the answer to all life issues.

**Deuteronomy 29:29** – *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever.”*

There are some things we will never know, but God reveals the truth that we need to have a better journey through this life. I have taken God's word and applied these truths to my life and found freedom. This book shows how anyone, who truly wants to be free, can be.

Addicts can be analyzed, counseled, reasoned with, prayed over, threatened, beaten, or locked up, but they will not stop until they want to stop. America has tried to lock up its addiction problem and failed miserably.

Jesus Christ set me free June 19, 2002 at the age of 37 years old. I thought I had been delivered from an alcohol, drug, gam-

bling, and sex addiction which controlled my life for over twenty years. Everyone was astonished, confused, and perplexed that I had overcome the incurable disease of addiction. Sixteen years later and countless hours in the truth of God's word, I can tell others the origins of addiction and how to be free. God's word lays out the foundation of life: where we've gone wrong and how to find our way back to life. He designed the perfect order in which man should live. The instructions for deliverance are already in the home of most addicts in the form of a Bible.

**Example:** The air conditioner condenser unit outside is humming, but not coming on. To a person with no training, attempting a repair is an impossible task. To the technician with knowledge of AC units, it would take only minutes to diagnose. The humming is coming from the contactor which allows power to energize the unit. A quick check of the contactor shows ants have gotten in between the contacts. Remove the ants and clean the contacts. Problem solved!!

Man has been separated from his original design by sin. Remove the sin and clean the man. Problem solved!

**2 Timothy 3:16** – *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Inspiration here means God breathed. God's Spirit used men like typewriters and wrote the Bible. The Holy Bible is actually 66 books, written over a 1,500 year period, in four geographical regions, in three languages, by over 40 writers from various back-

grounds. The sixty six books are united to make one book or Bible. Jesus Christ fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies when He came. It is a mathematical impossibility for Him to have fulfilled over two of these prophecies. The architect of the universe has placed eternity in the hearts of men. The visual order of creation shows that there is a God. The Bible is where the invisible God communicates and reveals Himself to man. Let's diagnose the problem of addiction against the absolute truth of God's word.

**John 8:32** – *Jesus said; “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

## **History of Addiction and His Story of Deliverance**

We must first look at the beginning of man to understand the foundational truths of addiction.

In the beginning God created everything visible and invisible. Since God created everything then He alone can show the proper function of creation. The first man Adam was made in the image of God. God's glory is His nature. Adam reflected God's glory, nature and image.

**Genesis 1:27** – *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

Man was made in the image of God. This is not talking about a physical but a spiritual image.

**John 4:24** – *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

Man is not a human being having a temporary spiritual experience, but a spiritual being having a temporary human experience.

**Ecclesiastes 12:7** – *Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.*

**Note:** Man is a spirit being and will live forever in one of two places.

Man was made to live in the presence of God and man was made to worship God.

## **Body, soul, spirit**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** – *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

God is triune in that He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Man is triune in that he is body, soul, and spirit.

**Body:** The body is man's earth suit that houses his soul and spirit. When a man dies his body goes back to the ground and his soul and spirit go to God.

**Genesis 2:7** – *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

God formed one body or earth suit and within that one body He placed everybody. The spiritual being or species is called man. God took a part (rib) of man and made a clone of Adam. He built the new man with special characteristics such as breasts and a womb. This is why the man species is called woman. Man (male) and woman (female) are equal but built to fulfill different tasks on earth. Eve would become Adams prime rib.

**Genesis 2:23** – *And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

Adam (man) and Eve (woman) would come together in the first marriage designed by God. God only made one body (earth suit) and from that one body came all mankind. God designed the

man and woman to fit together as one. Marriage is a picture of Christ and the church. The church is the body and Christ is the head. We are one with Christ and this is why marriage is serious business with God.

**Soul:** The soul consists of mind, emotion, and will. The soul has one foot in the body and one foot in the spirit. I'm trying to show you that the body, soul, and spirit are separate but united. When one is affected, they all are affected.

**Hebrews 4:12** – For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Spirit:** The spirit of man has conscience, intuition, and is able to communicate with God. Man is set apart from the animal world because animals have no spirit. An animal is body, soul and instinct. An animal is controlled by instinct. A bear will fill up on food and hibernate during the winter. Bees will swarm to make new hives. Geese will fly south in a V form when winter approaches. All of these actions are controlled by their instinct.

When God breathed into man the breath of life, he received soul and spirit. The Spirit of God and man's spirit were one. The Holy Spirit now lived in man's spirit and led man in the way of God. Unfortunately this relationship was severed when Adam sinned.

**Romans 8:14** – *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

Man lived in the presence of God which reflected the nature

of God in their lives. Living in the presence of God was good. Adam had dominion, which means power, authority and influence, over the beautiful animals and garden where he was placed. Man was created with an addiction or a habitual desire to worship God and to pour himself out in an intimate relationship with his creator. Man experienced love, peace, joy, and God's fullness within this relationship. Within man's soul resided the will, which could override the Spirit of God if he chose. God gave man a choice. God wanted man to love Him, but love does not force itself on others. Man, through his own free will, could choose to love or not.

**John 14:15** – Jesus said; *“if you love Me, keep My commandments.*

Keeping the commands of God is an outward expression of an inward love for God. God clothed Adam and Eve with His righteousness (Shekinah glory), which was the positive righteousness they needed to maintain their relationship. God and Adam were in a covenant relationship. The only command given to keep from breaking the covenant was not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Genesis 2:16-17** – *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*

The environment was good, but a garden snake was prowling, looking for an opportunity to test the will of man. He finds the woman slipping next to the forbidden tree.

“If you don't want to fall down, don't walk in slippery places.”

People who have had problems with alcohol do not need to go socialize at a bar or have dinner at the casino. These are slippery places which will lead to their fall and destruction. I know pastors from the pulpit saying it is alright for a Christian to eat at the Casino. An unguarded strength becomes a weakness.

**Matthew 18:6** – Jesus said; *“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”*

There was a young woman going through rehabilitation who told of her struggles of addiction. She said last year she wanted to get her life right and knew Jesus was the answer. She started going to a church across the street from a Casino on the Biloxi beach. After church on Sunday, a large group would cross over to the Casino for their Sunday meal. They would walk by all the gambling machines and tables looking straight ahead. She did this with the group for several meals, until one Sunday while exiting, she stopped at a slot machine. She lost her money, lost her sobriety, lost her home, lost her children and almost lost her life. She was at a Christian rehab, where I ministered, trying to put the pieces of her life back together. Let our freedom, not cause a weak brother or sister to fall.

**Genesis 3:1-4** – *“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, we may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor*

*shall you touch it, lest you die.” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You shall not surely die.”*

The serpent was Satan, who was the Cherubim (angel) before the throne of God and was cast out of heaven because of pride. He was coming against the word (truth) of God with a cunning lie. Satan deceives people. He puts deceptive thoughts in a person’s mind until they take ownership and it becomes their own.

**Genesis 3:5** – *“For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

Satan (Serpent) was tempting Eve with something they already possessed. “You will be like God,” “Knowing good and evil.” They were already in the image of God and led by the Holy Spirit to do good and stay away from evil.

Grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence. That’s because it’s sitting over a septic tank. Adam and Eve would soon find out what this meant.

**Genesis 3:6** – *“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, (lust of the flesh) that it was pleasant to the eyes, (lust of the eyes) and a tree desirable to make one wise, (pride of life) she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”*

Adam’s spirit was one with God’s Spirit. God told Adam the day he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil he would die.

Adam lived to be 930 years old physically, so this was not a physical death. It was a spiritual death and death means separation. The moment Adam ate, the Spirit of God moved out of the spirit of man.

If you cut a Christmas tree down and carry it back to your house and put it in a stand, decorate it with lights, ropes and ornaments, it looks great. It smells fresh and people compliment your live Christmas tree. The moment you separated the tree from the life source of the roots, it was dead. A week after Christmas, someone bumps the tree and hundreds of needles fall to the ground. Your tree is now showing the outward signs of an inward reality. When a man dies physically, he is showing the outward signs of an inward reality. God breathed life (Spirit) into man. Man sinned and life (Spirit) separated from man which is spiritual death.

**Romans 6:23** – *“For the wages of sin is death.”*

Sin is singular and this verse is about the corrupted nature within man which was passed down from Adam. This corrupted nature is what the Bible calls “the flesh.” Sin is missing the mark of God’s glory or nature or image.

**Romans 3:23** – *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

Adam’s one body possessed everybody. Whatever Adam did, all mankind did, because we are in Adam. When Adam ate from the tree, we did too.

**Romans 5:12** – *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men.”*

Fallen man lives in a fallen world. This is one of thousands of unedited letters I have received from prisons through our ministry. This just shows sinful man in a sinful world.

Dear Rodney Williams      12-19-17

Hello, I am Brad # 1726512 I have 15 year good on a capitol life hear in a Texas State Prison.

I up tained your info from a Book that some one throw in the trash its could Club Meth to Christ. Now the Book gave me hope. That why I send this letter requesting pear in my and my brother case and spiritual Relashion ship with Father God as well I wish to shar my story with you. At 5 year old me my Baby Bro and Two sisters were taken from are mom & dad By c.p.s. in Fort Worth Texas and splet up into state home Boy Homes as well as mental state hospitals I myself was filled with Thorazin wich labold me as mentally Retarded with the IQ of 70 my Hole life with no schooling and over medication I was sent from one place to the next wher I was raped by a much older black kid by the name of Richard G. The children home lied and just keep me doped up to keep my mouth shut at age of 18 the CPS booted me out I went into a post office in Lilyin, TX whil on my mental med The door was open so I walked around but seeing no one I picked up something soon in jail in Clebern Texas I was sent to Vurnon State Hospital was found to be harm to self and other if not sent back Treet ment The judge overlooked the Drs. Prompting and put me out on perroll then violated me and sent me to prison. To keep from sending me to state hospital even after Dr prompting to the judge.

1994 I got to prison The first 2 year I was gang raped & Dame near Beatin to Death While on Thorazin.

At the beginning of 1996 I was sent to another unit wher I was raped, Betton then thrown off a 3rd Tear Bracking Bone in right side of my face as well as my right rist. At this I was sent to a unit for mentally ill inmate then got out of prison in 1998

This is when I mett my wife Rebeca after we had kids c.p.s. tock are 3 boy 1 girl Becous I and Rebeca hade the same mother Yet not the same Dads.

Rebecca was pragnet with my dalter Dana. so she run off with some man out of Kansas left me to fight alone with a court appointed attorney

Well with the Death of family The lost of are kid I went throw a mental brack down and killed some crack head for stilling my thang.

I will stop the letter there, but I think you get the idea of fallen man in a fallen world. In Adam all died but those who are in Jesus Christ are made alive. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can become one spirit again.

**1 Corinthians 6:17** – *But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*

God clothed Adam and Eve with His Shekinah glory (righteousness). Their sin caused the glory to depart. They realized they were naked and clothed themselves with fig leaves. Clothing themselves is a picture of religion. Religion is man trying to be right with

God by his works. Fig leaves itch, so sin apparently made them stupid as well. It also says their eyes were opened. They were led by the Spirit and walked by faith and not by sight until they sinned. Man began to be led by his soul (mind, emotion, will) which was corrupted by sin. Man's immortal body had become mortal. Adam lost dominion over the earth and Satan gained dominion. Satan now has his evil influence over the Cosmos, or world system, here on planet earth. This world system is hostile to the kingdom of God.

**1 John 2:15-17** – *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”*

This is talking about the world system under Satan's power, authority and influence. God breathed life into one body and that one body possessed everybody. Whatever Adam did, all mankind did because we are in Adam.

Adams sin nature has been passed down to every person but one. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and the Holy Spirit caused conception. If Joseph were the father of Jesus, then Jesus would have been born with sin. Jesus was born of the Spirit and without sin. Jesus was born right the first time, but the rest of mankind was not because of Adams sin. That is why a man must be born again or born of the Spirit.

Man was created to live in the presence of God and worship Him alone. Man has been separated from the life and presence of

God through sin. You think to yourself, well if God is all present then we all live in His presence.

**Example:** My wife and I had an argument earlier. Later were sitting in the same room but intimacy is gone. The hurt we both feel toward each other kills any attempted communication. After forgiving one another the wall is removed and intimacy can be restored.

God did not break the relationship but man did through his sin.

**1 Corinthians 15:22** – *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”*

The Gospel (good news) is not about getting man to God in heaven but getting God back into man. Jesus reconciled all things to God through the blood of His cross.

**1 Timothy 2:5-6** – *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”*

Because of sin, Adam had a worship disorder. Because of sin, man has a worship disorder. Man’s spirit was designed to be connected to the Spirit of God. Man was designed to be clothed in the glory of God. Man is connecting and clothing himself with the spirit and glory of the world system. The world system is an enemy of God. Man, who was designed to live in the presence of God is now an enemy.

**Colossians 1:20** – *“having made peace through the blood of His (Jesus) cross.”*

The cross of Jesus makes a way for an enemy to become

a friend. The cross of Jesus makes a way for Satan's bastard to become a son of God. I hear people say; "Well we are all in the image of God." That is not a true statement. It's like a brand-new Honda van that is hit in the side by a train and dragged down the track. Looking at the wreckage certain characteristics reveal that it was a Honda van. It does not look or function like the original van. Man, who was made in the image of God has been wrecked with sin. There are some characteristics of the original, but sin has flawed the image. Jesus was without sin and in the image of God.

**John 14:9** – *“Jesus said; He who has seen Me has seen the father.”*

God is Spirit, so Jesus is not talking about His body but His glory, nature and image.

