

One Step to Freedom Introduction;

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ADDICTIONS?

*addiction to alcohol, drugs, prescription medicines, pornography, gambling, cigarettes, work, relationships, sex, video games, food etc.. are forms of idolatry.

Exodus 20:3-5 ³ “You shall have no other gods before Me.” ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image; any likeness *of anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.

*When a person is addicted, they are really bowing down and serving that addiction as their god. It is the sin of idolatry. They become a slave to it and they are held in bondage:

(John 8:34) AMP ³⁴ Jesus answered, “I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, everyone who practices sin *habitually* is a slave of sin.

Romans 6:16 (NLT) ¹⁶ Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

*Adam had perfect liberty in the garden. He had the freedom to eat of any tree in the garden that he pleased, but God warned him, “Don’t eat of that tree! That will bring you into bondage. That will bring you into death.” God didn’t tie him up in the corner of the garden, nor did God build a high wall around that tree. He had the freedom to eat of it.

1 Corinthians 6:12 (AMP) ¹² Everything is permissible for me, but not all things are beneficial. Everything is permissible for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything and brought under its power, allowing it to control me.

*But Adam exercised that freedom in such a way that brought about bondage and death to his flesh, because he obeyed the desires of the flesh rather than the Word of God and the commandment of God.

Galatians 6:8 (AMP)⁸ For the one who sows to his flesh [his sinful capacity, his worldliness, his fleshly impulses] will reap from the flesh ruin, decay and destruction, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Galatians 5:13 (ESV) ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. **Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,** but through love serve one another.

*So many people are dying a slow death because their addiction has a hold on them,

Proverbs 5:22 (NKJV) ²² His own iniquities entrap the wicked *man*, And he is caught in the cords of his sin.

Romans 6:23a (KJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death;

**The birth process of sin:*

James 1:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. *For Example.....*

The temptation;* **Genesis 3:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 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.”

The drawing away by desire and enticement:* **Genesis 3:6a ^{6a} So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise,

The conception and birth of sin:* **Genesis 3:6b ^{b/} she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

** The resulting death:* **Genesis 3:14-18(NKJV)** ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You *are* cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat *of* it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall ^[1]bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat

bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return.”

**Almost as if it were *demonic; *Strong's Concordance for witchcraft/ sorcery: G5331- pharmakeia: Definition: the use of medicine, drugs, potions, poisons or spells in the idolatrous practices of sorcery and witchcraft to bring about the enlistment of supernatural agencies of darkness and evil spirits.*

**The idolatrous practice of sorcery is an abomination to God:*

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (NKJV)¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one* who practices witchcraft, *or* a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,¹¹ or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.¹² For all who do these things *are* an abomination to The Lord.

*Example; *Idolatry is likened to practicing witchcraft/sorcery:*

1 Samuel 15:23 (NKJV)²³ For rebellion *is as* the sin of * witchcraft/sorcery, And stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from *being* king.”

**Saul`s wages for his sin of idolatry in seeking a medium:*

1 Chronicles 10:13-14 (NKJV)¹³ So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against The LORD, because he did not keep The Word of The LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.¹⁴ But *he* did not inquire of The LORD; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.

If you are in bondage to the satanic spiritual forces of darkness because of drugs, Jesus Christ is the only one who can free you:

1 John 3:8 (AMP)⁸ The one who *habitually* practices sin, separating himself from God, and offending God by acts of disobedience, indifference, or rebellion, is of the devil [and takes his inner character and moral values from him, God]; for the devil has sinned *and* violated God`s law from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

**the only thing that can free a person from this hold of sin and bondage that leads to death is the power of Jesus Christ.*

Luke 4:18-19 (KJV) ¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹ To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

**The only way we can be free from sin and death and reside in God`s house is through The Son of God, Jesus Christ:*

John 8:34-36(AMP) ³⁴ Jesus answered, “I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, everyone who practices sin *habitually* is a slave of sin. ³⁵ Now the slave does not remain in a household forever; the son [of the master] does remain forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, then you are unquestionably free.

**Scriptures for reflection:*

***GOD’S PERSPECTIVE;** Proverbs 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 6:12-13, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 1 Timothy 6:6-10, James 1:14-15, 1 Peter 4:1-3, 2 Peter 2:19

***GOD’S PROMISES;** John 8:34-36, Romans 8:12-15,

***BIBLICAL EXAMPLES-God`s warning;** Proverbs 23:29-35

***MAKE A CHANGE;** Proverbs 23:20-21,, Rom. 6:1-2, 11-13, 16, Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 John 1:8-9