Addicted...

To HOPE

Addicted To Hope, *P.O. Box 9322, Daytona Beach, FL 32120*

A Word of Dedication

"I'm not sure who else this could be dedicated to other than the One who saves us.

This is to You, Lord; to the One Who gave us our lives back. Thank you."

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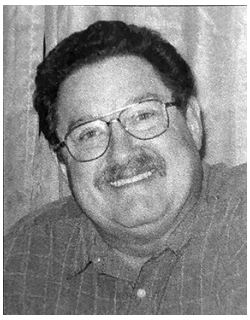
About the Author



Dan Berry *Pastor*

Addicted To Hope Ministries

www.AddictedToHope.org

Dan Berry is the cofounder, and serves as the pastor of Addicted To Hope Ministries. He also serves as the Chaplain at Spring Mountain Youth Camp, Department of Juvenile Justice Services in Las Vegas, NV. Because of the acceptance of the Addicted ... To Hope material, by various agencies and churches, Dan left his staff position as a pastor counseling addicts at Central Christian Church in Henderson, NV, to work full time with churches, prisons, and juvenile facilities developing resources for addiction recovery.

He continues to reside in Las Vegas, Nevada, with Carla, his wife of 42 years.

Acknowledgements

Personally I don't think there's much room to take credit for anything we write. There's always been some mother building into her child, quips and adages from grandparents and aunts and uncles, contributions by family members, books we've read, or pastors and teachers who have built into us. Then there's always the influence of God's Spirit to direct us. An encouragement we use here at Addicted to Hope is the adage (and it's not mine), "God just wants you to show up!" The message I share isn't original. We don't have any original message. It's the same one that's been on your coffee table for 2,000 years.

So, first of all, I'd like to thank my father and mother. My father is already in heaven and has received his reward. And in spite of the issues my mother has had to deal with (me being one), she's always been an encourager, a woman given to prayer. Isaiah 56:7 says, *"For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."* If Peter's comparison (1 Peter 2:5) is correct, that's my mom. While my dad was always ready to help people, my mother was always praying for them. From them I learned to help and pray. Dad, Mom, thank you.

The board here at Addicted To Hope Ministries, was chosen by God to keep my iron sharp. *"As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."* Proverbs 27:17. This board is faithful to keep me sharp, and they do a wonderful job of it, too. Our fellowship is sweet; sinners saved by Grace. We study scripture, pray for one another, suggest new ideas, make plans all in unison, without coercion. These are women and men of God (my opinion) in whom I would entrust my own family's welfare. I hope you all have the opportunity to meet these people, your brothers and sisters in Christ. I know they would be blessed knowing you. You will be blessed knowing them, also. Men and women of the board - Thank you.

One board member in particular, though, I have to highlight. She's been with me longer than the rest; at my side through some pretty tough times. Carla, my wife, is like no other. I'm reminded of Proverbs 31:29 *"Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all."* My heart safely trusts her. What a joy to have her as my best friend, and counselor. Carla! There's no other wife given by God better than you. Thank you.

Many great teachers have contributed to this work also. I daily read My Utmost for His Highest, a phenomenal insight into God's Truths. Oswald Cambers has probably had the most profound impact on my personal life and relationship with God. Chuck Swindoll, Chuck Smith, Henry Blackaby, Neil Anderson, Ray Giunta, and many others have contributed directly and indirectly to our curriculum. I thank you all. We stand on the shoulders of our pastors and teachers. Thank you all, for your godly influences, and for not quitting.

And then, finally, the best for last. God; the existing One. What can we say about Him? He's given us everything. He's done it all. I like this beautiful song about Him, from Revelations 5:9-14 (NKJV):

9 ***You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,...***

10 ***And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.***

11 ***Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,...***

12 ***saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!***

> ***13*** ***And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!***
>
> ***14*** ***Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.***

And then Ephesians 2:11-13 says,

> ***11*** ***Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (KJV)***

We had no hope! We were hopeless! We had no God! We were Godless! We had no promises! We were promise-less! We were strangers, aliens from the covenant; without a god. But, thanks be to our God, Jesus saved us! Now we have promises; we have God; we have hope! And we're addicted to it.

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, [which is] our hope. **1 Timothy 1:1 (KJV)**

Thank you, Jesus

The Lord bless you as He shows you who you are.

In His grip, Dan

Introduction Addicted ... To Hope

The Addict -

Hi! My name is Dan. I'm a new creation in Christ; my Father's son. I'm not an addict anymore.

The Bible says

> ***"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians. 5:17*** **(NLT)**

The Bible says,

> ***"I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20*** **(NLT)**

The Bible says,

> ***"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God."*** **(John 1:12 NLT)**

The Addiction -

Addictions are destructive. They consume you. They hurt not only you, but those around you, and especially, and most unfortunately, those you love.

The Bible says**,**

> *"No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't. When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway."* **Romans 7 (NLT)**.

Several years ago as a pastor, I began developing a Biblically-based, rehabilitation curriculum. As we (I and about 25 recovered addicts and alcoholics) looked at the different models available, we decided to simply use the Bible as the true recovery model. As I began to research and look into recovery on this premise, it became apparent to me that all the precepts we need for our recovery are available in the Bible. We don't discount the value of the many existing programs available in our society. I interact with them on a daily basis. The Bible, however, teaches a whole new paradigm of living; a different way of approaching life. Many of these programs use bits of truth from the Bible. Unfortunately, what they don't use is the very part that will not only keep you clean and sober, but will regenerate your life. You can learn to have peace and joy and stand correctly before God.

The Answer -

So what's this Biblical "recovery process?" In John 8:31, 32, the Bible says, *"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* (NKJV). I like "make" in the NKJV, because it reminds me that God is working on me. By the working of God's plan in me (Jer. 29:11), I'm free, but continuing to be made free.

You may say, "Hey! I want to be free!" In God's plan for you, everything needed to make you

free has been put in place. And the first step is you must decide and receive His Son. *"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."* John 8:36 (NASB).

But Dan, you said in John 8:32 "The truth will make you free". Now you're saying, "The Son makes you free." What's up with that? Good question. Let's open your Bible and find the answer.

This word truth appears in significant numbers throughout the Bible, but for our quick study here there are three occurrences I want to address.

- In John 17:17 it says, ***"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."*** (NKJV) The word for truth is aletheia. (The New Testament was mostly written in Greek; not geek, Greek)
- In 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."*** (NKJV) The same word, aletheia, is used here.

The third one; can you guess? Do you see the pattern here?

- Now, John 8: 31: ***"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*** (NKJV) The word is - you guessed it, aletheia.

Jesus and Truth are one in the same. Jesus didn't come to simply teach truth; He is Truth.

You want to be free from your bondage to your addiction?

Jesus is all the truth you need to be free.

> ***So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.*** **John 8:36 NIV**

There's obviously a whole lot more to this than quoting some memory verses. To begin with, though, there are three things in a Christian's life (this is your part) that will have to happen, and are fundamental, for you to experience this freedom.

1. You must read God's word.

> The Bible says: ***"... man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord."*** **Deuteronomy 8:3 NJKV**

This was the first scripture Jesus quoted when He was tempted. Have you been tempted lately? Have you been trying to live by bread alone? Or worse, have you been trying to live by eating candy. That's what an addiction is; it's like candy, substituting for the decent meal of God's word. Drugs substitute for joy in our lives by giving us euphoric feelings. Porn substitutes for healthy relationship with a good spouse. Eating often substitutes for loneliness. You know the drill.

God says you can't do it this way. You will die. Do feel like you're dying? See! You must consume His word.

- Reading Gods word is a nonnegotiable principle of God's recovery.

2. You must pray.

The Bible says: ***"For* My *house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations"* Isaiah 56: 7 NKJV**

Peter said in one of his letters, ***"... you also, ...are being built up a spiritual house..."* 1 Peter 2:5 NKJV**

Paul says, ***"You are the temple of the living God."* 2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV**

Jesus says, ***"If anyone love me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him."* John 14:23 NKJV**

There are many metaphors for the Christian church; a bride, a body, a building, a flock of sheep (I don't know about this one), a family (I like this one, though). There are several others, too, but the one that applies here is a House of God. This isn't a bunch of theological jargon. You are the House of God! And here's why it's so important to pray.

Prayer isn't simply a Christian discipline; it is the foundation of disciplines. Prayer is the thing all disciplines are built upon. Without it nothing can be built.

And this is where you come in. Do you feel that God is unable to work within you? You need to pray. Does your life appear to be a garbage dump? You need to pray. Are you facing issues you can't handle? You need to pray. You will not recover if you don't pray.

- Prayer is a nonnegotiable principle of Gods recovery.

3. You must stay in fellowship.

The Bible says: ***"For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up."* Ecclesiastes 4:10 NKJV**

Have you fallen and been unable to get up? We all have. You can't do this alone. We can do it together; in a small group of people, reading God's word and praying for one another.

Read this-Acts 5:16.

- Fellowship is a nonnegotiable principle of Gods recovery.

Addicted...To Hope - The Curriculum - Studying God's Word

Addicted... To Hope is a curriculum introducing you to not only the biblical precepts of freedom, but to the One who has set you free. Addicted... To Hope was a vision given to a group of recovered drug addicts and prostitutes; porn viewers and gambling addicts; overeaters and church attendance addicts. ***"Oh, what a miserable person I am. Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord."* Romans 7:24-25 NLT**. We tried and couldn't quit on our own; we were a mess! There was no hope for us in this world outside of abandoning our self to Christ. Others tried to persuade us and for awhile it seemed like it was working. And then! No good! Our own will or our trust in some unnamed entity was not capable of keeping us. It was not true. You know it's not true. Our only hope is Jesus.

[3] Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." **1 Peter 1:3-5 NIV**

HOPE! It's alive! Hope is not something you wish for. "I wish I could quit." We have hope! And we're addicted to it.

Addicted … To Hope - The Website - Praying For One Another

The website, www.AddictedToHope.org was developed as a resource for you. Our desire is to prayerfully spend time with you while you're getting healed. This could be through counseling, just talking to someone, but especially having someone available to pray with you.

Addicted … To Hope - Fellowship - Being Together

Once a week at various churches we gather together for worship, small group study, prayer and eating together. Our website has the listings of the churches that we participate with.

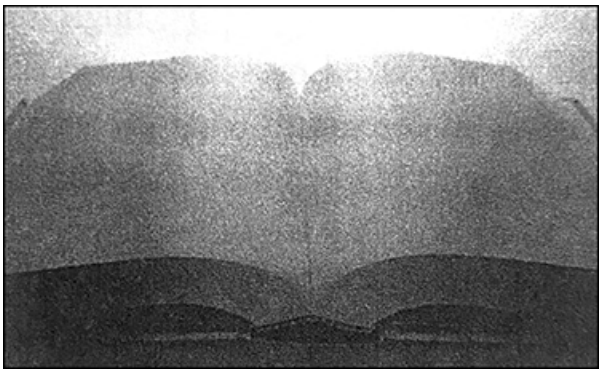
Our final note

There is only one program; the church, the body of Christ. Our curriculum is not another program, but a small group discipleship study for addicts, to help get them into the program, the church. It has developed over the years, not as a new teaching, but as a formatted teaching of scriptural precepts. We believe it to be the Gospel presented in such a way as to provide tools for those dealing with addictions. Teachings about addictions, while not bad, are often lofty and difficult to grasp; unreachable to those needing them the most.

Addicted...To Hope is not just about the material, though. If we could simply present information to people and they would be fixed, life would be so simple. Addicted ... To Hope is a ministry of reconciliation, through mentoring & discipleship, restoring people's lives. Our premise is Eph. 4:11-12, to equip Christians (the addict) for ministry, and to help them get back into the program, the church.

