

I Love My Addiction

A Program with a Purpose – Exposing Your Value to God

1 Corinthians 16:15

Lesson Nine

A Direct Line

O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth; O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen. He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth. (Psalm 105:1-7)

As the previous lesson instructed, telling the truth to yourself and others will prove to be one of the most effective ways to enjoy peace in your heart and freedom from former addictions. We are now close to half way through the curriculum designed to launch your new life of freedom. Someone once said, that the mind is a horrible thing to waste.

In this lesson, we will see the need to rely on the Source of your strength for your new life and call on Him daily for His help. You will need to remove all self-reliance and seek His help through prayer. Prayer is simply you talking to God like He is in the room with you. You must not talk to Him like he is just one of the guys, but like you are having a discussion with someone of great authority; like you were talking with the President of the United States. I have heard of people who actually set up two chairs in their prayer place—one for them and the other for God. God wants to be personally involved with all of your decisions. You will be wonderfully surprised how He will lead you in your daily activities as you include Him through prayer!

We have a great example of how to pray given to us by Jesus, our Instructor. After the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He gave us a pattern that instructs us how to form our prayers:

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13)

Notice the format in which Jesus instructed His disciples how to pray:

1. Jesus taught us to give God the Father reverence – ***Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*** He recognized that God was in the Father's position, He was in Heaven and was to be held in the highest possible regard.
2. Jesus instructed us to let God know that you believe that one day Christ will set up His kingdom on the earth – ***Thy kingdom come***
3. This prayer demonstrated that Jesus gave God full power over every situation in His life – ***Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven***
4. We are instructed to only ask for daily needs, not riches on earth – ***Give us this day our daily bread***
5. He also teaches us to ask for forgiveness for our sins and the power to forgive others for theirs – ***And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*** A former Viet Nam veteran said that forgiveness is the well in which we draw the water to wash the enemy's feet! Remember, Jesus washed the feet of Judas Iscariot before he went from the upper room to betray Him.
6. Then Jesus instructed them to ask for His help to deliver them from all the temptations of evil – ***And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*** Our Instructor wanted us to know that we have an enemy that is much stronger than we are. We must rely on the help of the Saviour to keep us from the tempter's traps.

When communicating with God, use the format noted above that Jesus Himself gave to the disciples. This format gave the disciples the strength to carry the Gospel message around the world. It worked for the disciples and it will work for you.

When you accept the fact that you cannot conquer an addiction to sinful pleasure with your own will-power and strength, you will then gain the advantage against the enemy. **No man alive is a match for the devil without the help of God!** You must daily call on your Instructor, Jesus, for His help to overcome the temptations that will lead you back into the dreadful ways that have made a wreck of your life! He will be there to rescue you, ***Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou***

wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath {violent anger} of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me (Psalm 138:6, 7).

Thank God we have a High Priest that has cleared the way for us to enter into the presence of God with our requests! **Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need** (Hebrews 4:14-16). Every born-again child of God has direct access to summons God for assistance anytime! **Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep** (Psalm 121:4). **YOU WILL NEVER GET A BUSY SIGNAL!**

In our text verses (Psalm 105:1-7) you can easily see the outline for communicating with God. This is not a ritualistic prayer where you recite the same words over and over; it is personal and direct communication between you and the Creator of the universe, coupled with a behavior habit totally opposite from the destructive addiction ways (calling for help from God instead of relying on your own will power).

Notice the outline the Psalmist gives as he entered into the presence of God through prayer:

1. He first worshiped the LORD by giving thanks – **O give thanks unto the LORD**
2. He then calls upon the glorious name of Jesus Christ, our Instructor, for His advice and help – **call upon his name**
3. He is not ashamed to tell others about the wonderful work of restoration Jesus did in his life – **make known his deeds among the people**
4. As lesson seven so clearly taught us the importance of Godly music, we see the Psalmist singing songs of praise to God and singing Psalms – **Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him.**

MAKE IT A DAILY HABIT TO READ FIVE CHAPTERS OF PSALMS EACH DAY, NOT JUST FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE, BUT BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR READING, CALL ON GOD AND READ THEM TO HIM!

