

Loving and Addict or Alcoholic

There is no more frustrating, confusing and painful process as watching a loved one, your child or spouse slowly and methodically be destroyed by an addiction or besetting sin. This can be a process like gambling or porn, or a substance like alcohol or cocaine. The final result is death and that road down to hell is littered with lost loves, broken homes and the destroyed lives children.

Man has rejected God and the bible as the solution and so we have 70% of our prison population there on drug related offences. 30% of our nation is obese as they drug their bodies with food and numb out in front of hours of TV reality shows each one going one step further in intensity to titillate a jaded audience.

Addiction is a **spiritual issue** and unless it is approached from that perspective we will be as effective as telling our children to catch air molecules or scoop water with a butterfly net. Liquid and gas is not going to be caught with a net designed for solids. Spiritual problems and soul problems are not going to be fixed with physical means. All the jail cells and all the rehab centers and all the talk therapy and all the new methadone programs and nicotine patches, the hypnosis, are similar to putting band aids on cancer.

Addiction is about changing the way we feel – and an addict will give anything to feel different. The very fruits of the Spirit – love joy and peace Gal 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...* are only a crack pipe away as we try to replace what only comes from God. Satan has again counterfeited what is Gods to give.

God in the beginning had a choice – He could have avoided the issue of sin and kept us in a sterile pain free creation. He could have destroyed Satan before creating man. God's plan and His design for us included Christ slain from the beginning of the world. *Re 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, ... of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

His first call was to Adam hiding from Him in shame after Adam rejected a perfect home and a perfect parent. Man and Satan were comfortable together, it was God they hid from. It was God who promised Messiah the Savior, to Eve in the garden and it was God who killed the first lamb to dress our parents, and make a way back to Him.

So the tragedy of **parents watching children destroy all their hopes and dreams for them was God's tragedy first** – but He did not react in anger, self pity, or blame, or guilt. God never said "Stay in Eden" either...But set the rules and conditions of His children's **return to Him**.

God had prepared for mans fall but it was through this failure and pain that He was to exalt Jesus as Savior. This wound and its healing would teach us much about Him that we would never have known or experienced otherwise. Light and goodness can only be shown off against darkness and evil. You lay a diamond on black velvet to show its brilliance and it was against Satan's evil that God was to lay His perfection His holiness and His mercy and His grace.

God has the solution for sin....any and all sin...Sin of breaking of the law....Sins of omission, Sins of commission, physical addictions and dependencies, minor transgression...monstrous iniquity and all the shades and types of rebellion and the self destructive defiance of idolatry and rebellion against a Holy God. *Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. {wounded: or, tormented}*

God spoke the universe into existence in a day but a Holy God had to walk the earth to ultimately endure every humiliation and rejection to die to redeem us. Grace is not cheap but the work has been done and so God knows the pain of a parent and unrequited love. Have we discussed this pain with God in our prayers as parent to parent?

God allowed sin, so rather than deny what our loved ones are doing what they are doing – let's embrace that truth by putting them out of Eden and letting the consequences of their actions drive them back to God.

Stop interfering with Gods law of consequences for sin – and so you prevent Gods law of consequences which teaches us the pain of sin. *Ec 8:11 Because punishment for an evil work comes not quickly, the minds of the sons of men are fully given to doing evil.* The law and its consequences must be there to convict men of sin, and to show off the love of God and the mercy and perfection of Jesus sacrifice.

Jesus can **only enter us through the wound**. He was the ultimate wounded healer. If we have no wound we don't need a healer. He only came to save the lost...and **if they are not lost they can never be saved**. *Lu 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* We all want to be saved but few want to admit how lost we were.

Don't cover your loved ones wound or hide the sin. It's the sin that will drive them away from God initially like Adam and the prodigal, but the need of the Savior and healer that will drive them back to the cross like Paul. *Ro 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.* It is the demoralizing defeat of besetting sin and addiction that keeps us in Gods presence in prayer and teaches us dependence on Him. The flesh exalts in independence and Jesus that teaches "I can do nothing" but by God.

Appreciate so great a wound in the life of your loved ones. Better the crying need for the Healer and the Savior than a self fulfilled life of being rich in goods and need of nothing. Jesus can only enter through the need and addiction and pain is a great starting point expose your loved ones need.