To understand more, please visit our website at www.AddictedToHope.org. You can contact us directly using the Contact Us page.

Unit 1 - Your Hope



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living <u>hope</u> through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"
1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

Introduction

Addicted ... To Hope. What is it Addicted ... To Hope offers? Addicted ... To Hope actually has nothing to offer.
We simply present, or share, this message of the hope that God offers; that

- In spite of all you've been exposed to in your families;
- In spite of all of the poor choices you've made;
- In spite of the injustices you've experienced in your life;
- In spite of ... anything else, there is Hope. We, you, are not hopeless.

What we teach is that there is hope. At the end of everything, God loves you and has a plan for your life-a plan for your future and your hope. Not just some random, generic plan for everyone, but a specific plan for you and your future a plan of hope. He is a personal God, as manifest through his son Jesus.

Addicted ... To Hope was first conceived through thousands of hours of counseling addicts. We asked ourselves what it was that addicts needed to know first and foremost. What do we (as God's people) offer all those people who are hopeless and destitute? Do we offer an invitation to church? Yes. Do we offer a story about some really nice young man, named Jesus? Yes. Do we offer the answer to all of their problems? Yes. We offer all of these.

But more than that, we offer a hope; we share the message of hope!

When someone is in the hospital facing an unsure diagnosis, what is it they want to hear more than anything else? They want to hear that there is hope. What we Christians offer is the hope and truth as found in The Gospel of Jesus Christ:

<u>18</u> 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; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV)

The message of Hope we offer is alive! It is *"the hope"* of the Gospel; *"the hope"* of the fulfillment of the promises presented in the Gospel. It's a living hope. It breathes. It's active, fresh, strong, efficient - and it's powerful"

- HOPE, as defined in the Dictionary, is:
  - desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment (came in hopes of seeing you);
  - also: expectation of fulfillment or success.
  - someone or something on which hopes are centered (our only hope for victory).
  - something hoped for.

In the dictionary a synonym for hope is trust: *assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something.*

- HOPE, as defined in the New Testament is:
  - *"favorable and confident expectation"*
  - *"the happy anticipation of good."*

Our God is The God of Hope! In Romans 15:13, He's called "The God of hope." He's strong, and reliable, and true. He can be trusted.

The Bible continues:

Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, (which is) our hope. **1Timothy 1:1**

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. **Colossians 1:27**

HOPE is:
- Good -2 Thessalonians. 2:16
- Blessed-Titus 2:13
- Living-1 Peter 1:3
- An Anchor-Hebrews 6:18-19

HOPE is:
- ***...the <u>hope</u> and resurrection of the dead...*** **Acts 23:6 NKJV**
- ***...the <u>hope</u> of righteousness*** **Galatians 5:5 NKJV**
- ***...the <u>hope</u> of the glory of God.*** **Romans 5:2 NKJV**
- ***...the blessed <u>hope</u> and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,...*** **Titus 2:13 NKJV**
- ***...the <u>hope</u> of salvation.*** **1 Thessalonians 5:8 NKJV**
- ***...the <u>hope</u> of His*** **(God's)** ***calling,...*** **Ephesians 1:18 NKJV**
- ***...the <u>hope</u> of eternal life.*** **Titus 3:7 NKJV**

Hope is a purifying power,
- ***And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.*** **1 John 3:3 NLT**

Hope is an end to scripture:

- ***For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have <u>hope</u>.*** **Romans 15:4 NKJV**

Hope endures:

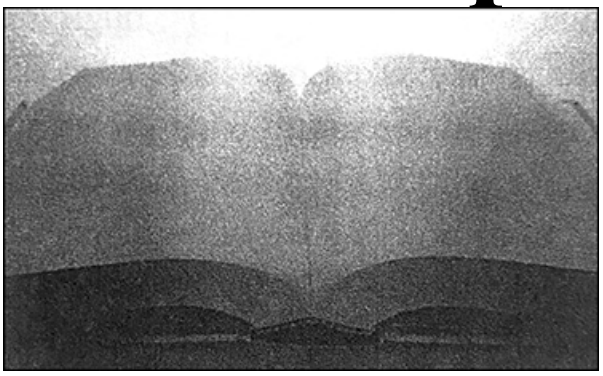
- ***There are three things that will endure faith--, <u>hope</u>, and love--and the greatest of these is love.*** **1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT**

There is Hope! We're addicted to it! In the following unit, we share some of our questions and search the scripture for the answer, putting the pieces of this puzzle together to recognize your hope.

Lord, watch over us as we search out Your answer to our hopelessness. The Lord bless your study.

Your Hope Notes

Your Hope



Lesson 1

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living <u>hope</u> through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."
1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

God has a plan for you no matter where you are in your life at the moment. I know this seems hard to believe. Some of you are struggling with an addiction or some behavior you know is not right. Maybe you're searching for relief from the emptiness you feel in your life. The Bible says that God has a plan for your life and wants a relationship with you. This is our Hope!

Throughout the Bible, over and over again, God chose to love people who were, by our standard, less than perfect, Moses was a murderer; David was an adulterer and a murderer; Paul, who was responsible for most of the New Testament, had made it his life's purpose to wipe out Christianity by hunting down, imprisoning, and killing Christians... And yet because God loved these people He transformed the lives of each one of them. And He can transform yours.

God can transform you life; He has a plan for you. Addicted...To Hope wants to share the principles and wisdom of the Bible which can lead you towards a relationship with Him by the study and application of His word. By studying His Word, the Bible, we can begin to realize this message of Hope; find how this Hope applies to us.

In this first lesson, we will focus on the beginning of a relationship with God. So let's begin our search.

<u>Memory verse:</u>

1 Peter 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living <u>hope</u> through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."
NKJV

You are not hopeless. There is HOPE! And we're addicted to it!

1 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, _____ _____,... **NKJV**

Do you see it? Our hope is alive! It's Jesus! Jesus is our hope!

And then listen to this:

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts I have for you, "declares the LORD," plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you _____ and a future. **NIV**

There it is again; _____! God is thinking about you, and has plans to give you hope!

Based on the previous scripture:

Who is thinking about you? _____

What specifically is He thinking about? _____

Describe the plans He DOES NOT have for you.

_____

Describe the plans He DOES have for you. _____ _____ **and** ___ _____**.**

So if God has His plan for you, but you fail, will He stop?

Philippians 1:6

***He who has begun* a *good work in you will perform it until the Day of Jesus Christ*.** **KJV**

You might say, *"But I want to contribute. I thank God for all He has done for me through this hope, but I can't keep living this way. I want to do something to change my life."*
I do, too. So, there's more. Listen to this!

Titus 2:11-13

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. **NIV**

Based on the previous scripture:

What does the "grace of God" teach me? It teaches me to say _____.

It teaches me to say no to what? _____ *and* _____

What else does it teach us? *To live* _____ - _____ , _____ *and* _____ *lives*

So, when can I live a life free from my addiction? _____(NOW!)

What are we waiting for? _____.

What is the ***"blessed hope"? T____ g_____ a_____ of o____ g_____ G____ and S_____, J_____ C_____.***

God's grace is sufficient for you. *"But all this waiting makes me nervous!"* you may say. *"I may go out and use. Then what will God think of me; what will I think of myself? Oh God! Help me! I'm so anxious! And worried! What should I do?"*

Philippians 4:6-8

7 ***If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand:*** *(Do What!?!?!?!)*

6 ***Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.***

8 ***And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*** **NLT**

Weekly Journal

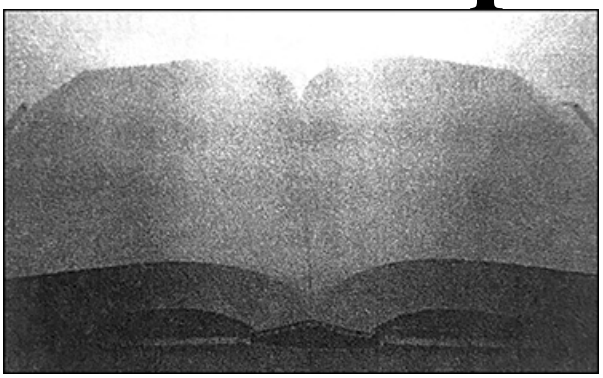
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Your Hope



Lesson 2

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living <u>hope</u> through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."
1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

God has a plan for you. God has given you forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and the grace to guide you through this life. These are yours through His son, Jesus. In God's plan for you, there is also your part; seven steps you must exercise and grow in. These steps will not give you anymore forgiveness or anymore eternal life than you already have through His Son. They are for your development and freedom from the addiction that continually nags you. But, again first, this plan, His plan, can only develop through your relationship with Jesus. As in any relationship, each party has their part or responsibility. Jesus has completed His part. He shed His blood, died and was raised to begin the plan. And by faith you've accepted this. The Bible calls this being born again. It says that if you confess Jesus as God's Son and believe that He, God, raised Jesus from the grave, you will be saved. And that's what you need to do to begin.

If you have not accepted Jesus by faith, God invites you to do so. You need to be born again. All of the following is based on this. This is not a prerequisite for this study, but it is for God's plan to be effective in your life. Let me say this again: God will not, cannot be effective in your life without you inviting Him.

In God's plan for you, He has provided you with great and precious promises. These will not only enable you to participate in His nature, but they will keep you from the corruption that is in this world-like your addiction.

Your part is to now grow into what you've become: His son or daughter. To this faith you have in Jesus, you need to add to, and grow and maintain your relationship with God. And here's the really cool part! Everything you will need has been provided to you by your Father.

Memory verse:

1 Peter 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living <u>hope</u> through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." **NKJV**

You are not hopeless. There is HOPE! And we're addicted to it!

So, maintaining my relationship with God is important to my recovery? How do I do that?

2 Peter 1:3-4

His divine power has given us <u>everything</u> we need for <u>life</u> and <u>godliness</u> through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own <u>glory</u> and <u>goodness</u> Through these He has given us His very <u>great</u> and <u>precious</u> promises, so that through them you may _____ in the divine nature and <u>escape</u> the <u>corruption</u> in the world caused by evil desires. **NIV**

Based on the previous scripture:

How do I <u>escape</u> from this corruption of addiction? _____ in His divine nature.

How do I <u>participate</u> in His divine nature? Through His _____ and _____ promises.

Where do these <u>promises</u> come from? *By His own _____ and _____*.

So what do I need? *We have _____ we need for _____ and _____*.

Q. So how do I learn all this stuff? There's a lot here.

A. Oh, we missed something in the previous verse. ***"...through our knowledge of Him...."*** We have to get to know Him. Growing in my relationship and knowledge of Him is key to my freedom.

So my first step is having faith in Christ? We'll study faith later on. But for now, what qualities should I be adding to my faith? What are the building blocks for my recovery? (I call this the seven steps):

Let's stick with Peter because he has a lot of good stuff to say about all of this.

Read 2 Peter 1:5-11

- ⇨ **To faith, goodness** _____ (Morality)
  - ⇨ **To goodness,** _____ (Moral wisdom, understanding)
    - ⇨ **To knowledge, self-control** (Controlling your lust)
      - ⇨ **To self-control,** _____ (Endurance, patience)
        - ⇨ **To _____, godliness** (Reverence, respect)
          - ⇨ **To godliness,** _____ _____ (mutual affection, Philadelphia)
            - ⇨ **To _____ _____, love** (Agape) 1 Corinthians 13

This is like a process, but is dynamic (alive); it can be the individual parts in or out of order, but there is an order. The first step is faith. That implies a second step; goodness. This implies a third step and so on. God's love in us is our ultimate goal. And, you can increase them.

