

Come let us Grow Together: Addictions and Afflictions

Come let us Grow Together is a weekly series that deals with the many topical categories that exist within the Word of God. The purpose of this series is to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in things pertaining to God.

When it comes to addictions whatever they may be, to beat the cycle of defeat, guilt, frustration, condemnation, etc., you must first acknowledge your problem. Then you must take your problem to God through repentance. You must tell God you are sorry for your sins and that you need His help to break this cycle of addiction that you are afflicted with. The second thing you must do is to make yourself accountable to another person.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16) He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. (Pro 28:13)

When you confess your faults one to another this should be someone you have confidence in and trust. This person should be someone that you can depend on that will not tell others of your problems and also one who will take your problem before God with you.

You also need to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. This is done by developing a deeper understanding of the Word of God and through praying daily. We then use the Word of God to change our thoughts, attitudes, and overall behavior.

Do not condemn or judge yourself when you mess up, but rather confess your sins to Jesus and repent of them. Judging and condemning yourself will only bring forth feelings of guilt, shame, feelings of no self worth, and ultimately depression.

Remember it is God who justifies the ungodly and not we ourselves and we are of much more value in the eyes of God than many sparrows.

Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. (Lk 12:6-7)

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. (Rm 4:4-5)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn 1:9)

It is important to understand and remember that we do not earn forgiveness and none of us are worthy of the Lord's mercy or forgiveness. Yet, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only

begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (Jn 3:16) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Rm 8:3-4)

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. (Rm 8:13) For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (Rm 8:6-7)

It is highly important that you begin to learn scriptures that you may, “fight the good fight of faith,” and “lay hold on eternal life.” (1 Tim 6:12a) And that you may put on the whole armour of God to fight against the enemy of your soul. (Eph 6:10-18) <-----Read this.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (1 Pet 1:13) The word gird means to encircle or secure with a belt or band. Abstain from all appearance of evil. (1 Thess 5:22)

Understand what is taking place:

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. (James 1:12-15)

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Cor 6:19-20)

Submit 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) 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. (1 Peter 5:8-9)

Remember “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Phil 4:13) Therefore be not of a doubtful mind. (Lk 12:29b)