**Genesis 3:8** – *“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”*

Man hid himself from the presence of God and tried to hide himself in the world. I deal with addicts who have turned to Jesus and call multiple times each week wanting to be active in church or ministry. When the activity ceases and the phone stops ringing, I know they have sinned (relapsed). They are hiding from the presence of God. If they will just confess their sin, God immediately restores the fellowship.

**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.”*

**The mind of an addict in recovery:** An addict is driving a car and hits a bump in the road of life which flattens the tire. He gets out to see how bad the situation is. He then takes out a knife and slashes the other three tires. This is the distorted thinking of an addict. The right thing to do when you hit a bump in the road and the tire goes flat is to get out and fix the tire. If you need assistance, then call a mentor or pastor, but take care of the tire.

To walk in the presence of God is to walk in obedience to God. Man was designed to live in the presence of God.

**Psalm 16:11** – *“You will show me the path of life; In your presence is fullness of joy; At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

Mankind is searching the world over for fullness of joy and keeps coming up empty. Drugs, sex, money, kids and much more are pursued for joy but never satisfy an eternal appetite man has within his heart. Joy is fruit from the Holy Spirit which a believer in Christ receives from God.

Jesus was born righteous the first time, but all the rest of mankind was born sinful. The Adamic nature or flesh is dead. We must be born again or born of the Spirit by faith in Jesus. This is how man receives the Holy Spirit.

**John 3:3** – *“Jesus said; “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

Man is separated from God because of sin. Adam and Eve clothed themselves with fig leaves, which is a picture of religion. Religion is man’s attempt to satisfy God’s righteousness. We find the foreshadowing of Gods answer to sin.

**Genesis 3:21** – *“Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.”*

God clothed them! Because of their sin an innocent animal had to die in their place. Blood was shed for the payment of their sin. The blood of animals cannot take away sin, but it was a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ coming. Jesus the Lamb of God who was sinless, shed His blood for the sins of the world.

**Hebrews 9:22** – *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission (forgiveness).”*

If anyone will turn from their sin and trust Jesus, they will be forgiven. The penalty of sin will be removed, and they will be clothed in the righteousness of God. The new believer now has access to the presence of God.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** – *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

A wolf in sheep’s clothing is a lost person (separated from God) who lives in sin and has no remorse for sin. Such a person can go to church and fool the most faithful Christians into believing he/she is genuine. They do not hide from the presence of God because they have never experienced true intimacy with God. Judas Iscariot lived in the vicinity of Jesus but failed to see the divinity of Jesus. Judas Iscariot would betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave. In the Garden of Gethsemane he would kiss the door (Jesus) of heaven and go to Hell.

Judas saw thousands fed from a few fish and a little bread

Judas saw Lazarus brought to life after four days dead.

Judas saw the blind to see and Legion flee

Judas saw swine run off the cliff and fell

Judas saw thirty pieces of silver which secured his place in Hell.

## **Man's Worship Disorder**

I remember my first introduction to the party drug Ecstasy. It was the greatest high I had ever experienced. My eyes rolled into the back of my head and my teeth were grinding from the intense waves of glory that were flowing through my body. We danced the night away with not a care in the world, stopping to show some love by hugging and high fiving each other. Bill had taken five Mike Tysons (Ecstasy) and was on the dance floor when blood began to flow from his mouth. In the intensity of jaw locking, teeth grinding, Bill had unknowingly chewed his tongue almost in two. A few days later while riding around with a friend I told him of my experience. My excitement and enthusiasm poured out. I preached to him for several hours as we rode around drinking beer. I wanted to convert him to my new god (Ecstasy). My body, soul, spirit and money were surrendered to my god. Ecstasy had become an idol in my life. An idol is anything you worship other than the one true God.

**1 John 5:21** – *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”*

Pick one of these three things you desire most: (1.) ten million dollars (2.) ocean front property with a mansion (3.) a parachute.

But first, let me give you the rest of the scenario. In the next five minutes you will be thrown out of an airplane at 10,000 feet. The ten million dollars and ocean front property with a mansion has just lost its value. The parachute has just increased in value. It now becomes clear that without the parachute you will hit the ground and die. The Bible says:

**Ecclesiastes 3:2** – *“A time to be born, and a time to die”*

One day you will be thrown out into eternity. Like the parachute, the person who has not put on the righteousness of Jesus Christ will hit the fiery flames of Hell.

**Isaiah 61:10** – *“My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.”*

**Acts 17:31** – *“He (God) has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”*

One day Jesus will judge all men by the righteousness of God. This righteousness will determine man’s eternal destination. What is the righteousness God demands? Here it is. I hope you’re ready:

The righteousness of God, is that righteousness, which God’s righteousness requires Him to require.

Isn’t that deep? This righteousness will determine your eternal destination either Heaven or Hell, so let me break it down.

The righteousness God demands, the Son (Jesus) became, Holy Spirit convinces of, and faith secures.

Anything below the righteousness of Jesus Christ will bring God’s judgment and send you to an eternal Hell. Jesus Christ is not a good way but the only way back to God.

**John 14:6** – *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

Morality will keep you out of jail, but only the righteousness of Jesus will keep you out of Hell!!

**Salvation Example:** A man pays for all the tickets to a movie at the theatre and offers them for free. People outside can choose to use the ticket and come in to watch the movie or they can refuse the offer. If they choose to come inside they must leave all their food and drink outside the gate. The man that bought the ticket is Jesus Christ. He paid for all to come into the Kingdom of God. Man has the choice to receive the free gift or to refuse the offer. The food and drink is a person's sin for which he must repent before entering into a relationship with Jesus.

## **Preeminence of Christ**

**Colossians 1:18** – *“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”*

Jesus Christ is to be preeminent in your life. This means He is to be placed as supreme ruler and only object of your worship. In the farthest reaches of Africa you find man worshipping trees, animals and other idols. This is because man was designed to worship. In America men worship pleasure, money, kids, and the list goes on. God has placed eternity in the hearts of man and only through God can man fulfill his eternal purpose. I remember as a kid having a dry thirsty soul that needed to be quenched. I did not understand that because of sin I had been separated from the living water of God.

I endured sexual abuse along with other hurts and my heart needed healing. Being raised in the religious atmosphere of church brought condemnation but no relief. I would turn to the dark clouds of the world to quench my dry and thirsty soul. The dark clouds of alcohol, sex, drugs, and gambling had no rain. Those dark clouds brought temporary comfort and hid the hurt under a blanket of intoxication. The blanket which initially comforted me soon smothered my life.

Pleasure was given to man by God. What God made good, Satan corrupts, perverts and counterfeits. God designed sex to bring pleasure between the husband and wife. The man and woman

are bonded together physically, mentally and spiritually. The two become one through this bonding. God designed the husband and wife to grow in love and not fall in love. Each time a person has sex with different partners this bonding takes place. This is why so many people are physically, mentally and spiritually sick. This is not God's design. Nor is homosexuality the way God designed sex. God is a God of order and when you get out of God's order you suffer the consequences.

**1 Corinthians 14:33** – “*For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*”

God designed the human body to produce a bio-chemical called dopamine. Dopamine brings about pleasure. Your body maintains between 70 micrograms and 350 micrograms of dopamine. You are around 70 mg. when you're having a really bad day and around 350 mg. on a great day. When you eat your favorite food, your body produces around 150 mg. of dopamine. This is how we receive pleasure from eating and can develop a problem with over eating. Winning a jackpot at the casino will produce a large surge of dopamine. Most will continue to gamble and chase the next dopamine jackpot. When a person initially gets high on methamphetamine, their body can produce dopamine (pleasure) to a level around 1050 mg. This pleasure is greater than sex. It is wonderful and leaves the consumer one satisfied customer. Heroin, cocaine, and others drugs produce unnaturally high dopamine levels. When the high dissipates, the dopamine levels drop below the normal low. The satisfied customer becomes irritated and crazy. Depression comes in and the long-lost love brings despair. The only thought is how can I get back to my first love and make things right again. The

addict in training will do whatever it takes to get money to buy the dope. Did you notice the connection of dope and dopamine? You do more and more dope but never get the initial pleasure of your first high. Addicts are always chasing after the pleasure they received from their first high. It reminds me of greyhounds chasing the mechanical rabbit around the track. The rabbit is in sight but out of reach. A person chasing after that first high experience will do more and more of the drug looking for the same pleasure. The pleasure is never found and the amount of drugs ingested can lead to overdose and sometimes death. It was fun for a season then comes the harvest of corruption.

**Galatians 6:7-8** – *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”*

A friend, Solomon, had been feeding everyone cocaine and the wonderful feeling had reached its peak and then declined. The constant desire was for more. Since we had been close to the top, we had to reach the summit. Solomon was dancing around, red faced with sweat flowing. His large body hit the floor. In convulsions he choked on his tongue and struggled to breathe. The room went into panic mode as someone called 911. Solomon’s eyes rolled into his head as frantic friends tried to give CPR. There was a knock on the door and a police officer walked in to see if we needed an ambulance. Solomon revived and sat up with snot hanging down and foam around his mouth. He gargled out, “I don’t need an ambulance, and I’m fine.” Two years later Solomon overdosed again and died.

Man is chasing after something that will never satisfy and worshiping the god of this world system, the enemy of God. Man was designed to live in the presence of God. Man was designed to worship God and God alone.

**John 10:10** – *“The thief (Satan) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

## **Wrong Worship**

God sent Moses into Egypt as His ambassador to free His people Israel. Israel had been slaves to Egypt for a couple of hundred years. Ten plagues are unleashed by God on Egypt. Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, lets God's people go. God had given Israel favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so they would not leave empty-handed. Israel's women asked and the Egyptians gave them silver, gold and clothing. God gave Israel a great blessing. God parted the Red Sea while Israel crossed on dry land in between two walls of water. The Egyptian army pursued Israel and God caused the two walls of water to fall down and drown them. Later in the wilderness, we find Moses talking with God on top of the Mount Sinai. This is where God gives Moses the Ten Commandments for His people. The Israelites are in the valley below having a drunken orgy. They have taken God's blessing of gold and made a golden calf to worship. Instead of worshipping the creator they are worshipping the creation. Man has a worship disorder.

The nation of Israel, recently delivered from the bondage of Egypt, were traveling through the wilderness and became very discouraged because there was little food or water. The people murmured against God and Moses for bringing them there. God sent fiery serpents (snakes) to bite the people and many died. The people repented (turned from sin) and asked Moses to have the LORD take the snakes away. Moses prayed for the people.

**Numbers 21:8** – *“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who*

*is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.”*

The bronze serpent was the method God used to bring salvation from certain death. When the people believed the word of God, He brought healing. The bronze snake was used for good, to help man. It has been said, “The human heart is an idol factory.” An idol is anything that shifts the focus of worship off God and onto something else.

Hundreds of years after Moses, lived King Hezekiah who was a good king.

**2 Kings 18:4** – *“He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.”*

Hezekiah took the bronze serpent which God used as an object of healing and broke it into pieces. Why? What God had used one time for healing, Israel was now worshipping as a god. Israel is worshipping the creation instead of the creator. Man takes alcohol, drugs, sex and use them outside of their original design searching for peace, joy and purpose. They come up empty because only through God can man find true peace, joy and purpose.

Taking a good thing and making it an idol results in wrongful worship. They had a worship disorder.

**Deuteronomy 5:6-7** – *“I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ‘You shall have no other gods before Me.’”*

I was at a high school baseball state championship game. The game was tight and one of my old friends was there watching his son play. I made conversation and he shocked me with what he said. He pulled out a gold cross attached to a chain and gripped it tight. He said; “God’s got this, He is with us.” My friend had God on a chain around his neck, and when he needed Him he just pulled Him out. How many times do we turn a good thing into a God thing? Incorrect beliefs, no matter how strongly we believe them, don’t make them true.

## **Addiction, Choice or Disease?**

I found this written by an unknown addict.

Addiction is a disease. There is no cure. You can't beat it. An addict will always struggle with it. It's like lupus or MS. You just learn how to deal with it. Manage it without feeding it. Don't come to me and tell me addicts are weak. Recovering addicts are the strongest people you will ever meet. They are strong because they know the only way out of their addiction is death. They know this and yet they continue to fight for their sobriety. They fight to regain all the things they lost in active addiction. They fight every single day to be better than they were the day before. And they will fight every day for the rest of their lives. Don't tell me I'm weak because I'm an addict. How many other people can say they survived walking through Hell and have the scars to prove it?

**John 8:44** – *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”*

Satan is a liar! Let me break this down and show you the truth.

Addiction is a disease. There is no cure. You can't beat it. An addict will always struggle with it. It's like an incurable disease.

Addiction has many similarities to disease. It does consume a person like cancer and there is no treatment to heal the addict until death do they part. Cancer is a disease and addiction is a choice.

You do not get to choose your cancer, but you can choose your addiction. You choose your master. It's a self-selected slavery.

God tells us in His word that alcoholism or other addictions are sin and not a disease. The sin nature passed down from Adam to all mankind is called the flesh.

**Galatians 5:19-21** – *“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outburst of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

Revelries here refers to partying in a wild, uncontrolled and immoral manner. The Greek word translated “revelries” in Galatians 5:21 is *komos* and is defined as “excessive and boisterous intemperance and lustful indulgence” – unbridled sex, drugs, and alcohol done to extreme in the name of a good time. I remember watching the movie *Animal House* as a teenager. It was about a fraternity who was out of control and lived to party to the extreme. They majored in being wild party animals. My friends and I were deeply influenced by this movie. We imitated their parties and behaviors and some of the raw antics they performed in the name of a good time.

**Romans 13:13-14** – *“Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”*

Generation curses can also be passed down.

**Lamentations 5:7** – *“Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities (sin).”*

What happens is that not only is uncleanness handed down, but demons move right in. These demons often take advantage of this at a very young age in a person’s life (sometimes before birth). The person then goes throughout life struggling with the same bondages that their parents struggle with. Demon spirits are like ticks, they are looking for a body to suck the blood (Life) out of.

