I Love My Addiction

A Program with a Purpose – Exposing Your Value to God

1 Corinthians 16:15

Lesson Eleven Exchange Your Worry for Worship

I am sure that you have noticed the fact that just because you are now sober, or at the very least, in your heart you desire to be sober, all of your problems have not miraculously gone away. For some, it may feel like your trials have increased since your decision to clean up your lives. Troubles and trials most generally will create fear coupled with worry. Many people will return to a substance to help them overcome their anxieties—often referred to as, prescription drugs! As you have come to know, a substance will only camouflage the trial, but the Saviour will calm it, And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him (Luke 8:25). When storm arises, don't tell Jesus about the storm, He already knows, but tell the storm about Jesus!

In the above passage, the disciples had been working vigorously to keep the ship from sinking, while the answer to all their problems was asleep in the bottom of the ship.

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm (Luke 8:22-24).

Let us survey the events of this dreadful storm:

- 1. The Good Shepherd, Jesus Himself, told the men that they were to get in the ship and go to the other side – Let us go over unto the other side of the lake
- 2. The disciples were very obedient— And they launched forth
- 3. Jesus took a nap But as they sailed he fell asleep



- 4. Even when they were right in the middle of God's will, and heading where He directed them, there arose a great storm – and there came down a storm of wind on the lake
- 5. They remained worried and fearful for their lives until the ship was filled and all their personal efforts of bailing out the water had failed – and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy
- 6. When all else failed, they called on their Master for help And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish
- 7. Jesus was moved to action by their cries **Then he arose**
- 8. When the Master took charge, the waters stood still and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.

The disciples had already witnessed Jesus cast out devils (Luke 4:35), heal the fever of Simon's wife's mother (Luke 4:39), cleanse the leper and in Luke 5:18, He healed the man with the palsy (Matthew 4:24). When their own great storm arose, instead of worshiping, they worried that they were going to die!

There are many different ways to worship the LORD. After the disciples witnessed the feeding of the five-thousand and Jesus walk on the water, the Bible says that they worshiped Him and the storm ceased, And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshiped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God (Matthew 14:32, 33). This form of worship was as simple as openly declaring that Jesus is GOD! The more you realize who Jesus, the Good Shepherd really is, the easier it will be to trust Him to help you in your storms of life!

The whole object lesson in this Biblical, historical event can be found in this simple truth; when your storm comes, you can either try to bail yourself out or let the LORD do it for you! Even though Jesus was asleep, He was more than ready to come to their rescue. Your addictions are not too hard for God to handle—He calmed the storm with His words, *Then he arose, rebuked the wind* and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm (Luke 8:24). This is the reason why it is so important to spend time in the Word of God; His Words will give you a reason worship! It has been said that the B-i-b-l-e stands for, BASIC INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE LEAVING EARTH!



And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. (1 Peter 5:4-10)

We have the formula to remove worry found in the above text:

- 1. Allow the Chief Shepherd, Jesus—our Instructor and Saviour, to be your resting place And when the chief Shepherd shall appear
- 2. Submission to the elder, the program director or pastor, will wake up Jesus to your trial Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. You may be older in years than your instructor, but they are older in their Christian faith. They have had Jesus bailing them out for years—the School of Hard Knocks. Learn from their lumps, it will not hurt near as bad!
- 3. Turn your worries over to Jesus. He is by far more capable of making sure the outcome pleases Him – Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
- 4. Be constantly aware of the fact that the enemy is setting traps for you to fall into Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour:** These traps are usually set in old familiar places:
 - a. The old stores you shopped in
 - b. Old restaurants where you used to eat
 - c. Parks you walked in



- d. Be very careful not to walk into one of these traps. Change your patterns, places and the people you spend your time with.
- 5. Then, He gives us our assurance that we have made the best, the wisest and most beneficial decision - after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

One of the most difficult hurtles to overcome is to totally release our worries over to our Saviour. To do so is to goes against everything inside of us which has led us to believe that we can fix our troubles without the help of anyone, including God. Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies (Psalm 60:11, 12). When you replace your worries with worship towards the God of Heaven, the Creator, Instructor and Good Shepherd, you will find yourself in good hands!

Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me. Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High. What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me (Psalm 56:1-4).

Jesus expounded on this Psalm in the New Testament when He said, And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:28).

