

THE LEVITE

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Living Victorious

Go a different way



Pitfalls of Music

Drawn away and enticed



Tragedy

...Mercy...Redemption

The War Zone!

Victory from the Battlefield!



LIVING VICTORIOUS

Brother David Webb
Senior Pastor - Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

1 John 5:4, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

God's will for every child of God is to live a life that is VICTORIOUS. Defeat should NEVER be an option. Yet it's sad to say we are living in a time when many Christians live a life of defeat. Some are dragged down by the cares of life. Others are falling to the same vices and temptations they fell to last night, last week, and last month. Many feels that everybody around is oblivious to their struggles while they themselves live in denial. There are several signs that bear these things out in their everyday lives. They lack response to the moving of the Spirit of God. Their worship has disappeared. They stand unmoved, unchanged, and unengaged. They very seldom use the altar for any length of time, getting down on one knee and back up on the other in a matter of few seconds. Their thoughts are consumed with regret over failures committed. On top of all that, the enemy whispers in their ears, *"You're not worthy of Christ. You're a failure. If you were a real Christian, you would have done a better job at resisting."* Dear brother and sister, if you are one of those people who finds himself living in such a state, there are things you can do to move out of the realm of defeat and into the sphere of victory.

1. Stop – Brother Kevin Lloyd said, *"There was a man walking down a road and fell into a pit. On the morrow the same man, going down the same path, fell into the same pit. Then on the third day... he being frustrated with the reoccurring results, ... he went a different way!"*

It is easier to avoid temptation than to resist it! We would live a little cleaner if we wouldn't walk so close to the mud holes. Stop going there. Stop looking at that magazine. Stop clicking on that web page. Stop walking by the office door of the flirt at work. Stop listening to the local country music station. Stop reading the things that stir up unholy feelings in your heart. Stop bringing up what they did to you 5 years ago. Just think about it... it would be to your benefit for you to stop putting your-

self into situations that would make temptation readily available. Paul said in *Philippians 3:13,14*: *"This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ."* Paul was saying that he put a stop to living in his yesterdays, put his past under his feet, and embraced a brighter day of better things.

2. Submit – How can submitting bring victory? The key to this can be found in James 4:7, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* Please note, resisting the devil follows submitting to God. If we expect to live a life of victory over the enemy we must first be surrendered to God. In submitting to God, we place ourselves under the umbrella of His authority and into His hand of protection. The devil can't touch what is hidden under the blood and in the hand of God. Submission is resigning our will to His will. It's praying, *"Not my will but thine be done,"* it's walking in the Spirit, and it's living in obedience to His Word. SUBMIT, then RESIST! The desired result will never happen by carnal prayer-less people trying to resist by their own power. Henry Miller said, *"True strength lies in submission which permits one to dedicate his life, through devotion, to something beyond himself!"* The Apostle Paul said, *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."* (Ephesians 6:10)

3. Selection – Are you looking for an excuse or a way to escape? It's your choice.

If we are not careful, we will choose to excuse our failures and weakness saying...

- Everybody is doing it.
- It's natural to feel this way.
- I never had a chance.

continued on page 6 ➤ ➤ ➤

A NOTE FROM THE LEVITE STAFF

Contained in this issue are 2 articles ("Tragedy, Mercy, and Redemption" and "One Look") that are the testimonies of two men who fell, paid the price, and ultimately gained victory over pornography and the spirit of lust. You will find these accounts are very similar. They are being printed together to demonstrate how pervasive this trap is. Despite never meeting or even knowing one another's names, the enemy was able to use this trap to take out two otherwise decent men. No doubt this story could be repeated over and over, not only from men in the world, but also from men in the Church. This is not a male only issue. Women are subject to this as well, and also are left to deal with much of the consequence in terms of sons, brothers, and husbands impacted.

Be warned, this is graphic...not to create curiosity or offend, but to demonstrate the power of this perversion and the urgency in the church. It is not our intent to titillate, but to illuminate.

TRAGEDY, MERCY, AND REDEMPTION

I always loved to drive around with my family and look at the Christmas lights around town. That was such a special tradition — getting to spend time with one another, listening to Christmas music, and just enjoying time together without anything else getting in the way. I still get to see some Christmas lights, but they just don't have the same twinkle looking at them through concertina wire and steel bars on the window.

Having been baptized as a teenager, I have never doubted God's existence or His power. Rather than lead my life for Him, I chose sin instead. More specifically I chose pornography. I have been addicted to pornography since a young age, exposed to it by a close friend from school who had stolen it from his father. From that point forward Satan had his hooks in me, and sin, not God, led my life. My addiction and subsequent choices landed me in prison, where I deserve to be. I lost everything — my wife, my children, my job, and life as I knew it because I chose to lead a life apart from God and live the sin of sensual addiction.

