

Heart to Heart

*Bringing our hearts to Him,
Receiving His Heart for us!*

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Dear ,

I have seen some people get totally free from addictions.
That glorious sight keeps me working and praying to help the many others who keep getting stuck in the mud, over and over again. Freedom is real. The path to it can readily be described (read on), but bondage has "cunning and baffling" powers of its own. We can all learn from these truths: what works to liberate an addict, will work to free anyone who is stuck in an unwanted pattern.

Steve

Getting Stuck in the Mud of Life

A tendency that is in all of us...

People with addictions are not a special class of sinners. All of us have been badly broken by the Fall and need to be saved and mended by the love and mercy of God. ***The root issues are the same for all of us.*** The path of redemption and restoration is also the same (see third article).

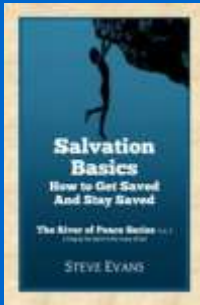
Narrowly defined addictions have to do with substance abuse; a wider term for addictions, one that is Biblical, is a ***besetting sin***. The besetting sin is the sin that "besets" us--knocks us down--whenever the temptation for it comes along.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight,



Stuck in the Mud!

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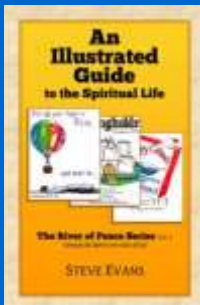


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and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV

What is an addiction? An addiction is anything that controls us and holds us in bondage. That which controls us, rules us and whenever it gets triggered, God is not our master--sin is.

The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it." Genesis 4:6-7

Whatever we cannot just say no to (that is not of God), holds us in its power. It seeks to enslave us (Romans 6:6), then destroy us and in the process, destroy as many others as it can (John 10:10).

Some things that are good can become an addiction when moderation is passed. Some things are no good to begin with. There are many forms that addictions can take:

Legal and illegal drugs	The love of money (greed)
Alcohol	Eating disorders
Foul language	Sexual sins
Pornography	Relationships
Workaholism	Gambling
Shopping	Entertainment
Compulsive behaviors	Obsessions

Why do we get stuck and what can we do about it?

The Way of Escape

We are guaranteed help, IF we call...

The number one way of escape from temptation is running to God (1 Corinthians 10:13). We are absolutely, unconditionally promised that all who call on the name of the Lord will be rescued.

The same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:12-13

To get free of any besetting sin



Running to God is an uphill climb... Don't complain, just do it!



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we have to learn to ***call and keep on calling***--learning how to lean hard on Him and draw on His saving help, casting all our hope on Him and hanging on for dear life. ***How much do you have to call?*** As much as it takes, as often as it takes.

Our full recovery requires becoming 100% surrendered to God. There is no peace, no victory without surrender. We cannot be 90% surrendered to the Lord and still gain victory over any besetting sin.

Since we will never be more committed to God than we deep down believe that God is committed to us, believing the truth about our Father's Love is truly a life and death issue. It was for Jesus--He was willing to die to reveal the Father to us (John 14:9-11; John 17:1-5). The truth about our Father's passionate love for us (as well as that of Jesus), inflames our own passion to cling to Him and walk in His ways. This ***passion for God can and MUST burn stronger*** within us than the old passions, otherwise we may turn back.

Learn the "want to want to" prayer: "Lord, help me want to want what You want and hate what You hate." This enlists the Lord to work with your emotional life and honestly admits to God that deep down you don't want His will--you are strongly tempted to trade your inheritance for a bowl of porridge (see Esau, Genesis 25:29-34). ***Gut level honesty with God is always rewarded!***

But remember the truth about who we are in Christ? No matter how much we may crave the wrong thing, that desire is still not who we really are now as new creations. The real you truly does want only what He wants! The real you already has the nature of Jesus joined to you by the Spirit.

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27

This gospel truth gives us the courage and wisdom to keep on fighting down impulses that would otherwise seem like they are coming from our deepest self. They don't. It won't hurt you to "kill" that part of yourself--***you will be liberated instead!***

One Addiction, Three Lies

The binding power of addiction is deception..