The perfect Father once had two sons. One asked for all his inheritance and left a perfect home of the loving father and wasted his money and trashed his life on riotous living.

Lu 15:13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together and took his journey into a far country; and there he wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that country; and he began to be in want. That pretty much describes sex, drugs and rock and roll. Sometime great parents have rotten kids – a perfect God created a perfect man (Adam) and God the Father is the example for the prodigal's loving dad.

Notice that the father **never sent money or aid** to the prodigal son in debauchery but let the consequences take their course. The perfect father did not rescue and enable the son with more money or bail him out. He did not in **guilt go looking** for him either or try to micro manage his return home. *14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that country; and he began to be in want.* It appears life at home went on as normal without the prodigal, but the perfect father still loved and watched for the return home of the prodigal.

God places the seed of revival in the mind of the prodigal and it says "**when he came to himself**"....**that defining moment of every addict...that moment of honesty and hope**....that only God can place there.

Lu 15:17 But when he came to himself he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight:

He said "**I will arise**" ..."**I will go home**"..."**I will say**"

....and then begins the journey to his real Father who is already running to meet him. You see that moment, **must be his choice** and God uses the circumstances and his Spirit to get there.....**Do not interfere and don't you try to fetch him and make him arise...**

He had to be hungry first...he had to be with the pigs in a foreign country and driven by the need for better food he came home...and there the spiritual healing starts.

Jesus further went to show how to deal with loved ones caught in sin and loved ones whose lives were controlled by Satan. A father brought his son to the disciples...and they **could not cast** out the demon.

Mark 9:17 Mr 9:7 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 **"And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid.** So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." 19 He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. 21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 **"And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."** 23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, **"Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"** 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, **saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"** 26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. 28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" 29 So He said to them, **"This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."**

You would think the church and those close to Jesus would have the answers and the power...not always so. Their **prayerlessness and not fasting** and world-

liness robbed the disciples of the power they had been given over demons and evil.

The answer is always Jesus. The demon cast the boy into the fire into deep waters ...he had seizures and suicidal tendencies and uncontrollable and unpredictable violent attacks. A good description of the insanity of late stage addiction and the frantic desperate search of the father for help for his son.

Like that father we come to God with our desperate prayers, knowing that God is supposed to be able to cure evil, but not fully believing that in this case He will or He can. As that father we must also cry with our tears — **I believe, but help my unbelief!** Help me when I don't believe God's sovereignty and I still meddle in what God is doing in my loved ones life. Remove my discouragement and despair when I "know" God has the situation in hand.

You see God has stated *He wants none lost*. I think we can rely on God's desires and come into line with *Thy will be done* on earth...just as heaven is a picture of God's will and peace. *We pray Thy will be done on earth*...and then never hang around long enough to find out what that will is or don't ask to be shown it and don't seek it.

God is making children of mankind. There **are no grand children in God's kingdom**. He must introduce himself to each of us and give each of us the chance to cry ABBA, father. *Ro 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"* As parents we put our flesh in between the process whereby **God's Spirit is calling to the spirit in our children** and loved ones. When God asked Moses to deliver His people he asked him first to put that right arm into his coat over his heart.

The leprosy was to show Moses what Moses was in God's sight and then God used him. *Ex 4:6 Then the Lord said to him again, Put your hand inside your clothing. And he put his hand inside his robe: and when he took it out it was like the hand of a leper, as white as snow.*

Do not insert your flesh and desires into Gods plan to deliver your children from Egypt but take the example of Moses. It was **Moses temper and frustration** that cost him crossing Jordon and did not help Israel.

Moses is best known for his intercession for Gods people. His love for them was equal to Gods love for them and His wrestling in prayer for them made God cry out “Leave me alone” *Ex 32:9 And the LORD said to Moses, I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10 And now leave Me alone, so that My wrath may become hot against them and so that I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation. 11 And Moses prayed to the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why does Your wrath become hot against Your people whom You have brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?*

It is one thing for God to take hold of a man it is another thing for a man to take hold of God in prayer. Like two parents of a rebellious child they went back and forth and disowning Israel, “Your children which you brought in to the desert.” *Ex 32:14 And the LORD was moved to pity as to the evil which He spoke of doing to His people.*

Living in Gods presence for the lives of those you love and are responsible for will transform you and you will come out of Gods presence with a face that shines with His glory. It may not change them but it will change you. I promise you that. Like Paul have you traded your salvation for theirs or like Moses told God *Ex 32:32 And now will You forgive their sin! And if not, I pray You, blot me out of Your book which You have written*, to take your life but save them, Have you in self-pity cried to God and said “why me?.”

