



Responding Recovery Newsletter
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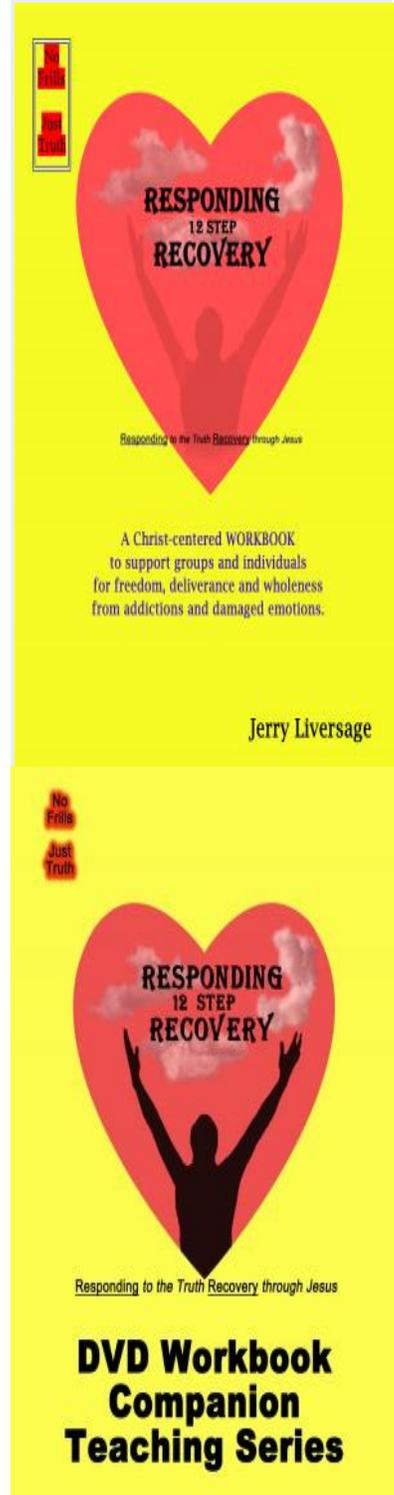
These next few months, we will be looking at steps 2 and 3 in the 12 step program. In saying that, we are reminded how much we need to look at the Word of God in relation to our recovery. We need to hear the Voice of God speaking to us through His Word, the Bible. If we won't listen to His voice, who's voice will we listen? Others? Our own opinion? The enemy of this world?

It's good to remember the importance of keeping God's Word at the center of our lives. He alone can save us from our destructive ways and from the one who wants to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

The enemy of this world is so subtle and he looks so attractive and alluring through situations of life. But make no mistake, his end game is to destroy. If he can allure us to a sinful destructive way of bad choices, which lead us away from Jesus Christ, he can move us into a pattern of decisions, which have devastating consequences.

An example of this fact can be pictured in a story I once heard concerning real Alaskan hunters and a real life way they use to hunt wolves. An Alaskan hunter uses a technique to hunt wolves. The wolves would come to destroy or take away life. The hunter wanted to remove them from their area, and how they would do that is taking a very sharp knife and dip it into blood and let it freeze, and do this process over and over again until the knife would become a blood popsicle. They would then take the knife and put the butt end of the knife into the snow and let the blood Popsicle be exposed. A wolf would come along with a very keen scent of blood and smell it and lick it, causing excitement so the wolf would lick faster and harder. The blade would soon be exposed and cut the wolf's tongue. The wolf would taste the warm blood which caused him to lick harder and faster, to the point the wolf would eventually choke on his own blood and die. It is a graphic picture of sin and what it does. Sin always keeps you a little bit longer than you intended to stay, it always takes you down a little bit further than you intended to go, and it will always cost more of a price than you intended to pay. That is what sin does. Sin has a destructive power that wants to steal, kill and destroy. That is misdirected power. That is what sin does.

The conclusion to this whole thing could be this. First, the subtlety of sin is an against Christ kind of spirit. For an example, in 1 John it talks about the spirit of anti-Christ. It is not necessarily with horns and a pitchfork, it is anything that sets itself against Christ, an against Christ type of spirit. So, anything that sets itself or resists the things of Jesus, is really an against Christ spirit. Secondly, only Jesus can break that power and the work of sin's subtlety and can break that power and move in our lives and restore us. He can give us the concept of His light. He can remove us from a seated and mounted position of sin's grasp. He can help us in our rebellion, even when we are kicking against the things of God.....*continued next page*



Continued from previous page... His way can become our way and it's done through His work, working through us, if we'll just make the choice to let him with our whole heart.

It is like an example of an electrical plug. If we are wanting to power our television, phone, washing machine or other things, we know we need to plug into a power source. So it is with our lives. Whatever we plug into, we become empowered by the source. If we take the electrical plug of our lives and move it from misdirected power (Satan's influence and self), and plug it into God's power source, through Jesus Christ, we find ourselves being powered by His life changing, liberating power.

We can do this today and this hour if we simply ask Jesus into our heart and our life. If we were to say, "Jesus, forgive me for living in misdirected power (Satan's influence and self), and for surrendering my life to something other than You. Would You come into my heart, forgive me of my sin, and would Your power flow through me? Would You do in me what I cannot do for myself? I ask You, Jesus, to become the power that is greater than me, that will restore me to sanity. Thank You for Your promise of that. Thank You for Your conversion in my life. This action begins a whole new journey to wholeness, destiny and purpose.

In Step 2 of the 12-step program we know it say's: *"Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity"* In Step 3, we also know it say's: *"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him"*

In these decisions of life, we know we must turn from our own direction and turn to God's direction. This is what Biblical repentance looks like. Repentance is much more than just being sorry. The Bible tells us that Godly sorrow leads to repentance (2Corinthians 7:10) but sorrow in and of itself is not repentance. Consider below the following thoughts:

Biblical Repentance is:

- A 180 degree turn **from self to God**
- Surrendering to His Lordship, not mine
- Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of Faith
- A change of mind

Repentance is not:

- Trying Harder
- Turning over a new leaf
- Being Sorry
- Trying not to "do it again"
- Doing the same thing the same way and expecting different results = Insanity

The Bible clearly reminds us the way to God. Jesus said in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." The words of Jesus brings us to a place of decision. It is a decision to turn our will and our lives over to His care. This is not a one time event. It is an ongoing life style shift in our thinking. It is trusting in His promise to us that He will do in us what we can not do for ourselves .

Philippians 2:13 is a great fact to know and make every effort to claim. It say's *"for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."* **Will you turn to Him today?**