I have said many times since being incarcerated — and some people think I am crazy when I say this — I have had more freedom since being exposed, repenting, and sentenced to prison than I ever thought about having on the outside. My life before, although technically free, included the weight of the chains of my addiction that were so heavy they became unbearable. You see, leading a double life gets very hard to keep up with because you are constantly lying to others as well as yourself. It becomes impossible to keep the lies separate from the truth, and pretty soon you can't tell the differ-

continued on page 11 ➤ ➤ ➤

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Living Victorious	2
Tragedy, Mercy, and Redemption	3
Pitfalls of Music	4
The Liberated Man	7
Victory at Any Cost	9
One Look	10

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PITFALLS OF MUSIC

Brother Mark and Sister Rebecca Compton
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My mother and father heard the drums. It stirred something deep within their being. They could not resist the temptation. It kindled a passion within them; it drove them. It couldn't be wrong to listen; everyone went down to the valley of Moloch. My legs and arms still tingle and bear scars as a daily reminder of that gruesome night. At seven years old, I was their child they chose to pass through the fire. The driving beat, the drums of desire, the rhythmic chanting, the moving and swaying of the bodies, the arousal of untenable sensual emotions outweighed my parent's reasoning skills and their concern for the welfare of me, their son. The stench of death, the fiery pangs that wrenched my body as my flesh melted away from my bones, the shrieks and wails all around us are forever etched in my mind's eye. The tearful apologies that followed and the months of tender nursing from my parents could never fix that dreadful day. My parents had been snared by one of Satan's many evil tactics that still remains a pitfall for Christians — secular music.

This could very well have been the words of admonishment from an Old Testament young man that had witnessed the hidden dangers in music after his experience in the valley of Gehenna.

From the beginning of Creation, God ordained music for the purpose of exaltation and worship of our Heavenly Creator. The Bible speaks of Jubal, the first musician, in Genesis 4:21 and the song of Moses' deliverance in Exodus 15. In Exodus 15:2, Moses speaks of the Lord being his song. Deborah's song of thanksgiving is in Judges 5. The 33 Psalms says, "...praise the Lord with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery....Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise." David's songs for Saul drove back the evil spirits. From the Old Testament through the New they were singing. Christ sang a hymn on the Mount of Olives; Paul and Silas saw prison doors open in their midnight concert. In Ephesians, it says, "...speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Revelation speaks of the "new song" that will be sung praising our God for His redeeming blood.

There is another song that comes to mind. In Daniel, the Babylonians played their worship music to their god, but not everyone bowed to the secular, unholy melody of the time. The fiery furnace held no threat for the true worshipper of Christ. The flute, harp, cymbals, beating of the drum, and all the other kinds of music put together was not enough to cause the true worshippers of Christ to bow.

One of Israel's sins lay in the negligence of recognizing the difference between the holy and the profane; the sacred and the secular. The secular world wants to desensitize the millennial generation. The phenomenon of things being black or white, wrong or right, no longer exist in their view. Now we have a vast group of gray areas. This is why we can sing about "Jesus and John Wayne" like they were somehow equals, and we can sing songs to our "love" about being "holy, holy" and our "love" not referring to Christ. Many of the song writers today have weaved an extreme sacrilegious message in their songs. If you listen to some of the wordings, it seems they are praying over beer and illicit relationships and trying to place God in situations He would never be a partaker.

Our couples that are planning weddings need to carefully consider Christ as their Number One Guest and choose songs God would sanction. In the recent past Holiday celebrating Christ's birth, I am afraid He would not have approved of some of the songs that were being played at "His Parties."

We are depending on God to preserve men and ladies of God that, like Daniel and the Hebrew children, will not bow to this world's secular music and philosophies but will persevere through as did Deborah, Paul, Silas, and countless

continued on page 5 ➤ ➤ ➤

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Pitfalls of Music - continued from page 4

other men and ladies throughout history.

Twenty-five centuries ago, Plato said, "Any musical innovation is full of danger to the whole state, and ought to be prohibited." (Ballard 47) This was before the technology explosion of the 21st Century. How right he was. The lyrics and music of an untold amount of songs are pumped from the cesspools of hell. Satan is the Prince of the Power of the air. There have been speculations that he was the minister of music before he was thrown from Heaven. Regardless, there is no doubt he holds his position on Earth. We are not ignorant of his devices.

There is a cry going forth for action. We must seek to make our musical offering to God as pure and without reproach as we are capable of doing. The subject of music for church members is an old, yet ever new, topic in which complete agreement can scarcely be expected. The secularization of the churches can be heard in the styles of music that they have accepted. There are dance teams with styles ranging from jazz to rock 'n' roll to country and everything in between.