Warning!

2 Peter 1:8-9

For if you possess these qualities in <u>increasing</u> measure, they will keep you from being <u>ineffective</u> and <u>unproductive</u> in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is <u>nearsighted</u> and <u>blind</u>, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. **NIV**

Based on the previous scripture:
What happens if you don't add these "qualities" in increasing measure to your faith?
You will be: _____, _____, _____, and _____ in my Christian walk.

2 Peter 1:10-11

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will <u>never fall</u>, and you will <u>receive a rich welcome</u> into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **NIV**

What are the two promises, found in verses 10-11, if I do add these qualities in increasing measure?

a) <u>I will never fall</u>
b) <u>I will have a rich welcome into heaven</u>

Weekly Journal

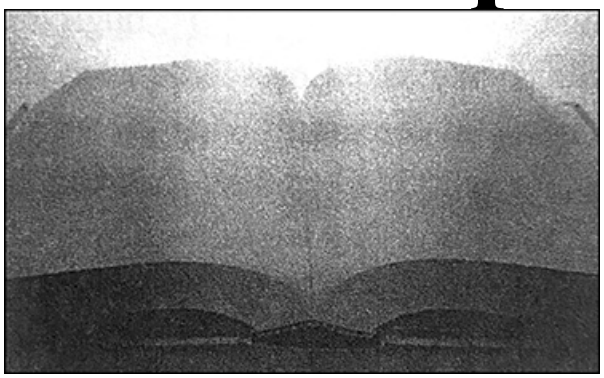
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Your Hope



Lesson 3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living <u>hope</u> through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."
1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

In God's plan for you, we find hope. His plan is to give you hope. This hope isn't like wishing; it isn't throwing a penny into a well and making a wish. Our God is the God of hope. When we were little children and Christmas came, we would make a list and send it to Santa Claus. As we grew older, we learned that this was a child's game. We realized that our hope was in our parents providing our request for us.

God is the perfect parent. He's not Santa, or even a genie in a bottle. Those are children's fairy tales. He's our dear father, who hears our requests and, within His plan for us, answers all of them. The Bible says to let your requests be made known to God, and His peace will guard not only your heart, but your mind, too. Wouldn't we like to have our mind guarded?

There is another aspect to all of this, however. There is one who is jealous of you, and your relationship with your father. And this is no child's tale. His objective in a word is to steal your hope and kill your dreams; destroy your life. The Bible says he stands before God day and night accusing you of your sin. He's called the evil one. The Satan. His name was Lucifer; God's chosen angel.

He hates you and your reconciliation. The Bible says he lied to Eve; he deceived her and Adam, and they were lost. He had accomplished separation between God and His creation. But in God's mercy, God made a way for us, to be reconciled, restored. And the evil one is hard at work to keep you from learning this.

The Bible says that there are two things at our disposal to, overcome him.

1. The cross of Jesus. This has already been done once and for all. Your faith in this is the first step.

2. The word of your testimony. The Bible says you can live clean; you can have peace, and joy and righteousness, as you begin to grow and live like who you really are.

Who are you-really? In the next section we will examine who you really are.

Memory verse:

1 Peter 1:3

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." **NKJV**

You are not hopeless. There is HOPE! And we're addicted to it!

This hope is not like wishing for something. We all wish for things. Maybe that's the difference. We wish for things; God has a plan of hope for us. His hope does not _____.

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. **NKJV**

There is no _____ in wishing. Hope brings confidence. You're welcome to come to Him and ask, and confident that He will listen to you.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. **NIV**

You're His son or daughter. You have a right to come to him and ask.

John 1:12

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become _____ of God **NLT**

Galatians 4:6

And because you Gentiles have become his _____, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and now you can call God your dear _____. **NLT**

God has adopted you! This is a gift to you. You're his child!; a son or daughter! This is your acceptance of His gift. In this new hope in Christ, we have a new position.

There is a third party to all of this; an enemy. He does not want you to experience any of this hope. He hates you.

1 Peter 5:8

Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil _____ _____ _____. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. **NLT**

Understanding who this is important for you to know. Your relationship with God, and your recovery, however, is not dependant on this knowledge. Let us suffice it to say that:

- ***He's a liar (John 8:44);***
- **An *accuser (Rev. 12:10);***
- ***A tempter (Genesis 3:4);***
- ***A slanderer (Job 1:9*);**
- ***He's a thief and comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).***
- ***The prince of evil spirits (Ephesians 6:12).***

Christ, however, redeems his people from ***"him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14).***

Why do you think Satan is working so hard against you? I think it' because you have the potential to possess something he doesn't want you to have; something given to you as a result of your relationship with God, your Father. Something capable of defeating him. Listen to this:

Revelation 12:10-11

Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has happened at last--the salvation and power and kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ! For the Accuser has been thrown down to earth--the one who accused our brothers and sisters before our God day and night. And they have defeated him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their _____. And they were not afraid to die". **NLT**

Your testimony! Jesus has already died and shed His blood, once and for all. And you've been saved by the shedding of this blood of Christ. All that's needed now is your testimony, and he's toast!

If he can discourage you to the point of despair; if he can persuade you that this good news is doesn't apply to you, and keep you from testifying, he can and will continue to work to destroy you, your family, and everything that God has promised to you.

Remember! He's a liar! (John 8:44)

But, you have hope! Jesus is your hope!

In the next unit we'll find out who you are really!

Weekly Journal

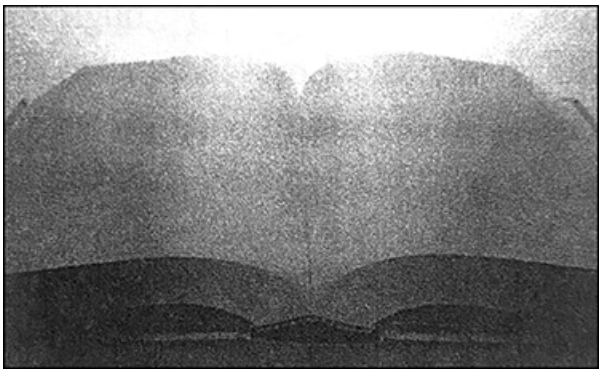
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Unit 2 - Your Identity



"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLV)

Introduction

If you've accepted Christ (Romans 10:9), then you have been born again (John 3:3) Understanding that you've been born again (you're a new creation) brings a new perspective for your life; an outlook of hope. You're no longer hopeless. You're hopeful, or full of hope. You're like a new baby, prepared to become all you were supposed to be. So, what were you supposed to be?

Initially, Adam was created to resemble God; to be a likeness of Him. This is how Adam lived; like a creation, or a son. Adam was created to rule. Another word for rule is reign.

Adam was created to be a king.

- Then he Trespassed!

Adam was given abundance and responsibilities.

- Then he Disobeyed!

Adam was created to participate in God's work.

- Then Adam Offended God!

He was not God. He was God's likeness, resembling God. There was a resemblance between the creation and the Creator. Think about when we create children; they are conceived, created in our image. They are not us, but all that they are is from us. They resemble us. Get it?

But then Adams's individuality or rebelliousness may be a good word, got in the way. Genesis says that Adam became "as" God:

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us, to know good and evil."
Genesis 3:22 NKJV

Not an image any more, but in contention with God; usurping God's position. The Bible says that through one man (Adam) sin entered the world, death reigned, judgment came, and all (you and I) were made sinners (Romans 5). We went from being a very "good" creation to being an enemy of God. And that's where we find ourselves; enemies of God.

But wait! That's not the end! There's more! A lot more! Remember, we've been reborn. We have hope:

But to as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe on His name: … **John 1:12 NKJV**

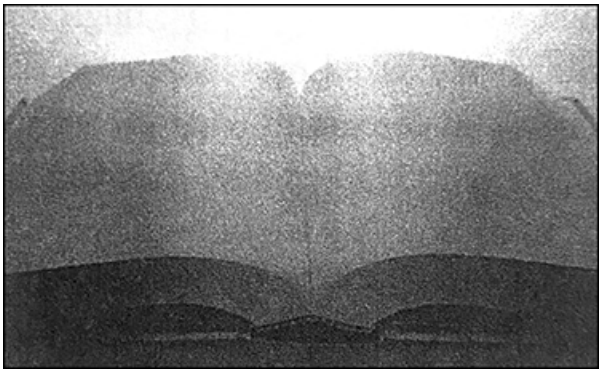
You have the right, because of Jesus, to become God's son or daughter.

You're not the same anymore. So, now you have a new identity; a son or a daughter of God. This isn't from ourselves; it's a gift from God, through Jesus. You now have the right to be what Adam was created to be. This is the good news!

Father, reveal to us who we are in Christ.

Your Identity Notes

Your Identity



Lesson 1

"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLV)

The Bible says that when you receive Christ and accept God's provision for your sin, you become a new creation! Now, as a new person, who are you-really? When you receive this Hope, this new birth and relationship with God through Jesus, you become acceptable to God, His child. This is who you are.

You are not simply accepted, like, "Sure, come on in." No! Much, much more! You are acceptable and pleasing to God. It is like a new parent who wants to shout to the world, "Look! It's my new baby girl (boy)! Isn't she (he) beautiful!?"

The Bible says that when you are" born-again" all creation and heaven have thrown a party for you! You're back!

The Bible says that it's no longer I who live, but it's Christ Who lives in me. You are now acceptable to God, because the life you live you now live by faith in the Son of God!

So what were you created to be? How did this whole downward slide happen? Why doesn't God just create us like He wants us to be? Great questions. Let's study the Bible, all the way back to the beginning.

Memory verse:

2 Corinthians 5:17

"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" **NLT**

Man was created to _____; to be the king and rule over

Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it (subdue it: and have dominion over...). Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." **NIV**

- Subdue / kabash {kaw-bash'} to subject, subdue, force, keep under, bring into bondage
- Dominion / radah {raw-daw'} to rule, have dominion, dominate, tread down

What was man (mankind) given dominion over? Be specific...

_____

But, Adam lost his kingdom and you died because of Adam's _____ (transgression, rebellion).

_____

That's ONE!

Genesis 3:6

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, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. NKJV

Now, through Christ, we have regained the kingdom

Romans 5:17

For if, by the _____ of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. **NIV**

And there's more!

Galatians 2:20

I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **NLT**

Colossians 1:27

For it has pleased God to tell his people that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. For this is the secret: Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory. **NLT**

God is _____ interested in your _____,

_____, or _____.

God _____ interested in _____ you

Weekly Journal

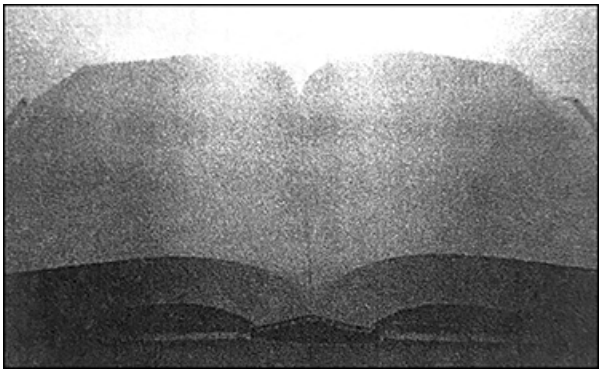
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Your Identity



Lesson 2

"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLV)

At the beginning Adam was the image of God; he was made in His image. His identity was in his resemblance to God. The result of this identification was that Adam was given several things. They are the same things we, you and I, strive so hard to attain even to this day.

When I counsel Christians who are suffering with some addiction I often ask the question, "What is it you are really looking for?" I can never forget the answer of one individual in particular; "I just want to be happy."