**Leviticus 17:11** – *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood.”*

My grandfather was an alcoholic, my uncle was an alcoholic, and I became an alcoholic. My grandfather made the choice to drink, my uncle made the choice to drink, and I made the choice to drink.

Idols and generation curses: **Exodus 20:5-6** – *“You shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”*

I had other family members who chose not to activate the curse within them by not drinking. My mother had seen the destruction to her family by alcohol and made the choice not to drink.

God created the perfect environment for a perfect man. Within man’s soul is the will which can over-ride the will of God. God did not force man to love Him but gave Him a choice.

**John 14:15** – “*Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”*”

Addiction is not a disease but a symptom of sin.

In the perfect environment there was no disease, but after sin came, so did disease and death. Disease is something that manifests itself through a sinful man living in a sinful world. The root of the issue is sin. Sin is missing the mark of God’s righteousness. Because of sin, man is separated from God, who is life. Dread diseases are not something you would choose, but come about in fallen man, in a fallen world.

The addiction generally begins with a legitimate desire. Because of sin, man’s natural desires are corrupted. Man lusts after the wrong things to satisfy natural desire. Alcohol and drug abuse is something you choose to do. Drugs, alcohol, gambling, and sex addiction is something man is drawn to by his desires. If cancer was murder, then alcohol and drug addiction would be suicide.

**Example:** A man is thirsty and comes to a glass of water and drinks. The water is actually antifreeze, which has a sweet taste but is deadly.

A legitimate pain after surgery turns from coping to doping. The pain medicine for a legitimate hurt is coping. The physical, mental cry for more pain medicine when the hurt has eased turns into doping. The modern American culture is brought up to think that all pain is bad and must be abolished. Pain is a part of life and we as a society need to find some alternatives to dealing with pain other than opioids (pain medication). We find some doctors

and pharmaceutical companies who push their pain products. This spirit of greed can get in the way of a patient's future wellbeing.

I was led by God to start Club Meth to Christ ministry in 2005. This is one of thousands of prison letters I have received through the ministry. This letter reflects a common problem of treating a legitimate pain and becoming addicted.

Pastor Rodney Williams

Hi! My name is Karen I currently read your book "Club Meth to Christ" Reading your novel gave me hope. I'd like to tell you a little about me and my story.

I'm 28 years old and I'm currently being housed at R.R. Jail for my first probation violation. It all started a couple of years back when a doctor prescribed me pain pills for a lower back problem due to a car accident. Eventually this doctor lost his license due to all the prescriptions he was writing people. There was nowhere to turn besides the streets to buy them as I was not able to find another doctor. I kept a steady job for the longest time until the pain pills of OxyContin/oxycodone weren't strong enough to cure me because my body was now fully relying on them I moved over to heroin that I was introduced to by my girls father. From that first time I did heroin it felt like the greatest thing ever. From then on I was hooked. I was jobless off and on, the best job I could manage to hold was working at a bar. I was supporting my two little girls at the time as well, but they also ran the roads with me. I lied, cheated and manipulated many people to get my way to get high. During this time my family knew something was up but wasn't quite sure exactly what it was, I believe some knew it was

pills or at least thought it was. A couple of years after doing heroin my addiction grew. I stayed under the radar and out of trouble. At least I thought. During my pill time I only had my oldest daughter. Me and her father were together. We ended up with grand larceny charges to support this pill habit. He ended up doing jail time and I ended up pregnant in 2013 with our second child and doing a program to avoid jail. I successfully completed the program and believed I was okay as I successfully completed probation as well. It didn't take long for me to return to my old places, people and things. Old habits came running back as if they never left. This is when I was first introduced to heroin. When my habit spiraled out of control I asked my mother to take my girls until I could get myself together. I loved them dearly and couldn't stand the fact that I needed/wanted this drug daily and had to have it before I could function/interact with them. Instead of getting myself together my addiction grew, with no responsibilities except of supporting my habit. When I thought I reached my rock bottom in June 2016 I told my father I was addicted to this terrible drug heroin. He agreed to do anything to help me. I went to an inpatient program at the McShin Foundation. I stayed a little while, around two weeks until I had enough and wanted to go back to my old ways so I left. I previously picked up another larceny charge for shoplifting from Walmart. When I went to court in December of 2016 for this charge I could not pass a drug test so the courts incarcerated me. I went back in front of a judge, I was sentenced to 8 months and ordered to complete HARP (Heroin Addiction Program) I stayed and completed this program. I promised my family I had enough and was done. I was going to come home, get a job, go to school and work on getting full custody of my girls again. Well that didn't last long. I didn't do anything suggested to me and I decided to run a round

with old crowds again so it didn't take me long to fall back into old ways. When released from jail I was to report to probation. I did the first couple of times till I relapsed and didn't return. I ended up with a probation violation and on the run for it. I was latter caught and arrested I was later brought back to C.C. Jail where I found out I would be pregnant with my third child. I was excited, scared, and worried. I wasn't able to go upstairs to HARP due to me being pregnant and withdrawing. I was moved to R.R. Jail a couple of days later. Once I arrived I became very sick due to detoxing and was sent out to the hospital. The hospital placed me on Subutex so that withdrawing wouldn't kill my baby. I went to court on March 2018 and was sentenced to 1 year and 6 months. It literally broke my heart. My family has given up on me, which I can't fault them whatsoever. My family also has refused to take my child that's due in October 2018 until I come home, as they don't want to have to deal with a detoxing baby from subutex. When I called home (my father) when I received my 1 year and 6 months to let him know what happened, I begged for him to hire me a lawyer so I wouldn't loose my child to the state.

A girl in here gave me a book to read (it was yours) because I didn't have anything to read. When I picked it up I couldn't put it down. It was very inspirational to me. I wrote down alot of the verses from your story as they meant something to me. So thank you!

God Bless you and your family! Karen # 85105

We live in a fallen world with fallen people. Karen had a legitimate pain which became an active addiction. What started off being controlled was building up to be a life changing nightmare.

World influence (Sin) is like a current pulling you out to sea. At the beach mother tells you to stay right in front of her so she can watch you. Mother sits there on her towel and you bounce up and down on your float. You get to splashing around and lose focus of your mother. The next thing you know, your mother is out of sight and you have been pulled out to sea. Mother is a picture of Jesus and the currents are sin influencing your life. You have to keep your eyes on Jesus to keep from being pulled out to the world of sin and death.

## **Environment Affects Choices**

We send my book “Club Meth to Christ” to jails and prisons across the nation. Through my testimony of addiction and freedom through Christ, I have received thousands of letters with many testimonies of journey to and through addiction. So many people tend to judge alcoholics and drug addicts for their choices. What they do not know is the environment that choice was shaped in. Adam was in a good environment and he chose to rebel against the word of God. Here is one of the letters sent to Jennifer my wife.

November 2016

Hello Mrs. Jennifer, I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Diane I am a 33 year old native of Mississippi. I hope this letter reaches you in high spirits and good health.

The reason I am writing you is in hopes you can help me. I am currently 15 weeks pregnant and I have a 10 month old little girl at home. I go to court November 22nd. For technical violation of my probation. I am almost positive I will be ordered to rehab. I was given your name and address and told you might be able to help me to, finding a rehab I can bring my baby with me to, that I could get an indigent bed or sponsored

I would like to tell you a little about myself so maybe you will better understand why I need your help.

I’ve never really had any therapy or help with any of my

issues I've always felt as if I could solve them on my own. So it is a big deal for me to ask for help but I gave my situation to the Lord. His message to me was, know I AM who I say I AM. Be still and know I AM the Lord. I was born to a 16 year old single woman with a coke addiction. Her mother, my grandmother, was a heroin addict who had just been released from Rankin County Jail in 1983 for manufacturing meth. Needless to say my mother lost custody to my grandmother and my grandmother after allowing me to get 3rd. degree burns at 3 years old lost custody to my great grandmother. By the age of 5 my great grandfather was molesting me. I finally told at the age of 10, only for my great grandmother to choose him over me. I was returned to my mother at 10 years old. She still had a coke addiction and was selling me to my sister's father who was also her pimp for crack, and back to my grandfather on the weekend in return for the bills being paid. By 13, I was pregnant at the same time as my mother by the same guy. I was forced to have an abortion so that she could keep her baby. 3 months after my abortion April 3, 1997 she was killed and lost my unborn baby brother. My only living relative was my grandmother who by then kicked the heroin addiction but was a full blown alcoholic. I thought I had nowhere to turn and hit the streets only to find myself in no better shape than my mother at 16.

There are a lot of gaps to fill but I'm sharing my story not for sympathy but so you will see I have no one to help me and my child. I have given my situation to God and I feel he has lead me to you. My daughter Kim is with her father now but it's not the ideal situation. I would love nothing more than to bring her with me while I receive the help I need. Her father would not object to this.

In all this being said, Mrs. Jennifer please help me find a rehab for her, myself and my unborn child. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking the time to read this.

May God bless you, Diane

Jennifer and I researched the different rehabs that admit women and children. We sent Diane the information. We received this letter in January:

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Williams,

Hello, I've taken the time to write this letter to express my gratitude to you both. I appreciate all your efforts and prayers during my journey to find help in my recovery.

I'm a resident of one of the treatment centers you sent me information about. I can say my life has taken a major turn for the best. I was in county jail in Oct., 4 months pregnant, and coming off meth. I picked up the book "Club Meth to Christ" and read it for the second time in 5 years. This time something was different. The words were no longer words to a book. They were words describing myself and the pits of Hell that I was living in. Jennifer, as you know, in your husband's book is where I got the address to write you for help. I think it is amazing how one person's story can be another person's spiritual awakening.

God Bless! Diane

Fallen man in a fallen world or you could say sinful man in a sinful world. Either way after Adam's sin the world has been a

mess. A person chooses to drink alcohol or do drugs which can lead to addiction. That seems simple enough. But as we've seen, environment plays a big part in the decisions they make. In such dark and wicked surroundings how can anyone make good decisions? People who have experienced childhood trauma are at high risk to be addicted to drugs, alcohol, and sex. Childhood trauma includes physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; physical and emotional neglect. It may look like living with a family member who's addicted to alcohol or other substances or who's depressed or has other mental illnesses. It may be experiencing parental divorce or separation or having a family member who's incarcerated, or witnessing your mother being abused.

Almost everyone I see that is addicted to drugs, alcohol, and sex, has experienced trauma in their early years. They have been hurt within their soul and they are looking for healing. People sell their body, soul, and spirit to chase after these false gods which temporarily hide their hurt. Adam and Eve hid from the presence of God because of their sin. God became flesh like us but without sin. He was without sin because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ (God) would go to the cross in the likeness of sinful flesh but without sin.

Christmas is not about presents under the tree but Christ presence on the tree.

All mankind is under the curse for not keeping the law to perfection. Jesus was nailed to the cross (tree), to become a curse for us.

**Galatians 3:13** – *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”)*

His blood would be shed for the payment of man’s sin.

**1 Peter 1:18** – *“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

Jesus cried from the cross, “It is finished!” and bowed His head and gave up the Ghost.

It is finished meant that Jesus Christ had fulfilled the requirements of the law. He had satisfied the righteousness that God demands. This was evidenced on the third day when Jesus arose from the grave. Christ came out of the grave with the keys to death, hell, and the grave-keys that once were hanging from Satan’s belt. He arose victorious and those who turn from their sins and trust Jesus enter into this victory.

When Jesus gave up the Ghost on the cross the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The veil separated man from the presence of God. The High Priest went inside the veil once a year to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat. Inside the veil if he was unclean God immediately killed him. Adam’s sin took man from the presence of God. Through Jesus satisfying God’s righteousness we now have access to the presence of God. Man from the beginning was designed to live in the presence of God. The river of life flows in the presence of God.

**Psalm 16:11** – *“You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

Man was designed to live in the presence of God. Man’s brokenness is made whole in the river of life

**1 Chronicles 16:26-27** – *“For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens. Glory and honor are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place.”*

## **Your Value to God**

The world in which we live tears down and de-values people through human trafficking, slavery, prostitution, and many other corrupt practices of sinful man. Many children endure sexual, physical, and mental abuse. Depression runs rampant in people who have no idea of their true value. Man's answer to the de-valuing, depression, hurts, hang-ups and issues of life is to turn to alcohol, drugs, sex or other addictions as a solution. The solution becomes an idol in their life. Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.

The night Jesus was betrayed and hours before his crucifixion:

**Luke 22:41** – *“He was withdrawn from them (disciples) about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father; if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”*

**V.44** – *“And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”*

Jesus was about to endure a horrible physical death on the cross. I can't fully grasp the suffering He endured physically, but Jesus was agonizing over a cup. He was sweating blood from the pressure brought on by a cup. What is this cup He is asking the Father to take away? Isaiah, Jeremiah and Revelation talk about God's cup of fury or wrath. Jesus not only endured a physical death

but the Father poured out His cup of fury, wrath, and judgment upon Him. Jesus absorbed the judgment for all sin ever committed from the beginning of time to the end. God is Holy and just and must judge sin. He pours His wrath of judgment out upon His Son. Either Jesus takes your cup upon the cross or the cup of wrath is poured out upon you throughout eternity. There are only two ways to pay for your sin: paid in full by Jesus on the cross or making eternal payments in the Lake of Fire.

When looking at the bloody cross of Jesus you should see your great value.

**Example:** I go to the store to buy a gallon of milk. The cashier tells me the milk costs \$100.00. I don't think so, because I know the value of a gallon of milk. Jesus knew your value, because He gave you value by what He paid at the cross.

**Romans 5:8** – *“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”*

Jesus endured the cross because of your great value to Him.

