

GRACE for Addictions

A One Step Program

Part 1

BELIEVE

Mark 9:23 "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." The one step is BELIEVE!

BEING DELIVERED FROM ADDICTIONS

You can be addicted to anything. An addiction is a craving in the mind that you allow to control your life. Most people think that addictions are either drugs or alcohol. However, even dedicated church goers may be addicted to cigarettes, gossip, sex, the approval of others, work, opposing themselves, etc. Many try to "kick" the habit or addiction in their own strength, but that seldom works. All of us need something stronger. We need our belief system challenged.

ADDICTED TO TRUTH

John 8:31-32 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

As we continue in the Word it leads us to the truth and the truth will lead us to the understanding of God's grace. Once we begin to understand grace we begin to place our trust in what Jesus has done for us instead of what we can do for ourselves. When given the opportunity the power of the Word can and will challenge your addiction. If you can be addicted to other things, you can be addicted to the truth. When you begin to crave the truth, you are on your way to being delivered from the addictions the world offers and to experiencing freedom 24/7.

TWO QUESTIONS

1. What is truth?

John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ".

One time I asked the Lord what truth was and He brought me to this scripture. Grace and truth are the same. Grace is receiving what you don't deserve. Grace is relying on the finished work of Jesus in every part of your life. Grace is trusting in Jesus' performance and not your own performance. When you do this, you're operating in the truth that sets you free. Notice, the law was given but grace and truth came to us. Grace and truth are in the person of Jesus.

2. What will I be set free from?

When I asked the Lord this question He asked me if I would like to be free from what others thought. My answer was yes. Then He asked me if I would like to be set free from me. I answered yes again but I wasn't sure that was possible. I have since learned that it is possible to be free from yourself.

CHALLENGING YOUR BELIEF SYSTEM

Were you a Christian before you were locked up in your personal prison or a correctional center? If so, what type of church background are you from? Did you have family, friends or pastors that believed in you for who you were or for what you did?

You may think these aren't important questions, but how others see you or believe in you does have an influence on how you see yourself and how you see your Father. Your belief system determines your destiny in life.

MOVING FROM LAW TO GRACE

We need to understand that the Old Testament begins in Genesis and ends with the Gospel of John. Actually, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are transitional books. In the Gospels we find Jesus leading us from the dispensation of the law into the dispensation of grace. One of the primary transitions is from "God" to "Father". Referring to Him as "God" leaves us with the thought of "we better do it right or there will be consequences". On the other hand, "Father" suggests developing a relationship.

MOSES AND JESUS

Moses was the mediator of the Law and Jesus was and is the mediator of Grace and Truth. The law was designed to show you that you needed a Savior. Although the law was and is good, it couldn't and can't save you. That wasn't its purpose. The law was designed to point you to Jesus for your salvation.

The problem in many churches today is that though they realize grace saves you they believe you must perform right. If you didn't perform to become a Christian, why should you perform to maintain your Christian life?

The message of grace challenges the belief system of performance and teaches you to trust in the finished work of Jesus. Grace teaches us to trust in Jesus' performance and not our own performance.

JOTS AND TITTLES

Matthew 5:18 "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Jesus didn't come to destroy the law but to fulfill it. The "jots and tittles" simply mean that Jesus kept even the smallest part of the law. You and I couldn't keep the law so Jesus kept it for us then He gave us what He did. If you could do it right, then Jesus didn't need to come.

GRACE for Addictions

A One Step Program

Part 1

QUESTIONS

1. What is the one step in the Grace for Addictions program?
2. When you become addicted to truth, what happens to you?
3. What is the biggest challenge for many Christians?

ANSWERS

1. The one step in the Grace for Addictions program is to believe that Jesus paid the full price.
2. You are free 24/7.
3. Not trusting in our own performance.