As we searched out what that means, we realized it meant pretty much the same thing to both of us; a home, a good job, a trustworthy spouse, children. I asked, "Is this what you mean?" They agreed that this is what they were looking and searching for.

Good news! In Genesis we find that this is exactly what God had planned all along. I dare say that this is what God has been trying to give to you; the kingdom of God; peace, joy, righteousness.

So what happened and how does that affect us? Let's look at the Bible, in Genesis, to find out.

Memory verse:

2 Corinthians 5:17

"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" **NLT**

Man was created to be _____ to God

As a result he was given:

Genesis 1:26; 2:7-25

- WORK

Genesis 2:15

God gave Man a task to do.

- A HOME

Genesis 2:8

God gave Man a home! He placed Man in the garden He had just completed.

- DISCIPLINE

Genesis 2:17

God gave man instructions and boundaries.

- FRIENDS

Genesis 2:18-20

God gave Man companions.

- BEST FRIENDS

Genesis 2:21-25

God gave Man the best gift; someone like him. God gave man a BEST FRIEND.

- IDENTITY

Genesis 1:26 & 2:7-25

God create Man in His image. God gave Man life! He blew life into Man's nostrils.

But, Adam lost his kingdom and you died because of _____

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves apron-like girdles. **AMP**

That's 2!!

Now, however, through Christ, we have regained our position!

Romans 5:19

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. **NKJV**

What was taken has been restored. You just need to acknowledge your _____ and to accept _____ from your creator.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." **NIV**

John 10:27-30

My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand. The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from him. I and the Father are one heart and mind. **NLT**

Ephesians 1:13-14

It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free--signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life. **MSG**

Romans 8:35-39

Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one. None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing--nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable--absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us. **MSG**

Weekly Journal

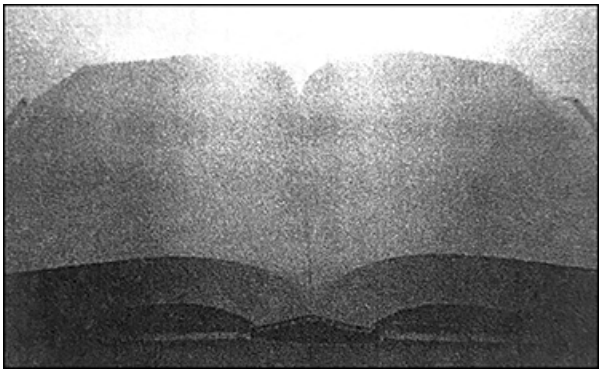
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Your Identity



Lesson 3

"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLV)

With all of the benefits shown in the previous chapter, Adam insisted in having his own way. Adam was given dominion over the entire earth! But it wasn't enough. In chapter one Adam **TRESSPASSED** against God. Romans 5 says that Adam rebelled against God in three specific ways. This is not necessarily theologically perfect but we can get the point.

Then Adam **DISOBEYED**. God had given Adam several of the things in life that are even to this day goals we all seek; a home, work, family, friends, etc. But it wasn't enough.

Finally, God saw His creation as "good"; God was pleased with all He had made, including man. But Adam **OFFENDED** God with his attitude. He became offensive to God, and was finally removed from His presence.

Here's the problem: through this one man Adam the Bible teaches that you have now become a sinner, subjected to judgment and death. The Bible also says, however, that God's nature is to love you; He hates your sinful nature. He has therefore provided a way of escape for you. This Way is our final lesson in Your Identity.

Memory verse:

2 Corinthians 5:17

"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" **NLT**

Man was created _____ **or** _____ before God!

Genesis 1:31

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning the sixth day. **NIV**

GOD originally created man to be _____. a spirit being, and to participate with Him in His creation.

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. **NKJV**

But, Adam lost his kingdom and you died because of

_____

That's three! You're out o' here!

Genesis 3:17-19

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 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." **NKJV**

But now, through Jesus, we've been justified/made right. You've been given back what Adam forfeited.

Romans 5:18

Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. **NKJV**

Philippians 3:9

... and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; **NKJV**

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God. **NKJV**

So let's review: What exactly was the problem? In this unit, Identity, we've used two different translations to study in Romans 5 that there were three specific (there may be more) issues God had with Adam.

Romans 5:17, 18, 19

1. Trespasses _____

2. Disobedience _____

3. Offenses _____

SO, WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT NOW?

⇨ **Fix it Man's way?** Attempts to be accepted by God by our "performance".

1. Doing the right thing. 2. Not hurting anyone else.
3. Go to church on Sunday...and Wednesday...and Friday.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, 'I am the the _____, Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **NIV**

Weekly Journal

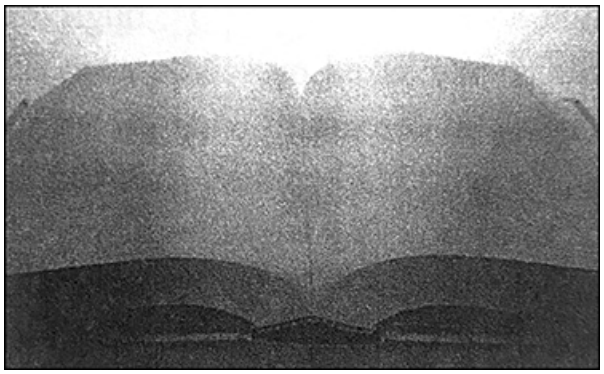
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Unit 3 - Your Faith



"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

Introduction

"Okay, we kind of believe you that maybe there is hope! And we kind of understand that if that's true, based on what you've said, when we accepted Christ by faith we became new creations; new beings. We've been reborn and are like babies. So now what? We've heard all of this before."

Yes, you've listened to, and received the message of salvation, and it has excited you. But, there's more. It's like you've taken the puzzle out of the box, but never put it together. You can't see yourself as God sees you yet. There's a next step, and you haven't taken it yet.

It's called listening. The results are a disaster (at least it was for me). ***So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself).*** **Romans 10:17 AMP.** You haven't been listening.

LISTEN: The next step is understanding YOUR faith, because faith is what will give you victory over your addiction. ***And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith.*** **1 John 5:4 (NKJV)** Understanding how this works is critical to the victory of your recovery.

LISTEN: ***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*** **Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)** Think about that; substance & evidence. It sounds like a courtroom. It is! You're on trial!

But, before we go there, let's unpack two words.

- The Biblical word for **Substance** means, among other things, *"that which has actual existence."*
- The Biblical term for **Evidence** means, among other things, *"a proof that by which a thing is proved or tested."*

Humor me here. Let's put these definitions into the Scripture: ***"faith is the substance*** (that which has actual existence) ***of things hoped for, the evidence*** (that by which a thing is proved or tested) ***of things not seen."*** (This is so cool!) Do you understand what this means? How about **evidence**

and **substance** for your recovery, the thing you've been hoping for. And back to the trial; standing before the Judge, your faith in Christ is the **evidence** and the **substance** that is presented to the Judge; your faith in Jesus has freed you from your sin. Jesus received the penalty for your guilt in His own body. The price has been paid for you. You're guilty, but not condemned. Instead, you're free! This is the Good News!

You may ask, "Then why do I feel so condemned?" Because your enemy, Satan, stands before God day and night accusing you of what? Your sin; ***"everything that's not of faith is sin".*** But Who has paid for your sin? Yes, The Mediator that stands between you and God; the One who became sin for you. Jesus.

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if you do sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who pleases God completely. **1 John 2:1 (NLT)**

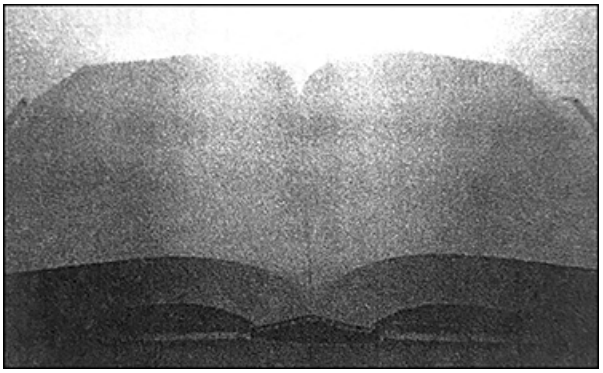
Here's something else you can listen to: The Bible says your faith is like a shield (shields were used in warfare); it protects you. If your shield has no substance, what kind of a shield would it be? It wouldn't be. That's why you haven't overcome your addiction. You have no substance, because you have no faith, because you haven't been listening to the gospel. Is this making any sense to you? Your faith is a primary weapon used in keeping you sober, or away from the internet, or the needle out of your arm.

LISTEN: One last point. Who creates this Faith? Where does it come from? "No way, Dan; not Jesus again?" Yes sir! You guessed it. He's everything to you faith; to your recovery. Listen, the Bible says, ***"...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."*** **Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)**

Your faith is crucial to your recovery. Let's study how it works.

Your Faith Notes

Your Faith



Lesson 1

"Now <u>faith</u> is the substance of things <u>hoped</u> for, the evidence of things not seen."
NKJV Hebrews 11:1

As a Christian what you believe is foundational to who you are. The Bible says that to those who believe in His name He gave the right to become the children of God. Believing, or having faith, in Jesus, entitles you to be God's child.

Your Christian faith, however, has two components. What you believe is one. Your life, or how that belief is expressed, or worked out, is the second one. Jesus says love your neighbor as yourself. That takes work. In another place, Jesus says a tree without fruit will be destroyed. It's a tree, but without fruit it has no value to the owner. God has purchased you with the blood of His son. Your belief without fruit is useless, powerless, of no benefit for the kingdom of God.

The Bible says salvation comes not only by believing that God raised Jesus from the dead, but also by confessing with your mouth the Lord Jesus (Romans 10:9). That's doing something. Your actions, you know, moving your lips, have to be aligned with what you believe. You have to work out your faith. Otherwise, you will live in constant turmoil.

<u>Memory verse:</u>

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." **NKJV**

Faith is another weapon God has given you to win this battle over your addiction

Faith has substance; it is evidence. The substance is of things _____ for (sound familiar - your future and your hope; Jeremiah 11:29); but you can't see them. If you're hoping to stay clean and sober, there is hope for your victory. It's called faith.

The Addiction

1 John 2:16

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. **NKJV**

The word "world" is kosmos and is the same word in both 1 John 2:16 and 1 John 5:4. The things that are in the world, like your addiction to whatever, is not of God, but of the cosmos.
If you want to say no to your addiction you must grow your faith. Your faith is your _____.

The Victory

1 John 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our _____ **NKJV**

Our _____, our adherence to, reliance on and trust in, this new birth through Jesus, which is from God, becomes our ability to say no to the world, i.e. our addiction (like the lust of your flesh).

So here it is: we have hope to be able to say no to our addiction because we've been born of God and we have faith in that. This is your victory from God through Christ. Incidentally, the verse says "has overcome" - past tense. It doesn't say it will overcome. Your faith "has overcome" the world!

The Results

You have overcome the world, your lusts and pride, by faith. Now, how you live your life, is an expression of your faith. James says, ***"Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."*** **James 2:17 NKJV**. Good works is a part of our Christianity; our faith in Christ. If you say you have faith but do not do good your faith is of no value. Faith and works go hand in hand.

Here's an example: **Romans 10:9-10** ***...that if you*** *confess with your mouth* (You have to do this - _____) ***the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart*** (you have to believe this - _____) ***that God 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.*** **NKJV**

The Conclusion
So here's how I see it. This faith thing is actually a two step process. What you believe has to be accompanied by how you live your life. Otherwise your faith is *"unfruitful; dead"*.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. **NKJV**

One last point before we move on. Your decision to do good works is yours; your ability to perform them, isn't you. It's God in you. Your faith in this is your victory.