**Hebrews 12:2** – *“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

A brand new crisp one hundred dollar bill has the value of one hundred dollars. A wrinkled, dirty one hundred dollar bill has the value of one hundred dollars. A wrinkled, dirty, torn, dropped in the

toilet, messy one hundred dollar bill has the value of one hundred dollars. Some Christians are crisp, mature and clean but in God's eyes they have the same value as the wrinkled, dirty, torn, messy Christian. Those who have turned to Jesus Christ and been born again (regeneration) all have great value to God. All children of God are predestined to one day be like Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:29** – *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”*

## **New Identity**

I had childhood hurts, pains and issues. Alcohol and drugs became my solution. My solution however nearly destroyed me.

After a stint in a drug rehab at a local hospital, I came home discouraged by my plight. They told me I had been born with the disease of addiction. I would always be an addict and alcoholic. Staying sober was possible if I poured myself into either Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA). I tried Alcoholics Anonymous AA but I was addicted to a lot more than alcohol. I began pouring myself out to the Narcotics Anonymous (NA) program. I went to meetings almost every day. My new NA family would greet each other with a hug. I would down coffee in between puffing cigarettes at each meeting. We would tell war stories of what the bondage of addiction had done to us. Each person who spoke would start out with “My name is ----- and I’m an addict.” “Once an addict, always an addict” was our identification. We were told that we had the disease of addiction and all had scars to prove it. My family, friends and boss were happy because I was sober. I was, however, miserable and back to my original hurts, pains, and issues.

I thought of my solution (addiction) constantly but would come to the meetings and be reminded how badly my god (addiction) had treated me. I received a different color chip each milestone of time that I endured being clean from drugs. They talked about a higher power and you could make anything your higher power including your refrigerator. People who had been clean longer than

me would come forward with their heads low in shame and pick up their white chip again. Pride would swell up in me because now I had more clean time than them. “Keep coming back”, was our word of encouragement. They did relapse and some kept coming back but many went to prison or died.

Getting sober at that time probably saved my life. I was sober but I was not free.

Once an addict always an addict:

(Step 1) Realizing you have a **Disease**.

(Step 2) You get in **recovery** for your disease. You identify your triggers which set off your addiction binge. Set up behavior modification in which you change people, places and things. Get in a program and work the twelve steps. Get a mentor who has a lot of clean time. My mentor had been clean from drugs for several years but was addicted to sex and pornography. He would take the new girls coming in off the street under his management. Their head was not clear and easy targets to be preyed upon for sex. He had swapped one addiction for another. In reality he had swapped one sin for another.

(Step 3) **Relapse** – Where life’s pressures mount and you fall back into the grips of your disease. You are powerless over its magnetic-like pull. This is a continuous cycle for fallen man in a fallen world.

I stayed clean and miserable for a year and the pressure of my addiction built to the point of exploding. I completed step 1 and 2 and around Christmas I completed step 3, relapse.

You find secular rehabs deal with the outward symptoms or the fruit. The root of the issue is a sin issue and is found in the heart of man. The heart is the control center of the soul.

**Matthew 15:19** – *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”*

I always say, “If you want pure water, don’t paint the pump, clean the well.”

On the night of June 19, 2002, I was cooking methamphetamine in a small trailer. I had been up for days. In my mind there were police in the trees and under the trailer. The doors were locked because of fear and paranoia. A spark went off the heat lamp and ignited the fumes. I was in the fire and frantically trying to get the door open. I had locked and bolted the door because a penetrating fear had engulfed me.

**2 Timothy 1:7** – *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

**F**alse

**E**vidence

**A**ppearing

**R**eal

The spirit of fear is a demonic spirit that I had allowed into my mind. I did not understand, going without food for several days that I was fasting to the Devil. I opened my mind to an intimate encounter with the demonic realm. In the Bible you find Moses,

Daniel and others fasting to be brought into an intimate encounter with the LORD God.

I met a young lady while preaching at a women's rehab. She was pretty distraught as she told me how her boyfriend was cooking methamphetamine in a small trailer. He had her put a padlock on the outside of the door and lock him in. I knew his thinking because I had done the same thing. I knew people would come up looking for dope and beat on your door until you let them in. With the padlock on the outside of the door, it looked like no one was inside. The young lady left him there and went down the road until he called her to come let him out. She never received that call. Like me, he had a meth lab explosion and fire, but unlike me, he couldn't get the door to open.

While here on earth we have a door (Jesus) to bring us out from the fires of judgment. When you die without Jesus Christ you will burn forever in Hell's fire without an exit door.

I eventually made it outside with second and third degree burns. I walked to a house and they placed a blanket on my burned body and took me to the hospital. I hated my life, I hated my solution (addiction), and I felt that death would be better. Every time I went to jail in the past I would cry out to God to get me out of jail and I would live for Him. I believed in God but so does the Devil.

**James 2:19** – *“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble!”*

After each release from jail, I'd go back to my solution of drugs and alcohol. A dog returns to his vomit because he is still a

dog. I confessed Jesus as Lord with my mouth but did not mean it with my heart. That night things were different when I cried out from my heart to God.

**Romans 10:10** – *“For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

“Lord Jesus you can take my eye, ear, or whatever you want. Whatever is left, I am going to serve you.” I made an unconditional surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ that night. That night my past, present, and future sin was placed upon Jesus who bore it on the cross. That night the penalty of sin was removed and I was clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** – *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

I had been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible through the word of God. A supernatural birth had taken place. God’s Spirit and my spirit had become one.

As a child of God and heir and joint heir with Christ I received a position of power and authority.

**Ephesians 2:4-7** – *“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”*

According to these verses we are seated with Christ in heavenly places. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father meaning we are too. Our identity is with Jesus Christ. Most Christians have an identity crisis. They identify themselves by their diseases, problems, race, or professions.

Diseases: I am diabetic, I am ADD, I am Bipolar

Problems: I'm divorced, I'm bankrupt, I'm homeless, I am an addict, I am an alcoholic

Race: I'm white, I'm African American, I'm Hispanic, I'm Asian

Professions: I'm a car salesman, I'm a lawyer, I'm a cashier

**Galatians 3:28** – *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

Through the new birth we are brought into the family of God and become one in Christ. We all take on the same identification in Christ.

**Philippians 1:6** – *“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

The night of June 19th, 2002, I became a new creation in Christ. The old Rodney in Adam and the flesh died. Through faith in Christ, a new birth in the Holy Spirit took place. I was now free from my addictions. I did not understand at that point that I was free. It has been 16 years now. Through the Holy Spirit and truth of God's word, I walk out this freedom daily.

My young daughter Karalena fell off the zipline and broke a bone in her elbow. She had surgery and wore a cast for weeks. The x-rays came back good showing the bone was healed. They removed the cast but Karalena held her arm up as if the cast was still on. She began to exercise the healed arm through outstretched movement. It took about two weeks for the truth to set in that her arm was healed. I was healed immediately through faith in Jesus, but my mind was still in bondage. I began to exercise the truth of God's word in my life and began to see who I now am. You do what you do because you do not know who you are. Powerless Christians walk around in doom and gloom because they do not understand who they are.

The night I was burned I walked into the emergency room in short pants, no shoes, and no shirt. They had been burned off. With my only working eye, I could see skin hanging down about fifteen inches past where my fingernails used to be. They shot me full of morphine, put me in an ambulance, and took me to University of South Alabama Burn Center in Mobile. I went through skin grafts and wound care for weeks. I was free, but I did not know I was free. I was still cussing and wearing the nurse's button out wanting more morphine. I found myself abusing my pain medication. I was serious when I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, but I was weak. I was crying out to God to show me what to do. One morning, I awoke and knew I had to go back to the Home of Grace. God had answered my prayer.

## **“Once an Addict, Always an Addict”**

My thoughts after being set free were “once an addict, always an addict” can’t be true because I know that I am not an addict any more. In reality it is true and here is why:

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5** – *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”*

It begins with an imagination. The imagination becomes a thought. The thought becomes a choice and the choice becomes an action. A repeated action becomes a habit. It can be a good habit, like reading your Bible the next 60 days or it can be a bad habit, like drinking alcohol the next 60 days. A bad habit can be broken with a strong enough motivation. Let’s say a person is about to lose his/her family or job or go to jail because of a drinking habit. This can be motivation enough to break a bad habit.

**Ephesians 6:12** – *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

A repeated area of failure which becomes demonically enforced is a stronghold. All people possess the corrupted nature they received from Adam. This is called the Adamic nature or the flesh. The Adamic nature cannot break a demonic (spiritual) stronghold. That is why people trying to quit an addiction do well for a while and then go back. All the motivation and good intentions

cannot break a stronghold. So "once an addict, always an addict" is true because, the Adamic nature cannot break free from the stronghold of addiction.

That was the bad news, but this is the good news.

**Colossians 2:14** – *"Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."*

Through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Satan and his demons have been defeated. When we turn from our sins and trust Jesus, for salvation, a new birth takes place within the believer. The Spirit of God becomes one with the spirit of man. This new birth is also called regeneration.

**Titus 3:5-6** – *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

When we turn from our sins and trust Jesus we receive the new birth. Our penalty of sin is washed away by the blood of Jesus. We are given Jesus's righteousness which makes us right with God. We immediately become children of God and heirs together with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** – *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*

The Bible says that when we become followers of Christ, we are in the body of Christ. Since Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father (God), then we are too. The right hand of the Father is a place of power and authority.

Adam lost dominion when he sinned, and Satan gained it. In Matthew 4 Satan tempted Jesus. Satan took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He told Jesus; “all these things I will give You if you will fall down and worship me.” This shows that Satan had dominion over the world system.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** – *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*

Jesus won back the dominion after His death, burial, and resurrection. This is what Jesus told His followers before ascending back to heaven.

**Matthew 28:18** – *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

We are ambassadors of Jesus Christ. God tells us that we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. This means that Christ lived a sinless life, went to the cross and died for the sins of the world. He arose from the grave in victory over sin, death and the grave. He has defeated all demonic and world system powers. We, as believers, did nothing but receive this victory by faith. Now, as believers, we walk in the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said; **Luke 10:19-20** – *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”* (serpents and scorpions are demonic spirits)

I traveled to Jackson to speak at Smith Park on Sunday, February 19, 2007. A ministry called Project One Step was feeding and giving out supplies to around 150 homeless people that lived in the area. I arrived early and there were around 100 people there, who were given an appetizer of pizza and drinks. I was excited about the crowd already there because I would be able to share Jesus with them later. A man with crazy eyes was cussing and telling people he would cut their heads off. He was going through the crowd getting in people’s faces and making threats. He was obviously under demonic influence. The crowd was turning from an excited calm to a deeply disturbed crowd. I asked God, for help. The demonic presence had moved across the area. God moved in me as I walked through the middle of the crowd shouting, “This is Jesus’s park; this area belongs to Jesus Christ. Satan you have got to go.” I proclaimed this three times and the demoniac ran out of the crowd. He was standing alone, looking back at the people in confusion. Out of nowhere, a huge man ran up and began beating the demoniac in the face with his fists. The demoniac was chased and beaten all the way down the road. People from the ministry stood there in shock. I said, “God took care of that problem.” I later shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ and ten people became followers of Christ. Why did I share this story? Because we have the power and authority from Jesus Christ, we are able to shut down the demonic realm. We’re not fighting for victory but from victory. As believers, we died with Christ, were buried with Christ, were raised with Christ, ascended with Christ, are seated with Christ and now reign with Christ.

## **Satan Will Question Your Identity**

**Matthew 3:16** – *“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*”

Jesus was baptized (immersed) by John in water and the Holy Spirit descended upon and anointed (anointing is the manifest power and presence of God) Him to begin His three and a half year ministry. Jesus had done no miracles up unto that point. God the Father said, “This is my Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**Matthew 4:1-4** – *“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”*

The Holy Spirit led Jesus to the wilderness and He didn’t eat forty days and nights. The demonic realm will attack when you are hungry, angry, lonely, and tired because they know you are vulnerable. The Devil attacked Jesus by questioning His identity. Satan said, “If you are the Son of God.” Jesus knew who he was and fought Satan by the truth of God’s word.

**James 4:7** – *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*

On the streets people become conformed to the image of the world system. They have a character which looks like their father Satan. In this world you will have one of two spiritual fathers. Either Satan is your father because you were conceived in sin or Jehovah God is your father because you have received a new birth through the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:14** – *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father,’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”*

When a person turns from their sin and trusts Jesus Christ for salvation he/she receives a new identity. Jesus died for you and as you, and we die with Christ on the cross.

**Galatian 2:20** – *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

The law condemns man who is in Adam and sin which brings death.

**1 Corinthians 7:39** – *“A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”*

**Romans 7:4** – *“You also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another-to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.”*

When a person dies with Christ on the cross, he/she is free from the law to marry another, free from Adam and the flesh; raised with Christ and married to Christ to walk as one in the Spirit. We see here the importance of baptism by burying the new believer in the grave of water and resurrecting him out of the water which identifies the new believer with Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

**Romans 6:4** – *“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

## **NOW FREE!**

In 2002, after Labor Day, I entered the Home of Grace as God had instructed me. I was ready to do whatever it took for change in my life. I hungered for God's word as I pressed into God. The Holy Spirit was taking the word of God and transforming my life. The old garbage of the world was being discarded and God was building within me the mind of Christ. The new man being produced was not always pretty, but God was at work. The strongholds of addiction were being torn down and discarded. The new path within my heart was opening up for the Holy Spirit to flow freely through my life. The night I surrendered all to Jesus Christ, I was born of the Spirit. I received the Spirit of God and the presence of God.

**Isaiah 12:3** – *“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”*

I had been given the well of salvation. A lot of effort is required to pull a bucket up out of a well to get water.