5. Just in case we did not get it the first time, the Psalmist reminded us to not be ashamed to tell others about the God of Heaven, the Creator of the Universe, our LORD and Saviour

and your personal Instructor – ***talk ye of all his wondrous works. YOU ARE VALUABLE! GOD NEEDS YOU TO BE HIS WITNESS!***

6. Regularly worship and praise Him for Who He is and what He has done for you – ***Glory ye in his holy name***
7. Always run to Him for help, advice and instruction – ***Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.*** This is consciously dwelling in His presence every moment of your life. God is everywhere at all times. God knows exactly what you are thinking and doing every waking moment of your life. Since He is always in your presence, take time to talk to Him in prayer!
8. I do believe that one of the most important elements is changing your destructive addiction into a productive one, is to constantly remind yourself of the goodness of God and His longsuffering love for you – ***Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth; O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen. He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth.***

The man that tries to conquer his destructive additions without a daily walk with Jesus may be successful for a season, but most generally, the same destructive ways that stole their friends, families, futures and finances will be knocking on their heart’s door even louder and stronger than they ever were before.

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

(Matthew 12:43-45)

A steady diet of Scripture must be a part of your daily exercise in order to successfully replace self-reliance into totally trusting on God’s help. Read, memorize and quote Scripture; sing spiritual songs and Psalms, and then read some more and quote some more and sing some more! ***Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction. I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.*** (Psalm 119:92, 93).

When you fill your life with the LORD and His Word, there will be no room for the devil and his miserable demons to come back in! Fill your heart and mind with the presence of God at all times.

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. (Psalm 139:1-10)

Pastor Lynn Janney made this statement, **When I return to my house, I found out it was no longer mine, but filled with His presence.** There is nowhere to run or hide from the presence of the Almighty God. Whether you recognize the fact that He is present or continue on as if He is nowhere in sight, the fact remains that God is everywhere!

By choosing to consciously live in the presence of God every waking moment of your life, by filling each area of your life with His presence it will leave no room for the devil to dwell:

If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. (Ephesians 4:21-27)

Choosing to rely on the God's Word for instruction, and guidance instead of your own schemes and plans, will keep you robed in His power to keep the demons out of business in your life, **But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof** (Romans 13:14). It is a choice that you will have to make, **Submit** {yielding to God's instructions} **yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double**

minded (James 4:7, 8). God will not share you with your sinful ways. If you truly want His help, you will have to do it His way! He offers His wisdom with no limits to all who ask for it – free refills forever!

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth {accusing or charge with something wrong or disgraceful} not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. (James 1:5-8)

On the other hand, the man that plays games with God should never expect His help – ***For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.***

Out of gratitude for the goodness of God in the Psalmist’s life, he posed this question and then gave his answer, ***What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people*** (Psalm 116:12-14).

1. The Psalmist chose to accept the free gift of eternal life by a desire to turn away from the destructive habits and turn to the source of all productive addictions, His Saviour, Instructor and Master – ***I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD***
2. He was willing to do his best to follow through with all the promises he made to God – ***I will pay my vows unto the LORD now***
3. He was not ashamed to proclaim his allegiance to the God of Heaven. He knew God was fully responsible for his complete and total change from being addicted to the ungodly, worldly pleasures and switching over to an addiction to the ministry! He changed Masters and openly proclaimed it – ***in the presence of all his people.***

As this passage continues, we hear the passion of this former addict as he makes his promises public the second time:

O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the

***presence of all his people, In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee,
O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD (Psalm 116:16-19).***

1. The Psalmist spoke to God and made his commitment to Him vocal – ***O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid:***
2. He stated the reason for his desire to serve God – ***thou hast loosed my bonds*** – God had made him **ADDICTION FREE**
3. He was willing to sacrifice his time, money and talents to serve God as a way of thanking Him for His help – ***I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving***
4. He also included the maintenance program – ***and will call upon the name of the LORD*** – he will continue to call on God for daily help
5. He made his allegiance to the LORD public – ***I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people***
6. But now, he added where he found help and where he was going to continue to reside – ***In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee.*** It is vitally important that you find a church that preaches and teaches God's Word without apology and become an active member serving God in His house.