Weekly Journal

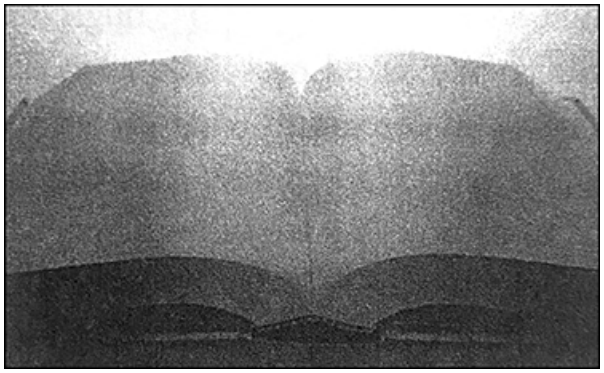
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Your Faith



Lesson 2

"Now <u>faith</u> is the substance of things <u>hoped</u> for, the evidence of things not seen." **NKJV**
Hebrews 11:1

In Lesson 3 we're going to examine a list of people, many morally and ethically degenerate. They committed murder adultery, fornication, or as I say, many were involved in "sex drugs and rock and roll."

But in this particular list there was one thing they had in common; Faith in the grace and promises of God. Sinners saved by Grace!

In our own lives we can certainly identify with some of them. And by the way, we don't have to do something to participate in it. Jesus says if it's in your heart, or your thinking, (next unit) you've already committed it.

So, in the middle of trying to find reasons why we are not happy or successful or fulfilled; reasons why we feel certain that God cannot be interested in us, we can find hope in the testimony of these people's lives. They were people of faith.

If then this faith we're looking at has value to our relationship with God, and this relationship is the fulfillment to our lives, which is what I teach, we need to understand some of the components of faith.

The following list is not all there is. It's just some of it.

<u>Memory verse:</u>

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." **NKJV**

Faith is another weapon God has given you to win this battle over your addiction

If this concept of faith is as important as I state, then we need a better understanding of some of its components. I call these 2X4s; you know - things used to build. Or like WHAM! - I didn't think of that!

- **Where does faith come from?**

Romans 10:17

"So then faith comes by _____, and _____ by the word of God." **NKJV**

We need to be listening to those who bring us this good news; your pastor would be a good place to start.

- **Who creates faith?**

Hebrews 12:2

...looking unto Jesus, the _____ and _____ 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. **NKJV**

God's done it all. You just need to accept what He has finished.

- **What does faith do?**

1 John 5:4-5

For whatever is born of God _____ the world. And this is the victory that has _____ the world-- our faith. Who is he who _____ the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? **NKJV**

You win! Winner, winner, winner!

Ephesians 6:16

...above all, taking the shield of _____ with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. NKJV

Faith protects you! It's your victory.

- **Why does it seem my faith doesn't work?**

Romans 14:23

But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from _____ is sin. **NKJV**

James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in _____, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. **NKJV**

Listen to this! This is important!

For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. **James 1:8 NKJV**

We might say that along with all the wrong things you've done, the "A1" issue with God is that you don't believe Him. If you did you wouldn't be doing those things.

Weekly Journal

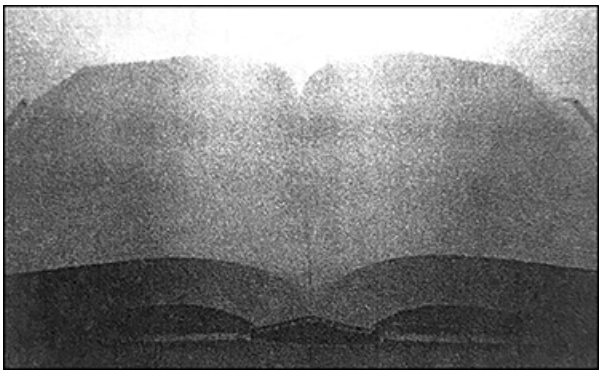
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Your Faith



Lesson 3

"Now <u>faith</u> is the substance of things <u>hoped</u> for, the evidence of things not seen." **NKJV**
Hebrews 11:1

This final lesson on Faith is a list of people who expressed faith through their lives. They were not perfect examples to us to follow as far as their morals were concerned. Their example is their faith; their faith in God's compassion and faith in His promises. The Biblical examples are just too good to mess with. So I thought it would be enough to just read the text and then dissect it.

What I am hoping that you will see in this is that your imperfect life is not the basis for rejection by God. It wasn't the basis for these people and it's not for you. God will not reject you because of your "issues". These people had a bunch.

On the other hand, if you were just "too good" then you wouldn't need Jesus. But you know you're not. Neither am I. We're full of faithlessness to God; full of sex, drugs, and rock and roll. Here's the good news - God still wants you.

And last of all faith, isn't simply acknowledging something. Faith has to be applied; put to work, acting on your belief. Jesus says it's like a tree; it has to bear fruit. The people we're going to read about did just that.

<u>Memory verse:</u>

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." **NKJV**

Faith is another weapon God has given you to win this battle over your addiction

So what does this faith look like? We can study some examples of how it works. This may help us in applying faith to our lives.

<u>Hebrews 11:1-24</u> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. [2] ***For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. _____ we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. _____ Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. _____ Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him";* for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. _____ Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. _____ Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. _____ he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. _____ Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she* bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off *were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. _____ Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. _____ Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. _____ Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. _____ Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. _____ Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. _____ Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter...*** **NKJV**

So, by Faith:

- Paul _____ Hebrews 11:3
- Abel _____ Hebrews 11:4
- Enoch _____ Hebrews11:5
- Noah _____ Hebrews 11:7
- Abraham _____ Hebrews 11:8
- Sarah _____ Hebrews 11:11
- Jacob _____ Hebrews 11:2
- Moses _____ Hebrews 11:24

Are there any witnesses in the Bible?

Can you give us a witness? Give examples and discuss your faith; how you...

Obeyed _____

Trusted _____

Understood _____

Sacrificed _____

Weekly Journal

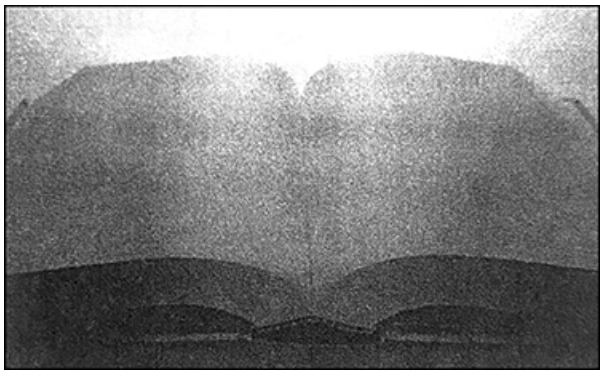
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Unit 4 - Your Thoughts



"We demolish arguments and every pretense that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."
2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)

Introduction

Here's what I think. In the chapter of 2 Corinthians we see three activities that we participate in. These activities are necessary for the regulation of our thinking.

- We must demolish (forcefully, cast it down!) arguments, and pretentions;
- We must take our thoughts captive (bind them up!); and
- We must make them obedient (compliant, in submission!)
- Demolish your thoughts against God; bind up your thoughts; develop compliance.

Think about it! The way you think is the reason why you're where you are. Demolish those existing arguments against God. You've ended up here because you think incorrectly. Another way to say this is that you're here because of the decisions you've made. Bind up your thoughts. Making decisions is based on how you think. Make your thoughts compliant and obedient.

There's a great deal in the Bible about how we think. I think that if we're going to understand how to put our Faith to work, then we need to understand how we should be thinking. We also need to start taking these bad thoughts captive, and replace them with proper thoughts; you know, Godly thoughts.

I think the old adage that "You are what you eat" is relevant here, but we can redefine that saying to, "You are what you think." Your mind will be what you put into it. Thinking is like the process and you mind is like the storage place.

I'm no doctor but it seems to me that a lot of my decisions are based on how I think about issues or circumstances in my own life. A lot of this thinking has been based on some feeling or emotional state in which I've found myself.

Here's an example: I'm hungry (I feel hungry), so I get up and walk to the refrigerator. I think that in the refrigerator is food (we went shopping yesterday). I open the door and get something to eat.

We go into this later, but I see four steps here:

1. I'm hungry - this is my life issue
2. I walk to the refrigerator - this is a habit (a walk)
3. I believe there is food there - this is a belief
4. I get some food and am satisfied - this is my truth

Now let's apply this to our addiction:

1. I'm lonely - this is my life issue
2. I walk to my stash - this is my habit (a walk)
3. I believe there is comfort there - this is my belief
4. I get stoned - getting stoned makes me feel better (this is my truth)

Let's go to the Bible to find an application; Genesis 3 to be exact.

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 will not surely die. 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." 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, she took of its fruit and ate. **Genesis 3:1-6 NKJV**

This isn't rocket science! The serpent came to the woman, and talked to her. She was enticed and listened to him. He got her to thinking. God's way isn't better. He's just keeping things from you. And she thought about it. After all, the fruit was:

1. Good for food
2. Pleasant to the eyes
3. Desirable to make one wise

Eve didn't take her thoughts captive. She created her own truth (step 4). And by the way, she was deceived. You have been, too.

1. She was hungry
2. She looked at the tree
3. She was convinced that the fruit was good
4. She ate it!

Her life stimulated a habit, which created a belief and ended in truth (her truth; a false truth). This is where you are. You've created your own truth; as if you were God. And you're not. And your life is a mess, just like Eve's was going to become.

Well, in the Bible there are many illustrations of how to not think. Eve was but one. Let's find the one example of how we are supposed to think. Let's try Matthew 4:1-11 NKJV and look at Jesus' example:

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.'" (Did you hear that!? "It is written")

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, and, in their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone."" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God."" (Again! "It is written")

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Wow! Once again "It is written")

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. **Matthew 4:1-11 NKJV**

Jesus didn't base His response on His circumstances, as Eve had. He responded based on Truth; not his own, but God's. And the tempter left him alone!

Our problem is we come up with our own truth. And we all have one! And this truth is based on incorrect thinking. Instead, we should be basing our decisions on God's Truth. I understand you may be getting tired of hearing this, but it's the Truth. So I have to keep telling you; the Bible says:

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. **John 17:17 NKJV**

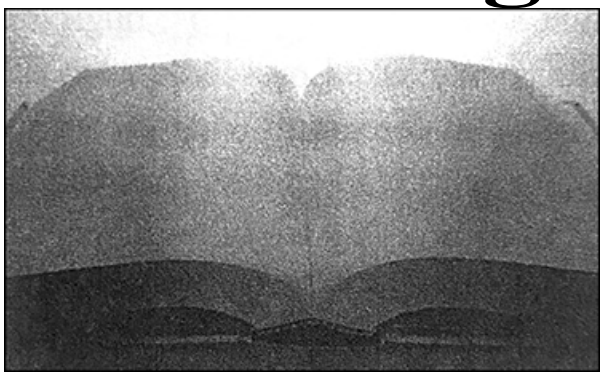
You keep trying to get your life right by making your decisions based on your feelings, and it ain't working! That's why you're looking for another way.

I'm telling you, you need to start making your decisions based on God's Truth. I have many witnesses that will testify to you that this Way, His Way, works.

We better get started.

Your Thought Notes

Your Thoughts



Lesson 1

***"We demolish arguments and every pretense that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* 2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)**

We have to stay focused on 2 Corinthians 5. In order to demolish and rebuild we need to try and understand the difference between where we are in our thinking and how God thinks. Or, where would He have us establish the base of our thinking. So we need to determine how it is that we get to the conclusions we arrive at, and then see how that compares to how God would have us make decisions. By exercising this concept we will be captivating our thinking, and making it obedient.