I had a break through after three months of God breaking down strongholds and renewing my mind. With most strongholds removed, a path for the river to flow was now open. I was in chapel and the Holy Spirit began flowing through me like a river. I thought my body was coming apart. I experienced the greatest peace, joy, love, gentleness that I had ever experienced. I realized this is what I had been searching for in drugs, sex, alcohol, and other worldly things. I experienced the intimate presence of God. The presence of God is immediately given through the new birth. The intimate presence and power of God manifests itself in a cleansed vessel. I was for the first time experiencing what God wants to give all of

His children and that is a river of Himself. I realized what Jesus meant when He said;

**John 7:37** – *“If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly (heart) shall flow rivers of living water.”*

Strongholds of sin are like logs blocking the flow of the river (Holy Spirit) currents. These sins must be dealt with and removed through confessing and coming in agreement with the truth of God’s word.

There were around a hundred people in the Home of Grace program with me. I know of none that experienced the power and presence of God like I did. In three of the Gospels they tell of a woman with a bleeding disorder. She knows if she can just press in and touch the hem of Jesus garment she will be healed. Multitudes are touching Jesus but only one presses in to touch Jesus clothing and is healed. Jesus stops because he knew power had gone out of Him. One woman pressed in by faith and placed a demand upon the anointing (manifest power and presence of God). There were others at the Home of Grace touching Jesus but I pressed in by faith and put a demand upon the anointing of God. My life has been forever changed.

### **Spirit, Soul, and Body after New Birth**

**Spirit:** The moment you trust Jesus Christ with your heart you receive a new birth or you’re born of the Spirit. God’s Spirit and your spirit become one. The spirit is now right and back to its original design.

**Soul:** (mind, emotion, will) however is not right after the new birth. The soul has been conformed and corrupted by the world

system. Demonic strongholds have been embedded in the soul of man.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** – *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

The soul of man is filled with the thoughts and patterns of this world system. Bondage is a house of corrupted thoughts. After the new birth, God begins to give man a new mind; the mind of Christ. God’s word and Spirit transforms and changes the soul of man to be like Christ. The new believer should begin to display the character of Christ in their life. God should be able to say to the believer in Christ

“My thoughts are your thoughts and your ways My ways.”

**Colossians 3:9-10** – *“Lie not one to another, seeing that you have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”*

Renew here means a new mind and not a renovated mind. How does God give you a new mind or mind of Christ? Within the pages of the Holy Bible is the mind of Christ. The human brain is the greatest computer ever. The brain is the hard drive or machine. The mind is the software or the program. The problem is not the brain but the corrupt programing of the mind. The conscious mind is responsible for logic, calculations and all actions that are performed while you are conscious. The subconscious mind stores all memories, beliefs, images and life experiences, good and bad. The subconscious mind controls heart beats and breathing. The uncon-

scious mind activates feeling and emotions when you experience a situation. Deep in the subconscious mind are hurts, unforgiveness, haunting past images, abuse and much more. The Holy Spirit in a believer brings these up to be exposed and replaced by the word of God.

God's word reprograms the mind to have the mind of Christ. The word of God also acts as antivirus protection against enemy attacks. The battlefield is in the mind.

**Ephesians 5:26** – *"that He (Jesus) might sanctify and cleanse her (church) with the washing of water by the word."*

I had been filled with the dirt of the world for thirty seven years. After my new birth, the Holy Spirit within me began to take the word of God and clean me out. My mind began to become new.

The old thought patterns are being discarded and the new patterns are being installed.

I think of a bucket full of dirt (me) and water (God's word) begins to pour into the bucket. The dirt begins to wash out and eventually you have clear, clean water. This is a picture of a Spirit filled, life which God commands for His children. The problem is that the world we live in is constantly throwing dirt back into your bucket. To stay clean and Spirit filled is a lifetime commitment to study God's word. The primary goal of Home of Grace and many other Christian rehabs is to see people born again or born of the Spirit. They know that without a new birth a person will never be free.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** – *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*

The secondary goal is to build a solid foundation upon the word of God. This foundation must be built upon for the rest of a believer's life. When you become a follower of Jesus Christ, it is not a three month or three year commitment, but a life changing decision for the rest of your life. I always say; I'm not where I want to be, but I'm not where I used to be sixteen years ago when I trusted Christ. Through God's word and Spirit, the believer finds strength and instruction for life. Through this transformation process, the Holy Spirit brings strongholds (sin) up and you have the will to discard or retain (keep). I find that people will discard strongholds that bring pain (like meth) and will retain strongholds (like beer, weed, extra-marital sex) that do not cause pain, even though the Holy Spirit directs them otherwise. Christians who retain strongholds never walk in the freedom God desires for them.

The moment a person repents and trusts Jesus Christ they are born of the Spirit. They are now children of God and they are FREE! The problem is that they do not understand the freedom they now have. Jennifer and I said, "I do" at the end of our marriage vows. The last ten years we have been finding out what "I do" really means.

**John 8:32** – *“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

I told God, "I just preached the truth to these men and they're not free." God directed me to the verse before.

**John 8:31** – *“If you abide (continue) in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”*

**John 8:32** – *“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

If you continue in God's word, then you shall know the truth and the truth of God's word will make you free.

It is a process by which God's truth, through the Holy Spirit, replaces false information of the world. The Holy Spirit takes strongholds that you have surrendered to Him and tears them down through the truth of God's word. The truth shows the believer He is free and now able to walk in freedom.

**Psalm 119:11** – *“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”*

The word of God can be placed in the soul of man. As the deceptive thoughts of the enemy come, we bring them captive. The Holy Spirit takes the truth of God's word and discards these thoughts.

**2 Corinthians 10:5** – *“casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”*

Captive here means to bring every thought under spear point and force them to be obedient to the word of God. Jesus resisted the Devil with the word of God each time he tested Him in the wilderness. The living truth triumphs over a dead lie every time. It is important to arm yourself by studying and memorization of God's word. Meditating on God's word is more essential to you than the food that you eat. The meaning of meditation can be seen in a cow eating grass. A cow will swallow the chewed-up grass. Soon after the cow will bring it back up into his mouth and chew on it again. This is a picture of meditating on the word of God. We are to be totally consumed with the ways and truth of God.

I remember going to the gym and working out years back. There was a young skinny man who was best dressed in the gym by far. He would go around and talk about the work out techniques. He possessed muscle magazines and he had muscle knowledge. The problem was, even with all the knowledge he possessed, he was a small little twerp. He failed to take his knowledge about working out and actually workout. Churches are full of people who have been to classes, seminars, revivals and have listened to every preaching CD, DVD, and Pod-cast. They are spiritually obese and religiously constipated. The word of God is alive and must be worked out in a believer's life. We must daily live out the word of God in our lives. God grew my faith in Him by trusting His word through the struggles of life, learning to stand upon the word of God and putting it into action in every area of my life.

“God doesn’t, give the hardest battles to His toughest soldiers. He makes His toughest soldiers through life’s hardest battles.”

**Body:**

**Romans 12:1** – *“Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”*

After the new birth, the body (earth suit) is still plagued by sin. The Bible makes it clear that there will be a future resurrection of the body. The body is now the temple of God, with the Holy Spirit dwelling inside. Our God is Jehovah Rapha “The LORD our healer”. As Christians, we are healed. Either it will manifest itself in this world or the next. After giving my life to Jesus Christ, I was healed physically from 2nd and 3rd, degree burns. God blessed me with a great memory for scripture, even though I had done considerable damage to my brain from drug abuse. God does heal his

children here on earth to the point that they can complete their kingdom mission. Paul had a thorn in the flesh which humbled him but did not stop him from completing his kingdom mission. This is the same Paul God used to heal many sick and to raise one from the dead. Paul lived for Christ here on earth and knew when he died he would gain everything. Paul was chained to a Roman soldier in a prison dungeon, but he was still free. He wrote about joy of the Christian life as he endured harsh prison conditions. The body is fallen man in a fallen world and will one day die. We, as believers, look forward to the resurrection of the body, where we will receive a perfect eternal body like Jesus Christ. We, as Christians, must eat properly, exercise, and take care of our temple.

**1 John 3:2** – *“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”*

## **Freedom is Found in the Kingdom of God**

**Judges 17:6** – *“In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”*

For over twenty years I was chasing my own goals, my own gods (addictions) and doing things my way. I was the head of my house and my life. Pleasure was to be found in whatever seemed good and right in my own eyes. My life was being led by the lusts of my flesh and influence of demon spirits. In my mind I was free to do whatever I wanted to do. I was free to party to extreme and immerse myself in sex, drugs, alcohol and gambling. The truth was that I was not free but a servant of sin and falling into dark bondage.

**Romans 6:16-17** – *“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”*

**Romans 6:22** – *“But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.”*

Either you are a slave to sin or a slave to righteousness. Either your ruler is Jesus or Satan. Either your destination is Heaven or Hell when you die.

## **Born a KING**

Man has been doing what was right in his own eyes ever since Adam. God's plan then and now is to be king over mankind made in His image. God's plan is to bring heaven to earth and that King Jesus will rule over all. In Matthew 2 we find that Jesus is born a king. The wise men came to Jerusalem seeking the King of the Jews because they had seen his star in the East, and had come to worship him. They brought gifts for a king. When Jesus began His ministry in Matthew 4, He preached the Gospel of the kingdom. Jesus spoke little about being born again but proclaimed the kingdom of God continuously. Jesus taught what's called the Lord's Prayer in

**Matthew 6:9-10** – *“Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

The kingdom of God brings heaven to earth to serve King Jesus. Jesus's kingdom ministry began after He received power from God.

**Matthew 4:16** – *“When He (Jesus) had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.”*

Christ means the anointed one and here Jesus is anointed in the oil (Spirit) of God. The anointing is the manifest power and presence of God. He then has the power of God to fulfill His kingdom ministry here on earth. Jesus raised the dead, walked on water, caused the blind to see and the lame to walk. These miracles showed that Jesus came from a different kingdom than the one here on earth.

Kingdom means: King- Sovereign ruler // Dom- is Dominion

Satan who had won dominion from Adam is about to be defeated. Satan lost dominion through the death, burial, and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## **Died a KING**

Jesus was born a king but also died as a king.

**Galatians 1:4** – *“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.”*

Jesus died on the cross so that we might be delivered from this present evil world and judgment to come. Pilate questioned Jesus before the crucifixion and tried to figure out what evil He had done for the crowd to want to kill Him.

**John 18:36** – *“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’ Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are you a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’”*

Pilate went out to the crowd and said, “I find no fault in Him.” A crown of thorns and a purple robe was put on Jesus to mock Him. Pilate placed a sign on the cross that Jesus was nailed to: “Jesus of Nazareth. King of the Jews.”

Jesus’s primary mission on earth was not about dying for your sins so you wouldn’t go to hell. Jesus is not fire insurance for the self-indulged sinner. Jesus’s mission was to bring heaven to Earth and

for His kingdom to reign over all. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was the only way sinful man could be brought into the kingdom of God. In John 3, Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. We are all in Adam and slaves to sin with a corrupt flesh nature. We must be born of the Spirit. Repenting is turning from the world system and turning to Jesus as Savior and King. The new birth immediately takes place and a person is brought into the kingdom of God. This is where freedom takes place.

**Colossians 1:13-14** – *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”*

We are brought from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of Light. Sin ruled our lives but now the righteousness of Jesus Christ reigns. We were slaves to sin and are now slaves to righteousness.

**Matthew 6:24** – *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (Worldly riches).”*

We are brought into and become citizens of the kingdom. The new citizens have brought their old world thinking with them. The new citizen must be trained and taught the word of God to bring about kingdom thinking. This is the mind of Christ which manifests the character of Christ.

**Ephesians 4:11-12** – *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

Jesus gives the fivefold ministry to train up new citizens in kingdom thinking, so they fulfill the kingdom mission. The mission brings the kingdom of light to the kingdom of darkness. Many churches have a social club mentality and prioritize programs for members who should have already been introduced to Jesus. They fail to reach outside their walls to a lost and dying world. The mission is to take the good news of the Kingdom of God and influence the world we live in. Jesus told a parable which is an earthly story that contains a spiritual truth:

**Matthew 13:31-32** – *“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”*

He spoke another parable to them:

*“The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”*

In these two parables, Jesus shows kingdom influence and how the kingdom of God expands. As citizens of the kingdom, everything under your foot is under your influence. We are to be influencing the kingdom of darkness with the kingdom of heaven which is the kingdom of God. This is our mission from King Jesus. Everyone in the kingdom of God is not called to the fivefold ministry but we are called to have kingdom influence at home, work, school, and wherever we go.

**Colossians 3:14** – *“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

## **Return as King**

**Revelation 19:11** – *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Jesus was born a King, died as a King, and will return as King. Every knee will bow to King Jesus. Either you will bow now before King Jesus or you will bow before him at judgment.

**Philippians 2:9-11** – *“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

In the Bible when a new King took command he destroyed the old king and his family. Satan and His followers will be destroyed in the Lake of Fire.

**Matthew 25:41** – *“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”*

## **Don't "Mind" the Demons**

In a room surrounded by people I do not recognize, I am the center of attention because the white powder I am pouring out is bringing smiles to their faces. Our hearts are pounding with excitement, waiting on the next hit to build upon the foundation of a high that started a few days ago. I grasped the straw, pulled it to my nose and slowly leaned over the top of the white powder. Hesitating for a moment, I am looking down on the now blood-drenched powder. Quickly, blood and all disappears in a colossal snort. My eyes pop open to sweaty sheets and the realization that this was just a bad dream. I haven't dreamed of drugs or alcohol in over ten years. This was an unfriendly reminder that an unguarded strength becomes a weakness. It is Friday 13th and the thief is looking for an open door of my mind. The enemy will attack your mind when you are most vulnerable. HALT: Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired. These are the times when the enemy pounces.