The author of this Psalm realized that he was once on a direct path to a miserable destructive life that would ultimately lead him to Hell. It was probably some former addict that found him in the gutter, told him about a program that could save his life and took him to the house of God where he was introduced to the One that would make him free. This former addict invited him to church, he heard the Gospel message preached, invited the new Master into his heart, was made free from his bondage and wanted everyone in the world to know it! This is one testimony God made sure was recorded in the pages of His Divine Library!

My dear friends, this is the purpose God has for each one of you. If you will fully trust in Jesus to make you free; He promised He would do as you have asked! After you have made Jesus your Saviour, make a commitment to serve Him with all of your energy and He will use you for the very purpose you were created for—bringing Him pleasure by telling others about Christ! By telling others about your new Master, you will be proving your love to Jesus and to all those who are encouraged and influenced by your testimony, ***I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love*** (2 Corinthians 8:8).

There is another book in Heaven that this Psalmist is writing. It has not yet been released yet due to the fact that it is not yet complete; the title is, ***The Book of Remembrance***.

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. (Malachi 3:16, 17)

There is a heavenly being recording every word spoken about the LORD and every thought of God that runs through your mind. The authors that have the most volumes in this book, are the ones who love the LORD and fully enjoy dwelling in His presence at all times, ***Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little*** (Luke 7:47).

The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. The LORD is nigh {near} unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. The LORD preserveth {uphold or sustain} all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever. (Psalm 145:17-21)

King David, the author of this Psalm, had complete and total confidence in the LORD and all of His ways. He totally relied on God for every area of his life. He knew by experience that when he tried to take care of life's problems his way, failure was inevitable. But through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, King David told us some very important truths that will surely aid in turning destructive habits into a productive addiction.

1. God will be right by your side when you call on Him for help – ***The LORD is nigh {near} unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth***
2. God will give you the desires of your heart – ***He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them***
3. He will keep you safe from injury and destruction and guard you from evil – ***The LORD preserveth {uphold or sustain} all them that love him***

4. King David also slipped in a reminder to all those who choose not to follow the Almighty Instructor's teachings – ***but all the wicked will he destroy***
5. He then was used of God for the very purpose He was created for; telling others how to be saved from their sins and live forever in Heaven – ***My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.***

Always remember that God needs you to tell everyone you come in contact with about His simple plan of Salvation. Faith will come to the unbelievers as they hear what He did for you!

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:13-17)

This lesson has been designed to help you see that you can call on God for help, through prayer, anytime you need Him. A wolf will fight his own battles, but a sheep will cry out to his Shepherd for help when trouble arises! Jesus is the Shepherd of the sheep, He will keep them safe from the wolves of this world.

Questions:

1. In this lesson, what will we see the need to do?
2. What does this lesson teach us to remove and what should it be replaced with?
3. What does this phrase mean, ***Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven?***
4. You must realize that you cannot conquer an addiction to pleasure with what?
5. You are no match for _____.
6. What does the Psalmist first do as he entered into the presence of God through prayer?

7. What did the Psalmist remind us to do?
8. What is one of the most important elements in changing your destructive addiction into a productive one?
9. What is the name of the other book being written in Heaven?
10. What does God need you to do?

(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:

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

Suggested reading:

- A chapter of Proverbs each day according to the day of the month
- 5 chapters of Psalms daily
- Read Psalm 145

Model Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, please help me to always be aware of Your presence in my life. Please help me to ask Your advice with every decision I make. I need Your help on a daily basis to overcome the old destructive habits that have robbed me of my joy! I love You and need You more every day! In the name of Jesus, 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!