We will find that our approaches, God and ours, are diametrically opposed to one another. Don't let this scare you. One, ours, ends up in a ditch. The other, His, leads to life. Let me say again don't be afraid; it's like diving into the pool for the first time. You'll learn.

Let's see how this works and then maybe address the question, "If this is true then why do we continue to follow our own incorrect thinking?" Why do we choose death over life?

Memory verse:

2 Corinthians 10:5

***"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every <u>thought</u> to make it obedient to Christ".* NIV**

Learning how to take your thoughts captive is a weapon against your addiction

Here's how it works... **(I think)**

_____ STIMULATES _____

_____ TRIGGER _____

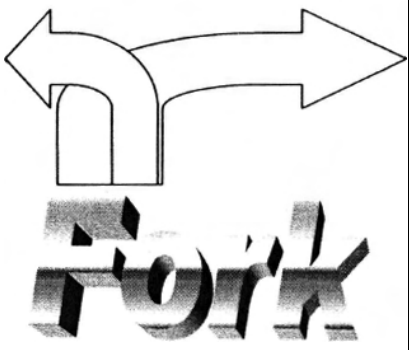
_____ LEAD TO _____

☆ Your behavior is ultimately a response to your **thoughts**!!!!!

James 4:1-2

[1] What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires (feelings?) that battle within you? [2] You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. **NIV**

What you feel is triggered by how you _____. This is like a fork in the road where we stray; incorrect feelings derail our behavior. Your feelings, triggered by your thoughts, can be the point of separation. That's why we have to take our thoughts captive

My Method		**God's Method**
My _____	**THE**	**God's _____**
Leads to		**Leads to**
My _____		**Godly _____**
Leads to		**Leads to**
My _____		**Godly _____**
Leads to		**Leads to**
My _____		**Godly _____**

Oh! My method of dealing with life conflicts with God's method. BIG issue with God.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the _____ of your _____ ... NIV

Your thoughts - You're allowing your worldly thinking, your thoughts, to be the basis of you behavior. Your thoughts are in response to stimulants of your life. Take them captive! Demolish those things that set themselves against God.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - _____ about such things. **NIV**

This is a habit. You have to begin to discipline yourself to do this. The good news is that God has provided help for you...

Weekly Journal

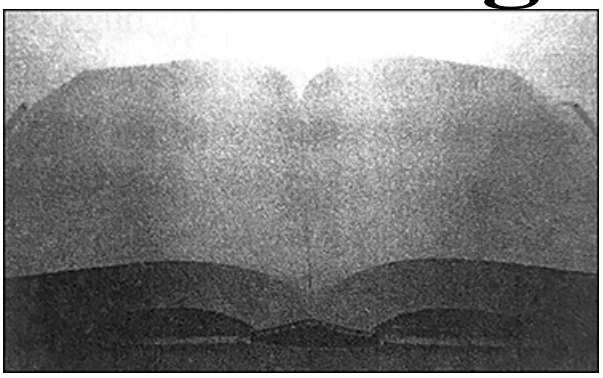
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Your Thoughts



Lesson 2

"We demolish arguments and every pretense that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." **2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)**

Now that we've compared, in very simple terms the differences of how we approach circumstances and how God would have us approach them, let's get something straight. Your feelings or I guess you can call them emotions are not the problem. You were created in God's image; remember (Unit 1, Your Identity). Your emotions or feelings are a reflection of His character.

Let me try to explain: Was Jesus angry? Yes. Was Jesus lonely? Yes. Was Jesus God? Yes.

You see God (Jesus) had feelings, too, just like you. Why would God give you these characteristics? There are very good reasons why He did. We just haven't thought about it before. They're not the problem, you see. The problem is their misuse or our misunderstanding concerning them.

I've picked out a few feelings I've encountered in my life. There are more. This is just an example. Put your own in if you want to.

Let's look at scripture, Truth (the last lesson?) to find our answer

Memory verse:

2 Corinthians 10:5

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every <u>thought</u> to make it obedient to Christ". **NIV**

Learning how to take your thoughts captive is a weapon against your addiction

1. THE PROBLEM is _____

Some of our feelings or emotions, as defined by the dictionary are the following:

☹ _____ - to be afraid of: expect with alarm

☹ _____ - feelings of culpability (meriting condemnation or blame) especially for imagined offenses or from a sense of inadequacy.

☹ _____ - fury, indignation, ire, mad, rage, wrath.

☹ _____ - being without company; cut off from others; not frequented by human beings; sad from being alone; producing a feeling of bleakness or desolation.

☹ _____ - acute mental or emotional distress or suffering.

Oswald Chambers says, "Let some paralysis come and destroy your emotions, all your associated ideas (thoughts) with things, with people, with houses, with friends, with work, and the light is gone out of the sky, the power and the joy out of life, everything is paralyzed, and the universe is one black prison-house." Workmen of God; The worker among sick souls. 1937

To better understand this you can read the following scripture.

What a Bummer!

Read Psalms 88

This individual has extreme depression, a result of thinking about his life his way and not God's way. You might say his cup is half full of pain; God's is overflowing with life.

There's another scripture that explains how this thinking thing works, too!

Read James 4:1-2

Matthew 6:25

But! Jesus says, ***"Therefore I tell you, stop being perpetually uneasy (anxious and worried) about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; or about your body, what you shall put on."*** **AMP**

What do you think Jesus means by this? I think He means to stop being uneasy; anxious and worried! But we try and we still worry! That's a problem. Well, there's another way to see life; another way to look at our thoughts. So the other way is the following;

2. THE ANSWER is _____**; He turns** or changes my thoughts -

Our fear into _____ **Luke 1:50** _____

And His mercy (His compassion and kindness toward the miserable and afflicted) is on those who fear Him with godly reverence, from generation to generation and age to age. **AMP**

Our guilt to _____ **Romans 8:1** _____

Therefore, [there is] now <u>no</u> condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) <u>for those who are in Christ Jesus</u>, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit. **AMP**

Our loneliness to _____ **Hosea 1:10** _____

… and instead of it being said to them, you are not My people, it shall be said to them, <u>Sons</u> of the Living God! **AMP**

Our anger to _____ **Philippians 3:9** _____

I no longer count on my own goodness or my ability to obey God's law, but I trust Christ to save me. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. NLT

And finally, God, in His grace turns

Our pain to _____ **Matthew 11:28-30** _____

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and <u>I will give you rest</u>. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light. **NLT**

Weekly Journal

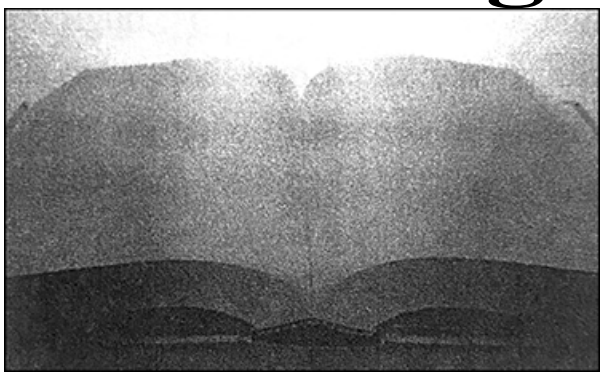
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Your Thoughts



Lesson 3

"We demolish arguments and every pretense that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."
2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)

God gave you feelings in order for you to participate with Him. Your feelings aren't the problem. It's how you think about your feelings, about how you react to your feelings; that what creates the problem. Let's take an example of something we all understand - sex. It isn't sex that's the problem; God created a sexual relationship. The problem comes from how you think about sex, or I guess we could say how you think incorrectly about sex.

Remember He created you to be in His likeness. He wants your participation. So let's kind of review this whole process.

- Behavior (doing drugs) based on my feelings (anger, loneliness, etc.) leads me to false truth, and I end up where I am now. This leads to death both figuratively and literally!
- But if my life is based on Truth (God's Truth, not mine) my life will be full of good feelings. The Bible calls this The Kingdom of God: peace, joy and correctness before God. **(Romans 14)**
- If I understand God's word (Truth) I will understand that my feelings are given to me by Him for His purposes in my relationship with Him.

Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was. His response was from the Scriptures (The Old Testament), ***And you shall love the Lord your God with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being and with all your might.*** **Deuteronomy 6:5 AMP**

You see you, your feelings, and your entire being were created by God, for God. Take your thoughts captive and make them obedient to Christ.

Memory verse:

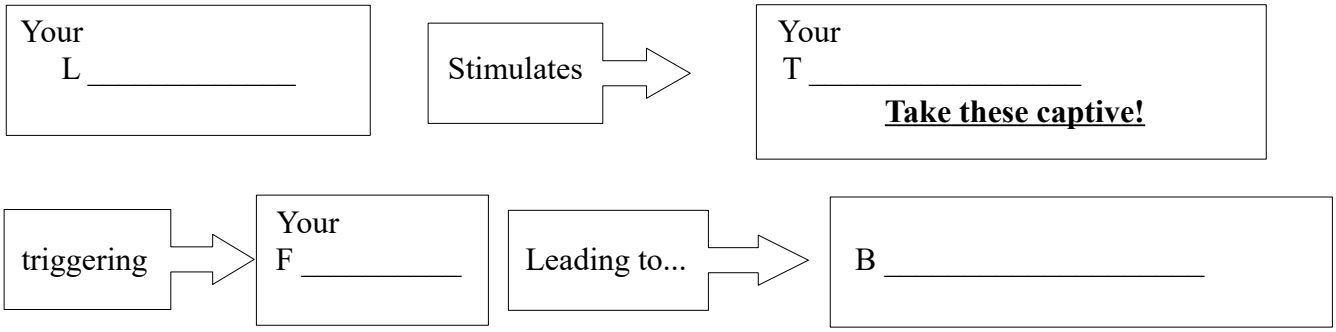
2 Corinthians 10:5

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every <u>thought</u> to make it obedient to Christ". **NIV**

Learning how to take your thoughts captive is a weapon against your addiction

So here's how I understand it. My feelings are God given and have a spiritual purpose. They are the product of our thought life.

Let's REMEMBER:



God built these thoughts and emotions into you for His reasons. You **thought** this was all about you, but it's all about Him; you're all about God!

Deuteronomy 6:5

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your [<u>mind</u> and] heart and with your entire being and with all your might. **AMP**

⇨ Fear: Show Reverence
_____ God

⇨ Guilt: Create Repentance
_____ to God

⇨ Loneliness: Search for Relationship
_____ God

⇨ Anger: Express Righteousness
_____ God

⇨ Pain: Receive Recovery
_____ God

So I'm all about God?

There's two different ways I can handle my feelings:

Option #1 (the problem) - Remember? _____ Way (mine, mine, whine!)