The Bible says that because of pride, the Covering Cherubim (Lucifer, Son of the Morning) and one third of the angels were cast out of heaven. Lucifer is now Satan, accuser or adversary, and fallen angels are now demons who are disembodied spirits looking for a place to live and influence. Satan is also called the devil and serpent.

I remember as a child after I was molested, I sat in my bed and talked to the Jesus that I learned about from church. Jesus spoke to me and told me that He would protect me and that I would preach His word one day. I would have dreams after this of snakes being in my bed. I screamed and squirmed around on my top bunk.

One night, while I was screaming and running through the snakes, my brother woke and said from below, “Rodney! Rodney, what’s wrong?” I hollered, “Catch me!” and jumped out of my bed landing on top of him. I didn’t know then, but I know now that I was under a spiritual attack. Satan, that old serpent, has his demonic spirits attacking and trying to destroy the purpose of God. However, every dream and every failure of man doesn’t have a demon involved. You cannot cast out the flesh and you will never disciple a demon. We mess things up pretty well on our own. I just want to make you aware that there is a spiritual enemy. There are people who do not believe in demonic spirits, even though Jesus confirmed it. You can’t defeat an enemy you don’t believe in. Anything that brings you into bondage has a demonic spirit attached to it. Jesus came to bring liberty (freedom) to the captives.

**2 Corinthians 3:17** – *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”*

We are to be filled and under the influence of the Holy Spirit. When you are under the influence of the Holy Spirit you experience freedom.

Satan was cast out of heaven because of pride. I recently ministered in the streets of New Orleans. The New Orleans Pride festival had just gotten under way while we were there. This is a festival celebrating pride in the gay, lesbian, and transgender lifestyle. The spirit of alcohol brings about certain behavioral characteristics when you’re under its influence. The gay, lesbian and transgender spirit brings about certain behavioral characteristics when you’re under its influence. The Spirit of Jesus Christ must replace these world system (demonic) spirits for a person to experience freedom.

Jesus cast demons out of people and set them free. The religious folks of that day were mad and accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan.

**Mark 3:22** – *“And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebub, ‘and, ‘By the ruler of the demons He cast out demons.’”*

Satan (Devil) is Beelzebub and Beelzebub means “Lord of the flies.”

A fly had entered our house and was flying freely from room to room. It was exceptionally fast and alert. The fly had plenty of room and tried to avoid detection and destruction in the 1,900 square feet home. I stepped into the 24 square foot bathroom and the flamboyant fly did a roll over by my right ear. Immediately I shut the door to the bathroom and the arrogant fly was now trapped within the small area with nowhere to hide. He quickly became a casualty of war.

**2 Corinthians 10:5** – *“...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”*

Believers are to take evil thoughts captive by immediately shutting the door and confining them from going any further. We are to crush them through the truth of God’s word and power of the Holy Spirit. Bring every thought under the obedience of Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 1:13** – *“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”*

We sat down for Thanksgiving dinner and a fly circled and landed on our turkey, dressing, and pie. My joy of eating turned to a sick queasy feeling. How did that fly get to our family dinner? Someone left the door open. We can also leave the doors of our mind open and allow demonic spirits in to influence our lives. As a person drinks alcohol, the doors of their minds begin to open up and before they realize it, they are under the influence. Alcohol physically affects body (brain) and the spirit of alcohol affects soul (mind, emotion, will). When someone drinks and drives then gets pulled over, they are arrested for DUI (Driving under the Influence of the spirit of alcohol). The person behind the wheel is not in control. They are under demonic influence. The liquor store sign reads Wine, Liquor and Spirits. More people have been killed by the influence of alcohol than any other drug.

I remember drinking beer at a party when I was in my mess. There was an older man who came by and he took the discarded beers and poured what remained into his cup. After he got a full cup, he would drink it. This man was drinking tobacco spit, cigarette ashes, and who knows what else. The spirit of alcohol had controlled and defiled this man over his years of addiction. Sin will take you farther than you want to go and keep you longer than you want to stay. The longer you stay in the bondage of addiction, the deeper you fall into darkness. A friend of mine who was a clean cut addict fell deep into darkness over the past sixteen years. His life spiraled out of control. He contracted herpes and gave it to a two-year old girl he was molesting. The child's mother was feeding her addiction while her child became prey to pure evil.

We have all heard of mind-altering drugs. Drugs and alcohol abuse lowers a person's inhibitions (standards). Mind-altering drugs open the door of the mind and allow demonic influence. The

person abusing the drug is not in control, but is influenced by this demon spirit. Remember you are body, soul, and spirit. If one is affected, they all are affected. These demon spirits are under the dominion of God's enemy the Devil.

**John 10:10** – *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...”*

So many Christians believe that demonic spirits cannot come in and influence them. My question is, “Can a Christian get drunk on alcohol or high on drugs?” Of course they can. If you leave your window or door unlocked a thief can enter your house. The thief does not own the house, so it is not his possession. The thief can create havoc until he is detected and removed from the premises. When a door of a Christian's mind is left open, the demonic spirit can enter and establish a stronghold. A Christian cannot be possessed by demons when he belongs to Jesus Christ, but he can be oppressed when he allows access to the enemy.

Imagine a hardworking, caring grandfather surfing the internet and coming across pornography. He begins to watch and becomes aroused. He then molests his granddaughter which results in prison time. The family is devastated by his actions and seeks counseling. Through watching the pornography, his mind was opened to demonic influence. The enemy destroys another one.

In the Bible, we find a great demonic presence at the first coming of Jesus. As Jesus's return gets near, we are seeing an increase in demonic activity. As I sit here and write, the report just came in that another school shooting has occurred with many casualties. The worse school shooting in history occurred only a few months back. The once great America has become a divided nation. Jesus said, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to

desolation.” America has turned from worshipping the creator, to the creation. The removal of God has left a vacuum to pull the demonic realm into our schools, homes, people and churches. The world system is crying out, “We need more mental health treatment!” and “Get rid of the wicked guns!” Just like a person with a low immune system is more likely to get sick; a person with mental illness is more likely to be influenced by a demonic spirit. The reality is that demonic spirits influence the minds of men. When “In God We Trust” is removed, the enemy is free to steal, kill, and destroy.

Derrick was high on methamphetamine (ICE) and went looking for his girlfriend. He had abused her and she was hiding at a friend’s house. He went to that house, broke in, and killed five people, one of which was five months pregnant. He killed them with an axe and only used the gun to make sure they were dead. He was later arrested and Derrick said, “The things I was believing in my mind were not reality.” The news reporters asked him, “Why he had done this?” His response was “methamphetamine.”

Methamphetamine opened the gate and allowed the unbridled demon spirits in to steal, kill and destroy. Drugs, mental illness, guns, and alcohol, can camouflage the primary culprit which is demonic influence.

Man is a spiritual being and because of sin, we have Satan as our spiritual father. We must repent of our sin and trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The spiritual new birth that takes place makes the Lord God, our Father.

We shared freedom through Jesus Christ last Saturday in the Mobile Metro Jail. The Spirit of God was moving and many inmates in spiritual bondage were being set free. The enemy was not happy and tried to distract everyone and stop the move of God. An inmate

asked my friend Tommy if he would come pray with him. Tommy went near to the bars of his cell to pray. The inmate said, "Hold on a second". He turned around and picked up a large cup and threw urine in the eyes of Tommy. Tommy stood there soaked by this stinky pee. Tommy had pee all over his clothes, face, and in his eyes. The guards went in and tazed the inmate and a great disruption ensued. They now have to test the inmate to see if he has HIV or anything that could be harmful to Tommy. Tommy never got angry and casually went home. Two hours later, Tommy showed back up. He is clean and ready to finish ministering. Tommy was full of Jesus and it showed by his reaction. The inmate was full of Satan, which was shown by his action. We have a spiritual enemy who hates the work of God.

**John 8:34-36** – *"Jesus answered them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.'"*

Either you are a servant to sin or a servant to righteousness. Either God is your Father or Satan. Your eternal destination is with Jesus Christ or the Lake of Fire (Hell).

While ministering in jails, prisons, and on the streets, I find people who are filled and controlled by evil spirits. There have been instances where they have become furious and violent toward me. I don't back down or show fear because I walk in the power and authority of Jesus Christ. I ministered in lock down in Mississippi Department of Corrections for two years. I was told that two hours at a time should be my limit. I was a new Christian and full of Jesus and zeal. I would go in there for around six hours at a time.

The worse of the worse criminals were in there and the demonic presence was felt as you entered. When I found an inmate who wanted to talk about Jesus the noise level would increase to the point I was screaming to be heard. Satan has territories in which he controls and this was one of them. They would pour their issues out on me and I would come out of there about half crazy. I learned why Jesus needed to go up on the mountain all night to pray to the Father. I needed adequate time as well to refresh, recharge and talk to Father God. The spiritual warfare is unseen but active and will wear you down.

It does not matter how many demon spirits are controlling a person, the individual still has power to come to Jesus and be set free. In the Gospel of Mark we find a man full of demons who lived among the tombs. No one could bind him because he was able to break the shackles and chains. Always night and day he was running in the tombs crying out and cutting himself. Demon spirits influence cutting of oneself or self-destruction. The ultimate goal of a demon spirit is to kill the person they are influencing and destroy the lives of others. An addict who is staying up night and day without rest is a prime target for a demon. It's like renting your house to a bunch of punks. They don't care about the property because they don't own it. They tear everything up, don't clean up, disturb the neighbors, and don't pay their rent. You can have them removed, but it won't be easy and you have to get the right authority involved. Jesus Christ is the right power and authority to have them removed.

**Mark 5:6-8** – *“When he saw Jesus from afar; he ran and worshipped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said; ‘What*

*have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that you do not torment me.' For He said to him, 'Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!'"*

The unclean spirit tells Jesus his name is Legion for we are many. The man has hundreds of demon spirits possessing him, but this does not prevent the man from coming to Jesus Christ for freedom. Jesus grants permission for the demons to go into a herd of swine (pigs). Demons are always looking for a body to indwell. It does not matter how demon-filled or demon-controlled a person is, they can come to Jesus for freedom. Jesus caused the blind to see, lame to walk and raised the dead. Whether a person has a spiritual, physical, or mental problem, Jesus is the answer.

**Mark 5:15** – *“Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind.”*

The people came from the city and found the demon possessed man clothed and in his right mind. The demons had controlled his mind and with the authority of Jesus's word, the demons were cast out. The man came to his right mind and clothed himself. We are to have the right mind or the mind of Christ and be clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

## God Hates Sin

**Genesis 6:5- KJV** – *“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.”*

Just because something is socially accepted, does not make it right. Abortion in America has become socially accepted, but that does not make it right. America, the beautiful, has cut, scraped, pulled in pieces and vacuumed out over 60 million of its American citizens through abortion. Now many Americans are being forced through health care plans to pay for the wholesale murder of other citizens who cannot speak for themselves. Adolph Hitler only dreamed of being so cleverly wicked. Ruth Graham once said, "If God doesn't soon bring judgment upon America, He'll have to go back and apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah!"

God directed me to write the book “Club Meth to Christ” which is my own personal testimony. It’s my story of over 20 years of addiction and how I turned my life over to Jesus after a methamphetamine lab explosion. We send out thousands of books to jails and prisons across the nation. I’ve read hundreds of testimonies from inmates and many break my heart. One day I checked the mail and had several letters from prison. One letter from a Louisiana State prison was from a young girl in her early twenties. The letter was thick and I realized by looking at the last page that it was twenty pages. I normally will read the first page of a long letter and finish it at home. I began to read and could not put it down. I share a portion of this letter and maybe you will see why God hates sin.

Dear Mr. Rodney Williams,

Let me introduce myself, my name is Lacey age 22. I've just recently read "Club Meth to Christ" Your book has truly touched me. I have been an addict since 9 and have been addicted to crack cocaine from the age of 12 and the moment I took my first hit.

I was raised by a loving father, great grandmother and mawmaw. As you can see, I didn't mention my mother, may she rest in peace. She died in my arms back in 2009 from Cancer and Aids.

My mother was in and out of my life growing up. Her addiction to heroin, crack cocaine, basically any drug that got her high kept her away. I spent many nights growing up crying because I wanted and needed my mom. Days, months, and years would go by. I wouldn't see her and the times I would she didn't even look like my mom. She was skin and bones and track marks all over. But I'd run to her arms because she was my mother and I loved her with all my heart. I was just happy to see her again. Because I never knew when I'd see her again so I never could stay mad or upset with her. It wasn't till the age of 12 that I was introduced to Crack by my mother who allowed me to try it. I wanted to try it to see what was so great about it that it keep my mom away from me. I took a hit and immediately went to the bathroom to throw up.

Well it wasn't till about a week later that I was left in front room of a crack house while my mom was in the back. I wasn't alone in the front though. There was people getting high, smoking crack. I never liked being away from her for long. One night she sold me for drugs. I forgave her before she ever did it because I

loved her and it allowed us to get high. I started trading sex for drugs to supply our habit/addiction. Let me remind you I'm only 13. I turned 17, I was stripping to supply my habit. I had been raped a total of 6 times from age 13 to 17.

This is just a small portion of the letter. When I finished her 20 page letter, I was physically sick to my stomach.

This is sin unmasked, uncovered and it made me sick. I felt for a moment what God must feel when he sees our sin.

Rock a Bye Baby, so sweet in your crib, the mommy who loves you just sold your bib. I just want to be with you mommy whatever the cost, hurt me, harm me, baby is lost.