God still answers prayer and 10 minutes talking to Him about an addict will be more valuable than 10 hours lecturing an addict about God. When God chose to have a city repent he sent Jonah and the **whole city** Ninevah did repent...100% success.

When God met Saul on the road – I don’t think Saul had too many choices once God blinded him and spoke to him personally. Rahab came to believe in God as a hooker in Jericho – no bible – no ministers — no church. She was taught about God from her customers who traveled through and told of the Red Sea opening for Israel and their God. Why do we believe God cannot and will not reach our children?

So let us quit the **physical attempts at a spiritual solution** and approach the throne of the first heartbroken father and share His heart and desires for your loved ones.

Repent of our sin toward Him in daring to play God and deciding we knew best. Lets us lay aside the **paralyzing guilt and blame of how did we get to this point**. Realize that like the man born blind, addictions are not always the fault of society or our parents...but sin infects us all and despite our sin, God will extract His glory and only then we are serving Him. *John 9:1 And passing by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither has this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God might be revealed in him.* That we recognize man was created for the glory of God and not God for the convenience of man.

Re 4:11 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. When we give Him all our cares and realize **He will execute His pleasure**...only then we are in line with the design of God.

Our prayers will then exalt God and like Moses be jealous for His name and His word and His glory and then we can pray back Gods own words back to Him. *Ro 4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.* God said He honored His word more than His name and you have no more correct prayer when you can correctly say “God, You said and I believe you and will wait and watch you do as you said.

Do we know what He said about the lost or have we written them off to hell? Have we found it easier to meddle with the physical activity than to actually believe God and move with Spiritual power.

Do we see a white harvest needing only workers and a word fitly spoken to our loved ones and obey Gods command to pray for workers in that harvest. That our prayers fill the need for the workers if we feel unqualified to minister directly. *Lu 10:2 And he said unto them, The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore **the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest.*** **Pray that God send** the laborers when we feel unqualified to understand addiction.

Pray that **God place in us His love for the lost** – that love and spiritual wisdom, that sees though hopelessness and can truly help, not enable them .

Pray **He correct our unbelief and so our lives reflect a walk in faith**, having given our fears and our grief to him. Our walk must first reflect a faith and trust that reflects our belief that God knows where our loved ones are 24/7.

Pray that God **works the circumstances to bring the addict to that moment of sanity** – “To come to themselves” and He place the desire in them as He draws them to himself. God is always previous.

Pray that God find away to **extract His glory** out of a hopeless case for He is no more God than when He does the impossible. God is looking for hopeless cases. Any less than hopeless and we steal His glory and diminish what only He can do.

Is 58 talks of a fast **to break bands of wickedness** and to release heavy burdens....This is what you can do for your loved ones. **You fast and pray.** You learn to care for the truly needy. It will get you out of the obsession of a life on hold because of the addict and their sin. The process will transform you and you will be granted the spiritual power cast down Satan's high places and tear down his strongholds.

There is Spiritual power in fasting but lets us work with God's knowledge and according to the wisdom of His word in dealing with sin. **Then we can tear down High places and not enable sin.** It is by desiring the Glory and the will of God more than our own food. The hunger and thirst for righteousness must exceed that physical food, for us to given the power to tear down what Satan and the flesh has enslaved us to.

Isiah 58 v 6 Is not this the **fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?**

7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? 7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? 8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thy healing shall spring forth speedily; and **thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of Jehovah shall by thy rearward.**

Addiction is a spiritual issue so let's take our loved ones to the great healer. Thank God for the wound that will drive them into His arms and in that weakness they will later say “Where I am weak, there Christ is strong!”

In their repentance and their deliverance then they can teach other transgressors *Ps 51:0 Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me.11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

And that is how God works....a spiritual work not one of our doing.