Feelings → Walk → Belief → My Truth

The result is -

Matthew 15:18-20

18 ***But whatever comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this is what makes a man unclean and defiles [him]. For out of the heart come evil thoughts (reasonings and disputings and designs) such as murder, adultery, sexual vice, theft, false witnessing, slander, and irreverent speech.*** ***20*** ***These are what make a man unclean and defile [him]; ...*** **AMP**

Also Read James 3; James 4:1-2

Option #2 (the answer) - _____ Way

God's Truth → Belief → Walk → Feeling

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome. **AMP**

Philippians 4:8

For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them]. **AMP**

Proverbs 23:12

Apply your mind to instruction and correction and your ear to words of knowledge. **RSV**

Weekly Journal

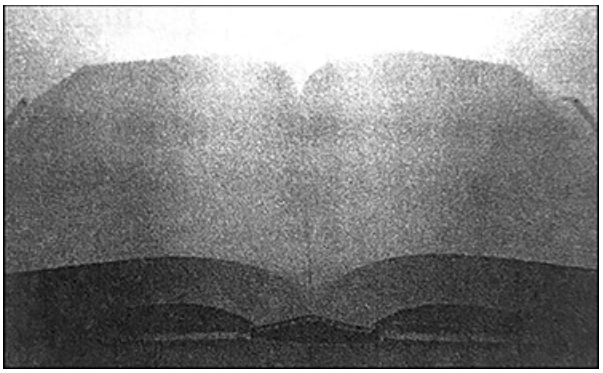
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Unit 5 - Your Mind



"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." **Romans 12:2**

Introduction

There is a parable or teaching in the Bible that gives us an idea of what this renewing your mind. thing looks like.

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, "I will return to my house from which I came." And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation. **Matthew 12:43-45 NKJV**

This same parable is related in Luke almost word for word.

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, "I will return to my house from which I came." And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. **Luke 11:24-26 NKJV**

I think this story creates a picture of our minds, and why it needs to be renewed. This probably wasn't necessarily what Jesus was trying to stress, but it seems to apply. Real simply when you clean out your mind the uncleanness goes away. Remember, when you accepted Jesus as Savior. You were so enthused and ready to change your life. After a couple of weeks, though, you began to have those old cravings. Remember? And then you just decided you couldn't do it. You were doing this on your own. You cannot. If you do not renew your mind by putting other things into it you'll find yourself in a worse state than when you began. You notice I'm not moralizing about what you put in. Jesus didn't either. It's just a fact that something is going to take up the space. You can put whatever you decide into it; whatever thoughts you think. But, if you put nothing into it you will find yourself back into the old habits.

Some suggest developing new habits. Some want to analyze us. Some of this may help no doubt. This isn't all bad. But, it's only a part of the recovery. I mean I can stick you in a room for 60 days and your body will be clean of the influence of the addiction. (This is an oversimplification, but you get my point). In order for you to maintain your recovery as well as get 100% of your entire life back, the other part that doesn't involve your recovery, you need to revert to God. There's no other alternative. You need to become complete. Some call this a higher power. I'm happy to report to you that He has a name.

We are made complete in Christ; 100%! A gift from Jesus!

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. **Colossians 2:10 NKJV**

The Bible says that when you have received Christ as Lord you have the mind of Christ.

For who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ. **2 Corinthians 2:16 NKJV**

You've put some new, and really good stuff into your Mind, and the demons can't get back in! You will be free!

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **John 8:31-32 NKJV**

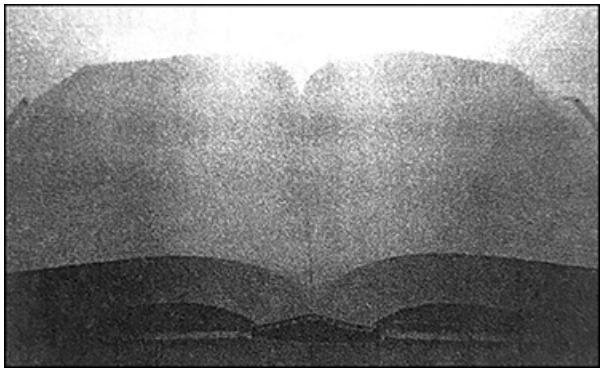
The word of God is given to men to renew them!

...and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. **Ephesians 4:23 NKJV**

Look! Transform your thinking! Stop being conformed to this world. Renew your mind. How? Pick up the scriptures, the bible that's been on your coffee table, and let God teach you His vision for your life; His plan to give you a Hope and a future.

Your Mind Notes

Your Mind



Lesson 1

"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."
Romans 12:2

If you don't control and discipline the thoughts that go into your mind you are in for trouble. They will contaminate your mind and create cancer in your thinking. You need to get in and clean your mind out; renovate the place where your thoughts are kept and come from. The scriptures give us a template for correct thinking

We try so hard to be good and to be correct and to be right. None of this works. Our efforts are useless. No matter how hard we try we end up doing the wrong thing. Our minds can only be renewed through the scripture. It's like washing or taking a bath. Jesus says, ***"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."*** **John 15:3 NKJV**

But renewing your mind requires effort on your part; a commitment from you. Those in Thessalonica searched out the scripture to prove that these things were true. You need to search out the scriptures, too. Just coasting isn't going to do anymore. You need to renew your mind so you can understand the acceptable will of God; so you can prove the perfect will of God in your life.

Memory verse:

Romans 12:2

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your <u>mind</u>, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." **NKJV**

What keeps us from God's way of doing things? Doors open by our thoughts and ideas controlled by our flesh that allow Satan to enter into the thinking room of your mind.

"'Mind' denotes, speaking generally, <u>the seat of reflective consciousness</u>, comprising the faculties of perception and understanding, and those of feeling, judging and determining". **(Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words)**

I'm thinking that our mind, and what is in it, is the basis for our thinking. Those ingredients that go into our mind, creating the way we think result in the things that come out of our mouths. If our mind is the store house of our thoughts, and we need to take our thoughts captive, then the Bible says we should give a good hard look at where we store our thoughts, and renew it. It helps to have a good sturdy cage when you're trying to capture something.

Matthew 15:17-20

Jesus says, ***"Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the _____, and they defile a man. For out of the _____ proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."*** **NKJV**

The NT Greek word for heart in the previous verse is *"kardia"*. The NT Greek word for mind is *"nous*". They are similar in meaning; the place where thoughts are to be captivated.

There are, as in most of our Christian experience, choices in ways to deal with our minds. Probably our #1 problem is trying to fix it ourselves or just ignore the whole issue, and continue to go our own way. This looks like:

Romans 1:21

Yes, _____ _____ _____, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their _____ became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they became utter fools instead. **NLT**

Another way, obviously, is to renew our mind as the Bible states. (When God works over our mind it often scares us and maybe even those around us. (YIKES!)

Luke 8:35

Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right _____. **NKJV**

This guy had an up front and personal mind renewal! It scared the daylights out of everyone!

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. **NKJV**

So, does that mean we should think nice and pleasant thoughts? Yes, and more. Fill your Mind with Truth.

Psalms 119:9

How can* a *young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your _____ (the Bible)**. NKJV**

Acts 17:11

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word (the Bible) ***with all readiness and _____ the Scriptures daily _____ _____ _____ whether these things were so.*** **NKJV**

When I talk with people more often than not they ask me to just tell them the truth. No games or excited rhetoric! Just the truth. I only know of one place to refer them to; a place to find the mind of God:

John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your _____ (the Bible) ***is truth.***

I'm telling you, this isn't rocket science, folks. Search the scriptures to find the Truth. And then, fill your mind with it.

Weekly Journal

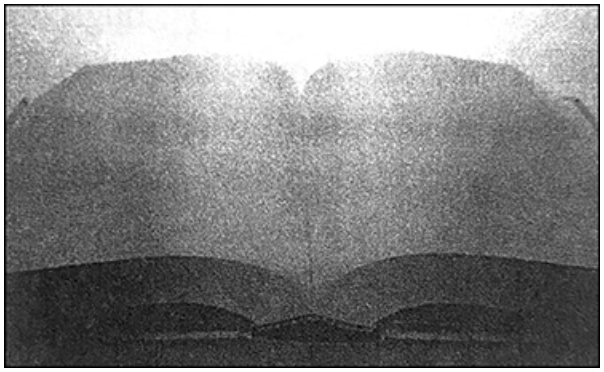
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Your Mind



Lesson 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."
Romans 12:2

The Bible says that its purpose, the reason God has given it to us, is, among other things "...for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, and is profitable for doctrine." In this lesson we'll look at four examples of people leaving the door open and the tempter using that to his advantage. Remember, his purpose is to destroy you. He uses your own problems against you. Remember he did to Eve and he will do it to you.

You see there isn't anything new under the sun. Your mistakes have already happened - over and over again in history. Learn from them. This is a renewing of your mind so you can prove what the good and acceptable and perfect will of God is.

We don't use the scripture to look others and point our finger at them. We use it to see how mistakes were made, if you will. To better understand the thinking behind bad choices. Then we don't have to go through the same thing. Are you listening? You don't have to go through the same thing. Learn the lesson. Learn the doctrine of scripture; accept the correction and reproof for your own life. Stop being conformed to this world.

Memory verse:

Romans 12:2

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your <u>mind</u>, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." **NKJV**

What keeps us from God's way of doing things? Doors open by our thoughts and ideas controlled by our flesh that allow Satan to enter into the thinking room of your mind.

Here are four examples from the Bible of people who didn't renew their minds. The door was left open to temptation (and to the Tempter), and their thinking began to wander.

Acts 5:3

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that _____ has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?" **NIV**

In Lesson 1 we learned that heart and mind can be synonymous. The door to his heart was left open. The money he kept really had nothing to do with the issue. He had lied. The "lying" was the issue here. Satan had filled his heart with incorrect thoughts. He lost everything, like some of you have. Renew your mind before it's too late!

And check this guy out!

John 13:2

The evening meal was being served, and the _____ had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. **NIV**

Prompted by whom? Have you been being prompted? You don't have to listen. Renew your mind!

And last, the great King of Israel! What was he thinking?

1 Chronicles 21:1

_____ rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. **NIV**

When we allow our mind to be controlled by our flesh, it retards God's plan in our lives. And are you catching this? It opens the door for Satan's deception. It's like "*we know better than God",* or we try to get around God. And it costs everyone around us! God removes himself from us.

Finally, in Psalms 107 we can see a good example of this by the way these people thought. Their minds were confused. Read Psalms 107. Pay attention to verses 6, 13, 19, & 28. After these people found themselves in trouble because their minds had been conformed to this world, then they repented and God was (as always) faithful to save them. This could be a good picture of how we do things wrong when our minds are not renewed.

The Tempter isn't original. He uses our own lusts to our destruction.

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. **1 John 2:16**

When you begin to think on these things - the lust of your eyes, the lust of your flesh, and the pride of your life, you open a door that allows temptation to begin to happen. And here's the result:

Romans 8:5-8

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their _____ set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their _____ set on what the Spirit desires. The _____ of sinful man is death, but the _____ controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful _____ is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. **NIV**

The mind of the spirit brings:	The mind of the sinful nature brings:
Life and peace	Rebellion, Rejection, and finally Death

As you read the next scripture see and compare it to the previous four examples, how could the four previous peoples have handled their situation if they had had a mind renewal?

James 4:1-10

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it. You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you'd be asking for what you have no right to. You're spoiled children, each wanting your own way. You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. And do you suppose God doesn't care? The proverb has it that "he's a fiercely jealous lover." And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find. It's common knowledge that "God goes against the willful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble. So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet. **MSG**

Weekly Journal

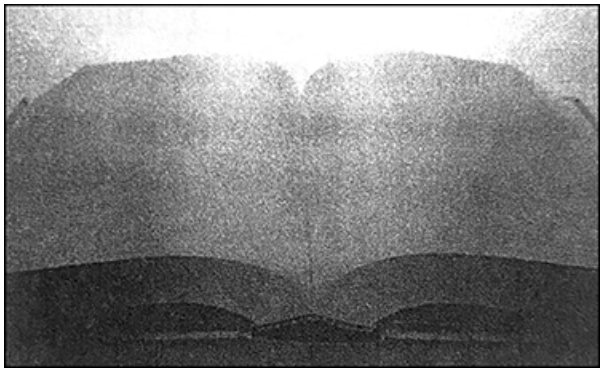
Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Your Mind



Lesson 3

"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."
Romans 12:2

Your Mind! You must prepare your mind. God's needing you to step up and act on behalf of the kingdom of Heaven. To do this your mind needs to be prepared.