## **Enabling**

Enabling parents love their child to death. I had a mother call about her child's drug abuse. She told me he had recently been locked up and they had given him a signature bond to get out. They had bailed him out many times in the past. He was now at home waiting to go to court for stealing everything they had in the garage and selling it for drugs. She told me he would get angry every time she mentioned to him about going to rehab. He would take everything Christian from the house and throw it away. Demonic spirits hate anything pertaining to Jesus Christ. He had gotten angry two nights ago and had destroyed everything in his room. I was becoming concerned about the behavior she was describing. I asked, "How old is your son?" She replied, "He is 29 years old." My blood pressure just blew up! "What is he doing living at your house?" I cried. "You are enabling him to continue in this behavior and for him to feed his addiction."

**Illustration:** A stray dog is in your yard and keeps barking and biting everyone. You keep complaining to everyone and praying for God to help get rid of this dog. Every morning you go outside and fill bowls with water and dog food. Guess what? That dog isn't going anywhere. Don't ask God to do something that you are capable of doing yourself. Stop fueling the fire. If you want a fire to go out, you take away the fuel. Parents, grandparents, siblings and friends have been the enabling fuel to the addict. They are always there to cushion the fall and the addict never has to make radical life changes.

A mother cried to me about her son and grandson, who were both locked up for drugs. The son and now the grandson were in and out of trouble, without any change. One day while ministering at the Adult Detention Center, I came to the cell block where her grandson was. The canteen or jail store was delivering snacks purchased by friends or families of the inmates. Her grandson had a large box full of snacks delivered to him. I looked through the window as he smiled real big and passed a few bags of chips to his fellow inmates. He was so happy. Grandma who can't pay her light bill made sure he had everything he needed. He was comfortable, he was happy, he was still in his addiction, and still on his way to Hell.

The way to put out a fire is to remove the fuel. If a fire has nothing to burn, it will soon go out. When you have a person in active addiction, you don't have to look far to find their enabler. The addict will manipulate the enabler to get their way. I spoke to a woman today whose husband had a successful business. He had prosperity but did not have peace or joy. He would reach out to drinking and gambling which eventually led to methamphetamine use. What started out as fun turned into the bondage of addiction. He lost his business, house, car, and respect in the community. His wife would not leave him and forced their children to live in the embarrassing mess. She took up for him while the family told her he was a drug addict. His wife is now at her mothers with their three teenage children. She can't work, because her car needs repairs and her husband stole the last of her money. I told her the man she married is not there anymore. He is under demonic influence. She admitted he had been verbally and physically abusive to her. He had controlled her and the family as his life spiraled out of control.

I told her to cut all communication with him. He is a grown man, who has no problem finding dope, so he can find a rehab. The only hope he has is turning to Jesus Christ. The pain has to become far greater than the pleasure the addict receives from his addiction. We like to call this a person's breaking point; the point where an addict makes a decision for change. Addicts can be analyzed, counseled, reasoned with, prayed over, threatened, beaten, or locked up but they will not stop until they want to stop. I have seen many people who never made that heart decision go through many rehabs and prisons. What is the breaking point of an addict? Only God knows each individual and what it will take to make a heart change.

**First step** – Remove the fuel: stop supporting or enabling their addiction (Sin). They are professional manipulators and will tell you money is needed for something legitimate. Don't give aid to the enemy.

**Second Step** – God knows. Continuously pray that God brings the addict to repentance. True repentance means a change of mind which leads to a change of heart which leads to a change of direction. They have to reach their breaking point.

I fast and pray when I need a move of God. I am on day 36 of a 40 day Daniel fast while I write this book. I need God's power and presence writing this book through me. It is easy to research Biblical fasting and praying and apply it to your life. Jesus said, "When you fast." not "If you fast." God honors fasting and praying. In Mark 9, Jesus's disciples cannot cast out a demon. Jesus asks the Father, "How long has this been happening to him?" The father answered, "From childhood. And often he (demon) has thrown him both into

the fire and into water to destroy him.” I have seen many children and teenagers who cut themselves and have suicide tendencies. The medical world labels this as a mental health issue. That isn’t the label the Bible uses though. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah and 450 prophets of Baal have a show down. The prophets of Baal were trying to awake the demonic power of their god Baal.

**1 Kings 18:28** – *“So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.”*

Cutting themselves was their custom to awaking the demonic spirits. People who cut themselves and have suicidal tendencies have demonic spirits influencing their minds. Depression has a demonic spirit attached to it.

In Mark 9, Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him.

Jesus gave specific instructions to come out and enter him no more.

Jesus took the hand of the son and lifted him up and he arose. Later Jesus’s disciples asked why they could not cast the demon out from the man’s son.

**Mark 9:29** – Jesus tells them, *“This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”*

Jesus fasted and prayed on a regular basis and was able to immediately cast out the demon. We need to fast and pray on a regular basis and be ready for the enemy.

I know mothers who have everyone in church, including me, praying for their addicted child. The child is arrested and mommy runs down there as fast as she can to bail them out. God answered the prayer through the child's arrest. Being locked up can be a good experience for the addict. When the addicted child is locked up he is off the streets. He now faces pain for his choices. This is a time to detox and get some clear thinking about his life. He can now reflect on the reality of his decision to continue in his addiction.

I had a man call me several times about his son. His son had been given a luxury lifestyle because of his father's wealth. Every time his son got in trouble or went to jail his father was there to make things right. I counselled his father and showed him he was the enabling problem in his son's life. His son got locked up again at George County Jail and wanted out. His father called me and wanted to know what to do. I told him if the son agreed to go to a Christian rehabilitation center, bail him out. His son refused to go and I told his dad to leave him in there. His dad called me several times in that twelve-month period wanting to be reassured that he was doing the right thing. The son refused to go to a Christian rehabilitation center and chose to stay in jail. For one year the son stayed in jail instead of getting help. The son finally agreed to go to the Home of Grace for help. While there, the son became born again and filled with the Spirit of God. He began a new life of freedom!

## **Demon in a Dress**

You are in love but after you get into the relationship you realize she is not what you bargained for. She cheats on you, tears you down emotionally and physically. You want to leave, but you love her. Everyone tells you she's no good, but you continue in the relationship. You can't help it; you're in love.

After years of abuse, you just can't handle it anymore. The pain she causes outweighs the love you have for her. You separate, but you can't get her off your mind. You keep going back to her because you think that things will be different this time. Each time you go back, it is worse than before. You finally separate, but you're lonely, and depressed. You are introduced to a new girlfriend. You have your doubts but she seems different from anyone you have dated in the past. As you grow in this relationship, you find that you think less and less of the old girlfriend and you think more and more about the new girlfriend. A year into the relationship, you are content and full of joy. Thoughts about the old girlfriend are replaced with the new. She is more wonderful than anything you could have ever imagined. One day you look back and wonder how you could have ever been in love with the old girlfriend.

The old girlfriend is your addiction and the new girlfriend is Jesus Christ. Jesus loves you more than you can ever understand. He paid a great price at the cross to prove His love and devotion to you. I held on to my girlfriend (addiction) with everything I had. She tried to destroy me many times. I finally broke up with her and jumped into a new relationship, it was awkward at first but I was

ready for change. Jesus became mine and I became His and He was more wonderful than anything I could imagine.

Man was designed to live in the presence of God and to be in love with God. We love God because He first loved us.

**Romans 5:8** – *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.”*

A lot of times an addict’s girlfriend (addiction) is replaced with another girlfriend (addiction) which causes less trouble but bondage remains. I have seen people quit crack cocaine and turn to alcohol and become drunks. People get off methamphetamine and smoke marijuana. They are worshipping one idol and turn to a new idol to worship. Man has a worship disorder!

## **How Can a Believer Who Has Been Set Free Return to Addiction?**

I remember partying with Kay years back. She dated many men and had several babies along the way. She turned to prostitution to feed her overwhelming crack and methamphetamine addiction. Kay had a miraculous conversion and become a follower of Jesus Christ. She got married to a man that loved her and together they raised her children. Kay sang in the praise band and her family was involved in church. Several years went by and Kay was well respected in the community and even had a job in the church.

To everyone's shock, Kay left her husband and kids and ran off with another man. She is back on crack and meth living a similar life to the one she had before.

The big question is "What Happened?"

In 2 Chronicles 20 you find King Jehoshaphat, a man that followed the commandments of God. A great army comes up against King Jehoshaphat and the nation of Judah.

**2 Chronicles 20:3-4** – *“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.”*

God tells them he will fight their battle.

**2 Chronicles 20:17-18** – *“You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the*

*LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you. And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.”*

King Jehoshaphat was a man that trusted God. He is a picture of a Christian who has trusted Jesus Christ. Jehoshaphat put the praise team before the army.

**2 Chronicles 20:21** – *“He appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:*

*‘Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever.’*

**22.** *Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.”*

The three enemy armies had turned on each other and all died, no one had escaped. God had given them a great victory, without lifting up anything but praise.

Kay had been on the praise team and appeared to be walking in victory, so what happened?

Jehoshaphat had a praise team and appeared to be walking in victory, so what happened?

**2 Chronicles 20:35** – *“After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted very wickedly.”*

Jehoshaphat made a friendship with an enemy of God. Kay made a friendship with an enemy of God. Kay, while stressed out over the pressures of life, ran into an old boyfriend at the store. They talked about the old days and he offered her some cocaine and she hesitantly takes the old idol and begins to worship.

**James 4:4** – *“Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”*

Jehoshaphat and Kay both made a friendship with a wicked person of the world.

**2 Chronicles 20:33** – *“Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.”*

The high places are places of worship. They were worshipping the LORD God and also worshipping idols (manmade gods that are demonically enforced).

George Smith, a missionary to Uganda told me that people in Uganda would readily accept Jesus Christ as god. They would place him alongside the other gods they worshipped. The problem was having them abolish all other gods and for Jesus Christ to be their one and only God. When people turn from their addiction (idol) to Jesus Christ they must abolish the idol.

Kay had turned to Jesus Christ but had never torn down the high places in her life. The idols (addictions) she worshipped in the past were sitting on the high places of her soul. She was not actively worshipping them but they were there waiting. When God

seems distant and the pressure of life builds to exhaustion idols cry out that they can make things better. Kay's friend of the world consoled her and offered relief in the form of cocaine. It brought relief, but she needed more. Kay forgot her stress, forgot her problems, and forgot her purpose.

Kay lost her joy, lost her children, lost her husband, lost her home, lost her self-respect, lost her freedom, and lost her life.

When a person gets high on drugs, it is a high place of worship. The god of personal pleasure thinks of self-indulgence and no one else. The flesh attempts to satisfy a God given appetite in an ungodly way.

When the Holy Spirit fills the temple of the believer, joy is one of the many benefits. When strongholds are in the life of a believer they can block the joy God has given His child. No one can prevent what's going on around them all the time. The joy of a believer is designed to give internal joy contrary to outside circumstances. Many times, while driving on Interstate 10 in Mobile, AL, I have gone through the tunnel which goes under the river. Every time the radio cuts off. One day while going through the tunnel, my song continued to play because I had a CD in. Like the song on the radio, the joy of the world can be cut off by outside influence. Like the song on the CD, the joy of the LORD is not affected by outside influence, because God has placed joy in you.

## **Abundant Life - Victorious Life - Promise Land**

**Romans 8:14** – *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*

I had just purchased laying pellets for my daughter’s chickens and exited the store. When without warning, I was hit in the back of my neck with the force of a baseball bat. I ran for my life as I realized I had encountered a red wasp. He immediately let me know I was in his territory. A red wasp, which is about an inch long, can communicate a clear message to man. God, who created the universe, should have no problem communicating to His children.

Freedom from Egypt (world bondage)

You can see the Israelites’ bondage and the struggle for freedom in the book of Exodus. God’s chosen people of Israel were enslaved to Egypt and had been there for 430 years. Egypt is a picture of the world. Egypt’s leader Pharaoh is a picture of Satan. Moses is a picture of Jesus. God sent Moses to demand Pharaoh to let His people go. Pharaoh would not release them even after the nine devastating plagues brought by God through Moses.

The tenth and final plague was the death of the first born of man and beast. God gave His people Israel instructions on how to kill a spotless lamb and place its blood over the door post. The Lord passed through to kill the first born, but when he saw the blood on the doorpost He passed over that door and did not allow the destroyer to kill any people in that home. This foreshadowed,

or gave a picture, of Jesus coming to die for the sin of the world. Jesus came about 1,500 years later and was killed on the feast of Passover. His blood was the price of redemption from our sin.

**Isaiah 53:7** – *“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”*

John the Baptist said of Jesus, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” Pharaoh let Israel go free after his son and all the firstborn of Egypt died that night. The Holy Spirit, represented by a cloud during the day and fire during the night, led Israel out of Egypt (world). God hardened Pharaoh’s heart once more and the Egyptian army pursued Israel to the Red Sea. The Egyptian army closed in from behind and the Red Sea was in front. The people of Israel panicked.

**Exodus 14:11** – *“Then they said to Moses, ‘Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?’”*

God was taking them out of slavery (bondage from Egypt) but they couldn’t break free from the world they had lived in for so long.

The addict who is offered freedom is resistant to the idea of freedom. They have adapted to their mess and don’t feel they need rehab. The addict has a difficult time breaking free from the world. I see prisoners who become institutionalized after being locked up for years. When released from prison, they can’t function in free-

dom. They were in a routine for years of being told when to eat, sleep, and shower. The system provided necessities. Some former inmates commit a crime to go back to their prison home. Addicts become institutionalized after years of bondage. They have become accustomed to this lifestyle and it becomes normal to them.

**Exodus 14:15** – “... and the LORD said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.’”

They went forward, not knowing what to expect, and God parted the Red Sea.