Once you have decided in your heart to go to Jesus, wake Him up to your needs and cast all of your worries on Him, be sure to replace your worry with your worship! Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth (John 9:31). You will be astounded how this simple exchange of worry for worship will give you peace in your heart and power over your destructive addictions. One preacher said it this way, Worship without doubt is the barometer of one's spiritual life. To register in heaven, worship must be ...in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

In John Chapter nine, we have the recorded historical event of Jesus, our Master, our Shepherd, our Guide and our God, healing a man that was born blind. The Pharisees hassled this man, then they went to his parents for answers and back to him for the source of his healing. He told them over and over that it was Jesus that healed him. He then reminded these so-called religious leaders of the day, that God will hear those who worship Him, but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth (John 9:31).



- 1. Jesus not only gave this man a complete physical healing over his blindness, but He also gave him boldness to proclaim the truth about his Saviour, Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing (John 9:32, 33). He told the men that it had to be God who healed him! We too need to be ready and willing to tell others how we have found Jesus, how He has saved us from our sin and changed our destructive addictions into productive habits.
- 2. When the Pharisees could not get the answer they wanted, they ridiculed him and kicked him out of their presence, They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out (John 9:34). My dear friends, just like this blind man, you are valuable to the LORD. He specializes in one-on-one encounters with sinners. It is His desire to forgive your sins, cleanse your ways and then commune with you through worship. I am quite sure that the blind man was much happier in the presence of Jesus than He was around that old religious crowd. You too will find your time with the LORD much more satisfying than worrying what will happen tomorrow!
- 3. Jesus wanted to reassure this man that He, the Living Son of God, was also God the Son and the healer of his blindness: Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. (John 9:35-37).
- 4. Once the man was reassured of the source of his healing, he entered into worshipping the Saviour, And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him (John 9:38). What will it take to get you to your knees? If you will simply believe that Jesus can heal you because He is God, then let the truth of His Word cause you to worship! Jesus wants to have a one-on-one encounter with you! He does not want you to worry what your friends or family members think, He wants you to have a personal relationship with Him!

The first time we see the word worship, is in the account of Abraham and Isaac, And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you (Genesis 22:5). God was testing Abraham's faith when He told him to sacrifice the promised son. You can see the complete trust by his total obedience to the command of God. As Abraham prepared to take his son to the altar of sacrifice, he informed the men with him that he was going on to **worship** the LORD and they both would return.



- 1. Abraham did not complain
- 2. He did not question
- 3. He did not wait
- 4. He did not worry
- 5. He immediately set out to worship

Just before the knife that was in Abraham's hands was to be plunged into the heart of Isaac, God spoke, And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me (Genesis 22:12).

The very instrument that was designed to take the life of young Isaac was used to cut the ropes that had him bound—the first switch blade. The devil tried to use the cross to kill the Saviour, but God took that instrument of death and has used it for generations to cut the binding cords of sin so all mankind can be made free!

Notice what God learned about Abraham through his lack of worry and his willing spirit, for now I know that thou fearest God. This statement was made by S. Franklin Logsdon's in his book, The Fear of God:

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil (Proverbs 8:13), but the reader will soon discover that the fear of God cannot be defined specifically, adequately or satisfactorily. What may be discovered, however, is that the whole interesting and important matter resolves itself to a definite consciousness of the Divine presence *in the daily life of a believer*. S. Franklin Logsdon

To effectively teach the fear of God would take hours, but the fundamental and simple truth is to realize that you cannot ever be in a place where God is not there. I believe you will understand a little better about dwelling in His presence as we see the size of God explained in the Scriptures, Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together (Isaiah 48:12, 13).



Let's talk about His hand for a minute; it was reported on January 11, 2018 that Nasa's Hubble Telescope found a cluster of stars 13.3 billion light years away from the planet earth.

A light year is how far light travels in one year. Light travels at the rate of 186,000 miles per second, so, this means: if you were to get into a rocket ship and travel at the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second, 5.88 trillion miles a year, it would take 13.3 billion years just to get from the tip of God's thumb to the tip of His little finger. That is just shy of 80 sextillion miles away—80 with 21 zeros following it. That is just the span of His hand!