What safe guards will we, as Christians, place on our music, and what will be our determining factors? What will we decide? True Christians will choose music that will stir their passion for godliness, prayer, holiness, and righteous living. They will also choose music that is consistent with what God has told us in the Scriptures.

1. Does it elevate our Spiritual man closer to God, or excite our passions in the Carnal man?
2. What are its associations? Is it the secular crowd or secular places that support it?
3. Does it glorify, magnify, honor, and worship Our Savior?

The average time a person listens to music is around five hours a day. With this being said, it does matter what we embrace for our listening. Music has a very strong, very definite physiological and psychological effect on people. One author stated it like this, "who writes the nation's songs shapes the nation's souls." (qtd. in Temple 240) America has backslidden on Christ, and the foundation of this country is deteriorating.

We must not be "drawn away of our own lust and enticed" in these last days. Our desires, emotions, thoughts, and actions we entertain will cause our children to be sacrificed in the flames of Gehenna if they are not founded, rooted, and grounded in Christ. "On Christ alone my hope is found all other ground is sinking sand..."



Living Victorious - continued from page 2

- It's their fault.
- The Devil made me do it.

1 Corinthians 10:14 says, "*There hath no temptation taken you but that which is **common** unto man...*"

Consider this example: A man in a responsible position, entrusted with large sums of money, was one day tempted to put some of the cash into his own account. He knew that it would be a long time before his theft could be discovered. He resisted the temptation but felt that he must tell somebody the anguish of mind through which he had passed. So, he went to the man who had occupied the position before him and told him all about the temptation and how he had almost fallen. To his surprise, the man did not criticize him but put his hand on his shoulder in a fatherly sort of way. "I know exactly how you felt," he said quietly. "I went through it all myself when I occupied your position." By this example we can see we are not alone in feeling tempted, and neither are we the first to feel this way. One may look at the saints of God who have been saved for many years and think they are never tempted, tried, or tested. This is a serious misconception! For as long as we are breathing, we are battling. However, we have no excuse for yielding to temptation for when we look at the rest of this verse we read ... "*but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*" Oh, glory! God is faithful to make a way to escape! One may offer the excuse... "Temptation is everywhere" but I offer the escape, "So is God!" The Apostle Peter penned these words, "*The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations...*" (2 Peter 2:9).

Remember this also, even Christ himself was tempted. Hebrews 4:15 says, "*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.*" Hebrews 2:18 says, "*For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*"

A man walked out of his house and fell into a pit. Realiz-

ing that he couldn't get out, he waited for someone to come by and save him.

- An Environmentalist came by and wanted to ban the pit.
- A Lawyer came by and wanted him to sue because of the pit.
- A Realtor came by and wanted to sell the pit.
- An Inspector came by and wanted to condemn the pit.
- An Atheist came by and said the pit didn't exist.
- A Catholic priest came by and wanted to sprinkle the pit.
- A Charismatic came by and wanted to heal the pit.
- A Feminist came by and said a woman would have never fallen into the pit.
- A Contractor came by and wanted to fill in the pit.
- A Democrat came by and wanted to tax the pit.
- A Republican came by and wanted to throw the liberal into the pit.
- A Pessimist came by and said, "You'll never get out of the pit."

But Jesus came by and saved him from the pit!

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again—the short Hand of Discipline and the long Hand of Mercy. Slowly but surely the Hand of Discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike; but over and over passes the Hand of Mercy, showering down sixty-fold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial; and both hands are fastened to one secure point—the great, unchanging Heart of a God of Love.

Living Victorious is knowing where and when to STOP; it's living a life that is SUBMITTED to the Savior; and it's SELECTING the way of escape from our temptations through Christ rather than choosing to make excuses. For in Christ we are made more than conquerors!





THE LIBERATED MAN

Brother Bill Preskitt, Jr.
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Romans chapter 6 describes the change that takes place when a man is set free from the

bondage of sin. We are looking here at the truly liberated man and woman. The theme of the liberated man and woman is a popular theme in modern society, but the liberty envisioned by the world has no resemblance to the liberty described by Paul in this chapter.

Man Enslaved - Romans 6:20 presents the condition of the whole human race without Jesus: "... ye were the servants of sin." Sin in this place is the polluted nature we inherited from our common father, Adam. Romans 5:19 declares, "For as one man's disobedience [Adam] many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [Jesus] many shall be made righteous." The word made in this verse means "constituted by nature". Adam's transgression poisoned our nature with an alien force that made us self-centered and hostile toward a holy God. Paul speaks of that tragedy in terms of a commercial transaction in Romans 7:14, saying, "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin." The whole human race was transferred under the dominion of sin by Adam's sin in the garden. All men are affected by this disaster — all races, all nationalities, and all social classes. We became a miserable, wretched mass of slaves to sin.