You must control your mind. You must petition God on every issue. Submit your thinking to Him. Don't be anxious; be thankful, and let Him hear your request.

You must take your thoughts captive. You need to learn to make your mind and the thoughts in it, obedient to Christ.

You can't do any of this by yourself. Otherwise it wouldn't be Grace. You need God's Spirit in you to affect this change.

A large portion of this Christian experience, or "walk", is predicated of how you think. How you think is determined by what you allow into your mind, or "heart".

Prepare your self

Submit to God

Take your thoughts captive

Memory verse:

Romans 12:2

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your <u>mind</u>, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." **NKJV**

What keeps us from God's way of doing things? Doors open by our thoughts and ideas controlled by our flesh that allow Satan to enter into the thinking room of your mind.

"PST"

There's this image in the movies; it's almost comical. You've seen it. There's this person over in the shadows on a dark night standing on the street corner. They have something they want to give to you; to sale to you. And the monologue (one person) goes like this, ***"Pst! Hey, pst. Come over here. I have something for you. It'll make you feel really good."*** In Proverbs 7:6-27 in the Bible there is a similar picture; this woman is enticing a young man. In this image the experience leads to death.

I think God is trying to get your attention, too. His message, though, is that in Him there is abundant life, not death.

John 10:10

The thief 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. **NKJV**

So here's a little acronym I thought of to help me remember how to renew my mind.

- _____ your mind for action- *Be Holy*

1 Peter 1:13

Therefore, prepare your _____ for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. **NIV**

Then there's this scripture to remind you that freeing your mind requires a different type of weapon; a spiritual weapon.

2 Corinthians 10:4

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **NIV**

- _____ to God in prayer.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **NIV**

And don't forget this scripture. It will help you through many situations when your mind doesn't believe what's happening.

Philippians 4:13

I can do _____ through him who gives me strength. NIV

Finally

- _____ _____ every thought to the obedience of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:5

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. **NIV**

From the Old Testament Zechariah reminds us where our strength comes from. Strength for what? Strength to renew your mind. You've tried and know how hard it is. You and I need help.

Zechariah 4:6

So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit,' says the LORD Almighty. **NIV**

Weekly Journal

Apply this lesson to:

• My Family Life

• My Business/Work Life

• My Relationship with God

Bible Translation Acknowledgements

Several Bible translations and versions were used in this book to express God's Word. We appreciate the publishers' permissions for using their work. After the title of each Bible, we have included the abbreviation used throughout this book to identify the source of the Scripture.

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ANSWERS TO LESSONS

HOPE LESSON 1

Paul, *an apostle of Jesus Christ,* by *the commandment* of *God our savior and the Lord Jesus Christ,* **our hope...** 1 Timothy 1:1 *NKJV*

For I know the thoughts I have for you, "declares the LORD," plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you **hope** *and a future*. *Jeremiah 29:11 NIV*

There it is again; **Hope**!

Who is thinking about you? **The Lord**

What specifically is He thinking about? **His plans for you**.

Describe the plans He does not have for you. **Plans to harm you**.

Describe the plans He **does** have for you. **Plans for your hope** and **future**.

What does the "grace of God" teach me? It teaches me to say **no.**

It teaches me to say no to what? **Ungodliness** and **worldly passions**.

What else does it teach us? To live **self-controlled, upright** and **godly** lives.

So, when can I live a life free from my addiction? **In this present age** (NOW!)

What are we waiting for? **Our blessed HOPE**.

What is the "blessed hope"? **The glorious appearing** of **our great God** and **Savior**, **Jesus Christ**.

HOPE LESSON 2

How do I **escape** from this corruption of addiction? **Participate in His divine nature**.

How do I **participate** in His divine nature? Through His **great** and **precious** promises.

Where do these **promises** come from? By His own **glory** and **goodness**.

So what do I need? We have **everything** we need for **life** and **godliness**.

To faith, goodness (Morality)

- ⇨ To goodness, **knowledge** (Moral wisdom, understanding)
- ⇨ To knowledge, self-control (Controlling your lust)
- ⇨ To self-control, **perseverance** (Endurance, patience)
- ⇨ To **perseverance,** godliness (Reverence, respect)
- ⇨ To godliness, **brotherly love** (Mutual affection)
- ⇨ To **brotherly love**, love (Agape) 1 Corinthians 13

You will be: **ineffective, unproductive, nearsighted,** and **blind** in my Christian walk.

HOPE LESSON 3

This hope is not like wishing for something. We all wish for things. Maybe that's the difference. We wish for things; God has a plan of hope for us. His hope does not ***disappoint****.*

There is no **confidence** in wishing. Hope brings confidence. You're welcome to come to Him and ask, and confident that He will listen to you.
*But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become **children** of God. John 1:12 NLT*

*And because you Gentiles have become his **children,** God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and now you can call God your dear **Father**. Galatians 4:6 NLT*

*Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil**, your great enemy**. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. 1 Peter 5:8 NLT*

*Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has happened at last--the salvation and power and kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ! For the Accuser has been thrown down to earth--the one who accused our brothers and sisters before our God day and night. "And they have defeated him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their **testimony**. And they were not afraid to die. Revelation 12:10-11 NLT*

IDENTITY LESSON 1

Man was created to **rule;** to be the king and rule over

What was man (mankind) given dominion over? Be specific... **the entire earth**
But, Adam lost his kingdom and you died because of Adam's **transgression** (transgression, rebellion).

*For if, by the **trespasses** of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ." Romans 5:17 NIV*

*God is **not** interested in your **appearance**, **performance**, or **status**.*

God **is** interested in **Christ in** you.

IDENTITY LESSON 2

Man was created to be **obedient** to God

But, Adam lost his kingdom and you died because of **disobedience**

What was taken has been restored. You just need to acknowledge your **sin** and to accept **the free gift** from your creator.

IDENTITY LESSON 3

Man was created **correct** or **right** before God!

GOD originally created man to be **like Him**, a spirit being, and to participate with Him in His creation.

But, Adam lost his kingdom and you died because of **offences**

FAITH LESSON 1

Faith has substance; it is evidence. The substance is of things hoped for (sound familiar - your future and your hope; Jeremiah 11:29); but you can't see them. If you're hoping to stay clean and sober, there is hope for your victory. It's called faith.

If you want to say no to your addiction you must grow your faith. Your faith is your **victory**.

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our **faith** *1 John 5:4 NKJV*

Our **faith,** our adherence to, reliance on and trust in, this new birth through Jesus, which is from God, becomes our ability to say no to the world, i.e. our addiction (like the lust of your flesh).

Here's an example: Romans 10:9-10 *...that if you confess with your mouth* (You have to do this - **works**) *the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart* (you have to believe this **faith**) *that God 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. NKJV*

FAITH LESSON 2

So then faith comes by **hearing,** *and* **hearing** *by the word of God. Romans 10:17 NKJV*

...looking unto Jesus, he **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. Hebrews 12:2 NKJV*

For whatever is born of God **overcomes** *the world. And this is the victory that has* **overcome** *the world-- our faith. Who is he who* **overcomes** *the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:4-5 NKJV*

above all, taking the shield of **faith** *with which you will be able* to *quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Ephesians 6:16 NKJV*

But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from **faith** *is sin. Romans 14:23 NKJV*

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in **faith,** *with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. James 1:5-8 NKJV*

FAITH LESSON 3

Hebrews 11:1-24 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. [2] *For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.* [3] **By faith** *we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.'* [4] **By faith** *Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.* [5] **By faith** *Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him":* for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.* [6] *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* [7] **By faith** *Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.* [8] **By faith** *Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.* [9] **By faith** *he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;* [10] *for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.* [11] **By faith** *Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she* bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.* [12] *Therefore from one man, and*

him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. [13] These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. [14] For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. [15] And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. [16] But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. [17] **By faith** *Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son. [18] of whom it was said "In Isaac your seed shall be called," [19] concluding his that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. [20]* **By faith** *Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. [21]* ***By faith*** *Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. [22]* **By faith** *Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. [23]* **By faith** *Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. [24]* **By faith** *Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter...* NKJV

So, by Faith:

- Paul **understood that the worlds were framed by the word of God** Heb. 11:3
- Abel **offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain** Hebrews 11:4
- Enoch **was taken away so that he did not see death** Hebrews11:5
- Noah **prepared an ark for the saving of his household** Hebrews 11:7
- Abraham **obeyed** Hebrews 11:8
- Sarah **herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she* bore a child when she was past the age** Hebrews 11:11
- Jacob **when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff** Hebrews 11:21
- Moses **when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter..."** Hebrews 11:24

THOUGHTS LESSON 1

- **life** STIMULATES **thoughts**
- **thoughts** TRIGGER **feelings**
- **feelings** LEAD TO **behavior** or **responses**
- What you feel is triggered by how you **think.**

My Method	God's Method
My feelings	God's Truth
Leads to	Leads to
My walk (habit)	Godly belief
Leads to	Leads to
My belief	Godly walk (habits)
Leads to	Leads to
My truth	Godly feelings

THOUGHTS LESSON 2

3. THE PROBLEM is MY thinking

Fear - to be afraid of: expect with alarm

Guilt - feelings of culpability (meriting condemnation or blame) especially for imagined offenses or from a sense of inadequacy

Anger - fury, indignation, ire, mad, rage, wrath

Loneliness - being without company; cut off from others; not frequented by human beings; sad from being alone; producing a feeling of bleakness or desolation.

Pain - acute mental or emotional distress or suffering

4. THE ANSWER is **GOD'S thinking**; He turns or changes my thoughts

- Our fear into **reverence**
- Our guilt to **repentance**
- Our loneliness to **relationship**
- Our anger to **righteousness**
- Our pain to **recovery**

THOUGHTS LESSON 3

Your **Life**	Your **Thoughts** Take these captive!
Your **Feelings**	Your **Behavior**

- ⇨ Fear: Show Reverence **before** God
- ⇨ Guilt: Create Repentance **back** to God
- ⇨ Loneliness: Search for Relationship **with** God
- ⇨ Anger: Express Righteousness **for** God
- ⇨ Pain: Receive Recovery **from** God

Option #1 (the problem) - Remember? **MY** Way (mine, mine, whine!)

Option #2 (the answer) **- GODS** Way

MIND LESSON 1

Jesus says, "Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the **heart***, and they defile a man. For out of the* **heart** *proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man." Matthew 15:17-20 NKJV*

Yes, **they knew God***, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they became utter fools instead. Romans 1:21 NLT*

Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right **mind. And they were afraid***. Luke 8:35 NKJV*

MIND LESSON 2

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that **satan** *has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?" Acts 5:3*

The evening meal was being served, and the **devil** *had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. John 13:2 NIV*

Satan *rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel, 1 Chronicles 21:1 NIV*

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their **mind** *set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their* **mind** *set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the* **mind** *controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Romans 8:5-8 NIV*

MIND LESSON 3

Prepare your mind for action- *Be Holy*

Therefore, prepare your **mind** *for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:13 NIV*

Submit to God in prayer.

I can do **everything** *through him who gives me strength. Phillipians 4:13 NIV*

Take captive every thought to the obedience of Christ.

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your **word** (the Bible)*" Psalms 119:9*

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word (the Bible) *with all readiness, and* searched *the Scriptures daily* **to find out** *whether these things were so. Acts 17:11 NKJV*

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your **word** (the Bible) *is truth. John 17:17 NKJV*