So, if His hand is that big and the average man is almost eight hands tall, that would make God in the neighborhood of 640 sextillion miles tall! Now, just try to do something without Him knowing! Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart (Psalm 44:21). Or take comfort in the fact that He has everything in your life and ministry completely under control! Why worry when you can worship!

- 1. His hand will hold you up in time of trouble Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness (Isaiah 41:10). God is concerned about the individual person; notice how He said, I will strengthen thee... and uphold thee; thee is singular; that means you!
- 2. The Psalmist was confident in the Hand that points to you as He dispatches the host of angels to your rescue - Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation (Psalm 91:9-16).
- 3. His hand is a safe place My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand (John 10:27-29). Any man includes yourself!



- 4. His hand is a secure place If you think you can lose your salvation friend, get in a rocket ship and start flying at the rate of 186,000 miles per second, 5.88 trillion miles a year! After 13.3 billion years, you will get to the edge of His hand only to find that the Holy Ghost of God has sealed off all exits! In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (Ephesians 1:13).
- 5. His hand will call the believers into unity; He will use His word to do it Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD (2 Chronicles 30:12).
- 6. His hand is one of instruction I will teach you by the hand of God: that which is with the Almighty will not I conceal (Job 27:11).
- 7. His hand will insure a good hot meal and a cold coke to wash it down *There is nothing* better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God (Ecclesiastes 2:24).
- 8. It can also be used in the chastening process Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it. Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite {return for wrongdoing} it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless (Psalm 10:13, 14) (definition added).
- 9. It is much better to have the hand of God securing, protecting, providing and caring for you than to have the massive hand of God disciplining His child for wrongdoing - **Break** thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till thou find none. The LORD is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land (Psalm 10:15, 16). Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand (Psalm 39:10).

Jeremiah, through the inspiration of God, said it like this, Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD (Jeremiah 23:24). You can run, but you cannot hide! With this in mind, why not enjoy His presence instead of dodging it! With the God of Heaven, the Creator of the Universe and the Author and Finisher of our Faith desiring to be with us, how can we not want to be with Him! It would be like responding to God's plea to journey through life with Him by saying, It's ok, I will take a cab;



when He says, Get in my Rolls Royce and let's go for a ride! The more you realize how big God is, the smaller your problems will become!

The driving force behind this program is knowing that God will one day look down at the soul who served self instead of the Saviour and use His left hand to point to the Lake of Fire saying those much-dreaded words, Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: (Matthew 25:41).

The last time the phrase the *Hand of God* is used gives us the complete formula needed for a successful and satisfying life - Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: (1 Peter 5:6).

- 1. You take your place in His plan and He will take your place in the problems
- 2. You must allow God to be God
- 3. You must realize you need Him more than your next breath
- 4. Humble yourself and ask for His help
- 5. Fully trust that He is able and willing to restore you

LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear: To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress (Psalm 10:17, 18).

To **fear the LORD** (dwell in His presence) is an amazing place of comfort and strength:

- 1. It will give you confidence that He can turn your destructive addictions into productive habits - Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land (Psalm 85:9).
- 2. It will give you deliverance from your enemies But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies (2 Kings 17:39).
- 3. It will give peace in the recovery process For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him (Psalm 103:11).



- 4. It will produce fruit beyond your wildest imagination By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life (Proverbs 22:4).
- 5. It will help you maintain a healthy thought life *Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you* (1 Samuel 12:24).
- 6. It will keep your tongue bridled King David was a God-fearing man. This was his prayer, I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me (Psalm 39:1).
- 7. It will give you courage to step out on faith and do great things for the LORD **And Joseph** said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God: (Genesis 42:18).
- 8. It will cause you to worship Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing (Psalm 100:2).

I believe the one missing element that creates a desire to serve the LORD and become soul-winners, like Jesus was, can be found in one simple word — WORSHIP! A constant attitude of resting in His presence creates a continual attitude of worshipping the Saviour! We see that Jesus taught the woman at the well this truth, *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23, 24).*

Worship - Chiefly and eminently {in a degree to attract observation}, the act of paying divine honors to the Supreme Being; or the reverence and homage {respect paid by external action} paid to him in religious exercises, consisting in adoration, confession, prayer, thanksgiving and the like. (Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

When true worship is exercised, you will not notice or care what those around you are saying, thinking or doing—it is a **YOU AND GOD MOMENT!**

The marks of a true worshiper of God are found in his character:

They will only listen to music that brings honor and glory to the Name of God, not music
that calls for idol worship – Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O
people, nations, and languages, That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet,



flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: (Daniel 3:4).