Three deceptions of the enemy must be recognized and cast down. However, as Solomon noted a threefold cord is not

abuse and won.

Resources



Matters of the Heart

176 page Workbook

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Mercy of the Son with
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easily broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12). These "lies" of the enemy seem like truth to the one caught in the addiction. What is usually called "denial" is actually an inability to fully recognize truth as truth.

Tragically, it often takes "hitting bottom" for the hard shell of denial to be broken. ***With brokenness the light of revelation can break through***, exposing the lies that have bound the captive in darkness.

1) The lie of the idol. The spirit behind the idol (the substance, the compulsive pattern) promises to give life to those it seeks to capture.

What am I saying then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? But I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God, and I don't desire that you would have communion with demons.

1 Corinthians 10:20 WEB

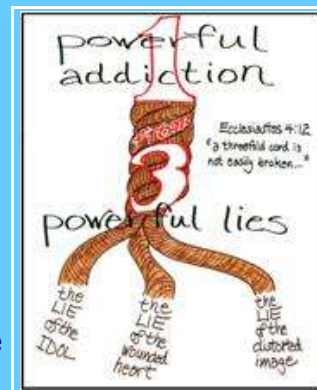
Demons still offer a "fix" in exchange for worship. One meaning of worship is "to ascribe worth to;" another is "to serve." What are they saying to you?

Come to me and I will give you power to mend your life. Give yourself to me and I will satisfy you. I will ease the pain and give you gain.

2) The lie of the wounded heart. This keeps the one bound looking in the wrong direction, but the problem is not out there and can't be fixed out there. It is in a heart so broken it desperately needs a great love to heal it. ***The root cause of addiction is an inability to receive love*** (often characterized by self-rejection and self-bitterness). Being disgusted with one's self over the besetting sin creates a double bind by increasing the bondage of the addiction through self-hatred. For freedom in this area see **Love Thyself**.

3) The lie of the distorted image. Only the revelation of the Father's great love can mend such a broken heart, but a distorted image of the Father keeps the one bound running from God, rather than to Him. Additionally, a distorted image of self binds the pain of self-rejection in the heart. To gain a greater faith in this area see **The Father's Love**, and **Our True Identity**.

Satan is a liar from the beginning. His lies are very convincing and once they have had a chance to impact our feelings through our belief system, they become powerful



1 Addiction, 3 Lies

strongholds within us. Our task is to recognize and renounce those lies, carry them captive to Christ, and then come into agreement with God's truths (2 Corinthians 10:4-6).

This is war so be prepared to go to battle stations at a moment's notice. Don't tarry in the pig pen like the prodigal did. Race to your Father at the first sign of weakness. Take that Hebrews 4:16 "elevator" straight to His throne of grace.

Learn to let your place of disgrace reveal your Father's greater grace!

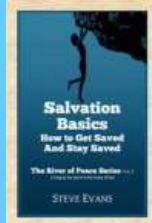
From We to Thee ***Preparing for the Harvest...***

From the pages of our new website forerunners4Him.org has come a new book:

Salvation Basics: How to Get Saved and Stay Saved.

This is also the book that the men at the Mission have helped me to write. It has been through working with them that I have gained far more clarity (I believe) into the deeper issues of how to stay saved. Hey, we all know that getting saved is easy--it is staying in the joy of His salvation (Ps 51) that is the tricky part. Check out a sample at amazon.

We will supply this book at half price (for orders of 10 or more) to any group or individual wanting to distribute them to seekers and new believers!



Steve and Eunice



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A lifetime of learning has gone into the workbook that forms the basis of what we teach. Steve likes to say that these truths have been field tested! They are ***"truths with traction,"*** guaranteed to get your emotional life unstuck from those pesky stronghold areas that the enemy loves to bring our walk to a halt with.

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Healings Streams is a Christian ministry dedicated to helping people find peace and freedom from troubling issues of the emotional life. Such deep roots often become the source for a host of stress related diseases, psychological disorders and addictions. Even so, our goal for people is not just escape from emotional stress and its consequences, but full entry into true Kingdom living--plunging into the river of Peace that flows all around us from the throne of Grace.

Let's all jump in!

Sincerely,

Steve and Eunice Evans

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