**Exodus 14:21** – “Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.”

Israel passing through the Red Sea is a picture of salvation from the world. Going into the Red Sea in bondage (death) and coming out in freedom (eternal life) is a picture of water Baptism. It is a picture of dying to the world (Kosmos) and being brought into the Kingdom of God. It is salvation from Egypt and now the journey to the promise land. The journey through the wilderness and desert conditions was not easy. This was a time to know their God and to learn to trust Him. It took Israel three days to get out of Egypt, but it took forty years in the wilderness to get Egypt out of them.

God wanted to grow their faith in Him through the struggle. When thirsty, God gave them water from a rock. When hungry, God gave them bread from heaven. They had been conformed to

Egypt and now God wanted to transform them to walk by faith and not by sight.

**Romans 12:2** – *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

God was taking them to the land of promise, the land of victory. The promise land is not a picture of heaven but it's about the abundant life - the Spirit-filled life of a believer. The road was tough and when things looked impossible, the Israelites looked back to Egypt (World.)

**Numbers 11:5** – *“We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!”*

This is a picture of relapse for new Christians. They turn from their sins and trust Jesus. The penalty of sin is taken away by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The new child of God has been forgiven of his past, present, and future sin. The problem is, the power and presence of sin is still very much alive after crossing the Red Sea into freedom from sin (New Birth). When you trust Jesus, God births within you His Spirit and nature. The problem is, you still have the old nature you received from Adam. The Bible calls this old nature or Adamic nature, “the flesh”. When you come to Christ, you begin a wilderness experience. This is where the Holy Spirit takes you from the new birth as a baby in Christ, to Spiritual maturity. The drug, sex, gambling, and money god in your life is part of your Egypt (World). The new birth seemed easy enough, because

all you have invested is faith. The wilderness experience, on the other hand, is not easy, as God transforms you into the image of Christ. When times get hard and seem impossible, new believers tend to look back at Egypt (the old life of slavery we were just delivered from). “I sure did enjoy having sex with that girl back there, or I remember the good old days of relaxing, drinking beer, smoking dope and gambling.”

You forgot that girl gave you STD, got pregnant, ran off with a friend of yours, and you are still paying child support for a child you never see. You forgot you did prison time for your third DUI. You forgot smoking dope and gambling is the reason you lost your home and can't afford a car. You forgot you were a slave to sin and on your way to hell. You forgot how Jesus demonstrated His love, by dying for your sins. You forgot that Jesus has given you freedom and eternal life. You forgot that you are not a slave any more but a son. You are the righteousness of Jesus Christ, an heir and joint heir with Christ. When you come to Jesus Christ you leave the past failures and successes behind. Tear off life's rearview mirror and keep going forward.

Paul said, **Philippians 3:13** – “*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*”

**Luke 9:62** – Jesus said to him, “*No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*”

When you surrender your will to follow the will of God, don't Look Back. Move forward, press into Jesus. Leave the old life of death and defeat behind and move forward into the promised victory in Christ.

Israel's journey from the Red Sea to the promise land should have taken a couple of weeks. Their failure to trust God kept them in the wilderness for forty years. Everyone 20 years old and older died within those forty years. The two exceptions were Joshua and Caleb who trusted God.

Moses was dead, and Joshua led the nation of Israel to the Jordan River. They were now ready to cross the Jordan River into the Promise land. The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant to the edge of River. The Ark of the Covenant symbolized the presence of God with Israel.

**Joshua 3:15** – *“The feet of the Priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water ( for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest ), that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan.”*

The nation of Israel walked across the river Jordan on dry land like they did at the Red Sea. They are now in the land of promise, the land of victory. Crossing the Jordan River is a picture of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We are to now walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. We are to walk by faith and not by sight. This is the abundant and victorious life, the life our Father designed for His children.

**Acts 1:4** – *“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father; “which,” He said, ‘you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’”*

**Acts 1:8** – *“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

The promise land God gave His chosen people was Israel. They now were required to go and take what they already owned. They obeyed God and marched around the walls of Jericho for seven days. On the seventh day, as God had instructed them, the priests blew trumpets and everyone shouted: the walls fell down. Israel had a great victory. The next city Ai was small, but there was disobedience within Israel and Israel was beat down. When Israel walked under the direction and power of God, they had victory after victory. When they disobeyed God, they suffered defeat.

This is a picture of the Spirit led, Spirit filled life in which Christians are to walk. The victory has already been won through Jesus Christ. He defeated sin, death, Hell, Satan, and the demonic realm.

**Romans 8:1-2** – *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”*

When a person turns from his sin and trusts Jesus Christ for salvation, a supernatural new birth takes place inside of that person. God declares them righteous and the penalty of sin is gone.

This is pictured in Israel crossing from Egypt (world) through the Red Sea on dry ground to the other side.

1) The wilderness journey is like growing pains as a baby develops into maturity in Christ. The Holy Spirit now indwells the believer and transforms them to be like Christ. The Holy Spirit takes the word of God and renews the mind. By renewing the mind, God is removing the old thought patterns and giving you the mind of Christ.

**Philippians 2:5** – *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”*

2) Crossing the Jordan River into the Promise land is a picture of the believer being immersed into the Holy Spirit, a Spirit filled life and a victorious life. A Christian is hungry for God and seeks after the things of God. The Holy Spirit has been bringing them to the promise of victorious living. The believer finds himself in the intimate presence and power of God that he had never experienced. The believer walks out differently than he walked in because the manifest power and presence of God has changed him.

**John 10:10** – *“Jesus said; I have come that they may have life, (eternal life-crossing Red Sea) and that they may have it more abundantly. (Victorious life – crossing Jordan River)*

There was battle after battle in the Promised Land and God gave them victory. When we are led and empowered by the Holy Spirit we go from battle to battle and victory to victory. We are more than conquerors because Jesus has defeated the enemy and we walk in His victory.

**Romans 8:37** – *“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”*

In obedience Israel defeated city by city to take the land God had given them. When Christians walk in obedience, God gives them victory over strongholds of addiction. In obedience Christians defeat stronghold after stronghold and expand the kingdom of God here on earth. The Christian takes the freedom that God has already given them. In the Promised Land Israel was taking the land that already belonged to them. God gave them the land and all they had to do was possess it. As Christians, we have been given the victorious life through Christ. God has given us the abundant life and all we have to do is possess it.

We walk in the victory Christ has won for us through the death on the cross and the resurrection from the dead. He has defeated sin, death, and the curse of the law. We, as believers, are not fighting for victory but from victory.

## **What to Do when the Pleasure Has Declined and the Cost is Too High?**

I had been a pastor for eight years and God was calling me to full time evangelism. I had to confirm this major step in my family's life. I prayed and asked God to give me a sign to confirm the call to full-time evangelism. That night at a pastor's banquet, the speaker got up and God spoke through this man to confirm His call. I knew my wife wanted a house and quitting the only job I had would kill that dream. I would resign from the church and step out in faith as a full time evangelist. Six months after stepping out in faith to the call, God placed us in our dream house without going through a bank.

**Hebrews 11:6** – *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)”*

The in-ground swimming pool that came with the house was not installed correctly. They had failed to let the ground settle before pouring the concrete. The concrete was cracking, grass and weeds were coming up through the cracks. The pool itself needed a lot of work. We worked many hours and invested lots of money. We finally had the chemicals right and the kids were able to swim. They had a good time until winter.

**Hebrews 11:25** – *“Pleasure of sin is for a season.”*

Through winter we maintained and cleaned a pool that no one was swimming in. The concrete foundation was getting worse and the liner needed to be replaced because now the water was leaking

out. The liner was removed, and we ordered a new one. We paid laborers to put dirt in and smooth the sides. Soon after, Hurricane Nate came through and the rain washed the dirt from under the cracked foundation and the sides caved in. Our swimming pool had become a huge sink hole in the back yard. We were sinking our time and money into it. The pleasure had declined and the cost had become too high. The new liner was in route. We had invested too much to quit now. The pleasure was minimal to the high price we were paying. We made a radical decision to wipe the slate clean and start anew. The bull dozer would come in and push the concrete foundation into the hole. Three truckloads of dirt filled the remaining hole and grass was planted over the top. Even though this came at a high cost I felt freedom as the life consuming headache was gone.

Addictions begin with pleasure and purpose for our lives. The foundations of the world you are building on are cracked and defected. The pleasure is greater than cost in the beginning. As the foundation sinks so does the pleasure and the cost continually rises. When the cost is greater than the pleasure you want to be free, but How? You wipe the slate clean through the blood of Jesus Christ. Turning from the foundation or dependence of the world and trusting God through Jesus Christ. The only sure foundation for your life is Jesus Christ. The weeds coming up from the cracked foundation are thought patterns conformed by the world. The new grass is a picture of transforming and renewing your mind into the mind of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 3:17** – *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (FREEDOM)”*

## **Now Free - Call to Action!!**

**1st Step** – All men are corrupted by sin and enemies of God. To experience freedom you must have your sins taken away and establish peace with God. **Colossians 1:20** – *having made peace through the blood of His cross.*

Jesus has paid for your sin through His death on the cross. Jesus's resurrection from the dead is proof that God accepted the payment.

Right here, right now, fully surrender your life to Jesus Christ by turning your will over to God's. Talk to God, He will hear you. Receive forgiveness of all your sins by trusting the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Tell God, you trust Him and believe that your sins are now washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ. Give thanks to God for the new birth that has taken place within you. Thank God for the destination change that has just taken place. When you die, you will not receive eternal punishment for your sin but eternal life with Jesus Christ. Thank God for your new identification. You were in sin, darkness, and addicted but now you are sinless, light and free.

**Romans 10:9** – *That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

God has just clothed you in the righteousness of Jesus Christ which gives you entry into the kingdom of God.

**2nd Step** – God commands all that are born of the Spirit and brought into the kingdom of God to be baptized in water. **Romans 6:3** – *Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Through baptism (immersion in water) you are showing your new identity in Christ. You are buried with Christ and raised with Christ to a new life. Water baptism is like a wedding ring, the ring does not make you married but it identifies you with your spouse. Water baptism does not save you but identifies you with the saving work of Jesus.

Jesus is our King and we are to follow all of His commands. Jesus said, “If you love, Me, keep my commandments.”

Freedom does not come from religion but a relationship with Jesus Christ. Freedom comes from an obedient life in Christ.

**3rd Step** – I speak in Celebrate Recovery groups across the country and they talk about being in long term recovery. My question is what are they recovering? If man recovered everything back to Adam along with the perfect environment, man would just sin again. Everything Adam did, all of mankind did because we’re all in Adam. Those of us who are born of the Spirit are in Christ and everything Christ does we do also because we are in Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

God tells the believer in Christ, “You are Free, because Christ is free.” Believers in Christ: You do what you do because you do not know who you are!

**Romans 4:17** – *God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.*

God sees the believer in Christ as free, righteous, and holy. Through the daily intake of the truth of God’s word, the Holy Spirit transforms the believer into what God has already declared them to be.

Give the Holy Spirit and the word of God full influence in your life by reading and putting into practice the truth of the Word. Take the idols (strongholds of addiction) and through the truth of God’s word and power of the Spirit, destroy them. The truth of God’s word will show you idols (strongholds of addiction) and you have the power and authority to release or retain them. The daily saturation of the truth of God’s Word builds a new mind which is the mind of Christ. The new believer begins to walk by faith and not by sight. The child of God is free as soon as he or she follows Jesus. The new birth is when the shackles come off and the jail door is opened. The word of God daily tears down the mind conformed and deformed by the corrupt world system. Christ declares deliverance to the captive and freedom to walk in the Spirit, not in the flesh. I’m not where I want to be, but I’m not where I used to be sixteen years ago. I am daily becoming who I already am in Christ.

**4th Step** – In the high place of your soul all idols (addictions) must be torn down and replaced by King Jesus. Press into the intimate presence of God and experience true worship with almighty God. The river of living water brings about peace, joy, love, gentleness, and so much more.

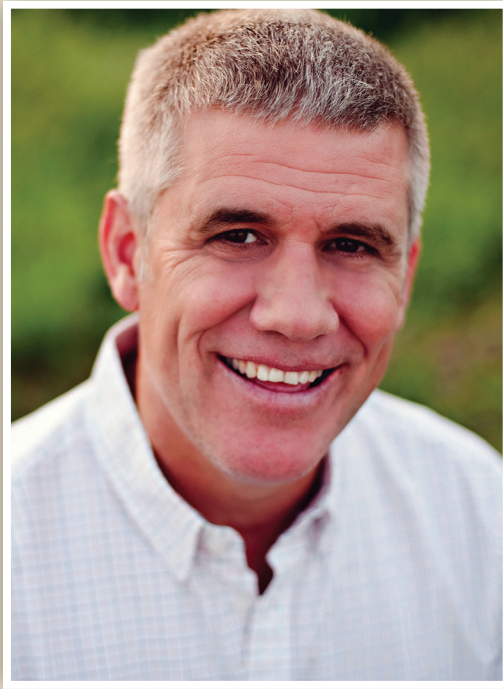
**Colossians 2:9** – *For in Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him.*

Everything you were searching for in this world is found in Jesus Christ and nowhere else.

It is found in the intimate presence of Jesus Christ.

**Psalms 16:11** – *In your presence is fullness of joy; At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

We, as believers in Christ, are seated at the right hand of God. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.



*The Holy Spirit has given this book by Rodney Williams to reveal to every reader that freedom is actually a choice they make. Through his book, Rodney brings to light the simple truth. Jesus Christ has already paid the price. The power of the Cross of Calvary and the shedding of His blood will completely set free and deliver from the shackles of sin, guilt, and shame. The doorway to freedom is open! His arms are open wide! Complete liberation, hope, and salvation are available to all mankind! Through personal experience and understanding of God's Word, the Lord uses Rodney's book to bring hope, faith, and freedom.*

**Romans 8:2**, “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

**Deuteronomy 30:19**, “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life.”

**Pastor Daniel McGehee — Church of the Outdoors Mobile, AL**