- 2. They will trust Him with everything they have And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me (Genesis 22:12).
- 3. The true worshiper will continually enjoy the pleasures of God presence *Thou wilt shew* me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore (Psalm 16:11).
- 4. They will do everything He commands This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).
- 5. If they fail, they will ask for forgiveness and strength to do better! David prayed this prayer after his sin with Bathsheba *Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD* (1 Samuel 15:25).

Worship – To honor with extravagant love and extreme submission; To adore; to pay divine honors to; to reverence with supreme respect and veneration.

Veneration – The highest degree of respect and reverence; respect mingled with some degree of awe; a feeling or sentiment excited by the dignity and superiority of a person, or by the sacredness of his character, and with regard to place, by its consecration to sacred services.

Worship is not reserved for church services! The very best times I have ever experienced in my life was in my personal time with God; a one-on-one encounter.

- 1. As I read my Bible and was in an attitude of prayer, I could sense the presence of God so real that nothing else in the whole world mattered!
- 2. Sometimes just going down the road listening to godly music, or preaching or even taking in the breathtaking views of God's creation will usher me into His very presence!



3. Giving is also a form of worship – And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God: (Deuteronomy 26:10).

These lessons are designed to teach you how to love the LORD, how to serve Him and how to properly worship Him. The Word of God gives us the clear results for <u>not</u> learning and applying His ways to our lives, *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children, (Hosea 4:6). Hosea 4:6 ends with a comma because God had a little bit more information for you concerning those who choose to willingly remain ignorant, <i>As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame* (Hosea 4:7).

Be careful for nothing {do not worry}; **but in every thing by prayer and supplication** {earnest prayer and worship} **with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God** (Philippians 4:6). The secret to success is found in this verse

- 1. Don't worry
- 2. Pray hard
- 3. Worship the LORD
- 4. Be thankful
- 5. Let God know your needs
- 6. Trust Him with the answer, even if it is **No**!

You will find that removing worry and replacing it with worship will take you to a much higher level in your new walk of life. Stay in His presence and praise Him at all times. He is seeking that type of believers, ... for the Father seeketh such to worship him (John 4:23). Always remember, God needs you!

- 1. What fact should you have noticed by now?
- 2. What did the disciples do when the storm arose?



- 3. What is the first item mentioned in the formula for removing worry?
- 4. Name the four old familiar places mentioned where traps may be set to lure you back into your old addiction?
- 5. What is one of the most difficult hurtles to overcome?
- 6. What else did Jesus give the blind man besides a complete physical healing over his blindness?
- 7. Where is the first time the word **worship** used? Write out the verse.
- 8. What is the one missing element that creates a desire to serve the LORD and become soulwinners?
- 9. How can you tell when true worship is being exercised?
- 10. What will removing worry and replacing it with worship do for you?

(Answers to these questions are all located within the pages of this lesson)

Regardless of what you have been told or even what you may think, God loves you enough to make you free from your destructive addictions and restore your life to the purpose in which He created you—Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (Revelation 4:11). By changing your shepherd from self to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, you will begin to bring God the pleasure you were created for. God wants to use you to tell others how to receive the same freedom you now have and introduce lost souls to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins (James 5: 20).

God the Father wants His children to be successful and prosperous, Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long (Psalm 35:27, 28). As you continue to trust in your new Shepherd, Jesus, He will make you prosperous so you can cheerfully, without being ashamed, tell others about His great love—you are valuable in His eyes! Restore unto me the joy



of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee (Psalm 51:12, 13).

Seek Knowledge
Apply the new-found Knowledge and Wisdom to your life
Then, teach others the secret to your success!

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:19).

Memory Verse:

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God (Philippians 4:6).

Suggested reading:

- A chapter of Proverbs each day according to the day of the month
- Genesis 22

Model Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the free pardon of my sin! Thank You for welcoming me into your family! Please help me to always worship You and praise You for everything in my life. Help me to always be aware of Your presence! I need You to guide me and I ask You to give me the strength to follow! In the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Master, I pray, Amen.

Be sure to pass out at least five Gospel tracts this week and invite at least one person to come to class with you next week. Use your past to build your future!