Man's master is cruel and demanding. He disrupts close relationships through jealousy, envy, and strife. He drives people by producing insatiable appetites for things, for wealth, and for fame. He destroys lives through addictions to drugs, alcohol, and empty forms of pleasure.

Man's master is also deceptive. Jeremiah described the heart controlled by sin like this in Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?" The writer of Hebrews refers to the deceitfulness of sin in Hebrews 3:13, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today: lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Sin deceives by dismissing from our mind that we are accountable for the words and actions of every day. He convinces men that somehow they will escape the judgment of God. Sin denies the truth of the Word of God. He persuades men that God's word cannot be trusted. Men adopt the lie that a man can live wrong and die right. Many are convinced by sin that they can bypass the church, reject the society of the saints, and still gain heaven in the end. Multitudes are persuaded that they can demand a Christian reward without any Christian fruit. Twice the wise man of Proverbs warns, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." When a truth is repeated by God, he is emphasizing the critical im-

portance of that truth.

In order to hold his victims, sin makes Jesus out to be man's worst enemy and persuades men to avoid Jesus at all costs. He mixes enough merriment with man's misery to keep him coming back to the fountain of sin. It was said of Moses that he chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." He realized that sin's pleasures only mask the inevitable misery produced by sin.

One of the greatest deceptions of sin is the assurance that his victims are free and independent individuals. The slave to sin is convinced that he is liberated to be himself. He can be himself with no interference by God, by the church, or by sacred scripture. He is free to the point of exploring realms of evil not mentioned in polite society. The normal slave of sin has a split personality. He is like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He is one person in the light but another person in the dark. He knows when to put on the air of innocence and when to drop all pretense of goodness.

Romans 6:19 identifies the type of life produced by the power of sin. It mentions those who yielded their "members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity." Some have translated that phrase to indicate that sin's slaves are marked by "impurity and ever-increasing wick-

continued on page 8 ➤ ➤ ➤

The Liberated Man - continued from page 7

edness." Sin's slaves plan, practice, and promote impurity — moral impurity. They have steered our nation into a sexual revolution during the mid to late twentieth century, fomented a homosexual revolution during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, and swept us into an ongoing transgender revolution. The personal and family devastation and misery produced in our society by these movements is immeasurable, but the slaves of sin label it progress. I hate to say it, but the worst is yet to come. Sin's slaves are being driven to ever increasing wickedness. Without a revival of pure religion in this country, sin will corrupt our society beyond anything this nation has ever known.

According to Romans 6:23, the slaves of sin are headed for a reckoning day: "The wages of sin is death." Sin's slaves are earning their wages by their rejection of Jesus and their practice of iniquity. The day of reckoning is approaching and the deceived slave will soon be paid for his labor in the fields of sin. His sentence will be death, eternal perishing in the lake of fire.

Man Liberated - Paul declares that we have an option to escape the bondage of sin. Romans 6:18 speaks of being made free from sin. There is a wonderful possibility that man may be free.

The means by which man is released from any obligation to sin, his former master, is explained in Romans 6:6-7, "Knowing this, that our old man [the man we were under sin's dominion] is crucified with [Christ], that the body of sin [the person that obeyed sin's demands] might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin [from the dominion of the sin nature]. When Jesus, who represented all humanity, was nailed to the cross, all humanity that had been sold under sin was crucified with Jesus. The death of our old man has already been accomplished and only awaits our appropriation by faith. Romans 6:11 says, "Likewise, reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin...." Paul is urging his readers to count or consider the work to be done, to appropriate the death of Christ as our deliverance from the reign of sin. This is a critical truth that Satan does not want you to know. The cross became our

route to freedom from sin's dominion. By faith in Christ and what He accomplished for us on the cross, we die to sin. We are no longer under any obligation to sin. Sin has no claim on a dead man.

There is also a positive side to our liberation. We are dead to sin, but alive unto God. Romans 6:11 concludes with "but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." In order to escape the slavery of sin, we accept the authority of God. True liberty is not the ability to act on our own impulses, but to live under the rule of our heavenly Father.

There must be a conscious decision to accept the authority of God in our life and to reject the rule of sin. Romans 6:12-13 says, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

There is a marked change in the life and thinking of the liberated man. He is ashamed of the life he lived under sin's dominion. Romans 6:21 says, "What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?" The liberated man must keep a right perspective on the kind of life he once lived as sin's slave. Sin is always looking for an opening to resume control of the life he once dominated. As long as the liberated man is ashamed of his sins and aware of the detrimental effect of sin, he is not likely to relapse and accept sin's bondage again.

The fruit of the life of the liberated man is described in Romans 6:22: "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." According to verse 18, we are now servants of righteousness. The truly liberated man is free to do what is right, free to live a life of purity, of faithfulness to God and to family and to church. He is free to speak the truth, to demonstrate the love of God to his fellowman, and to live a life without shame. He is under new management, and his life reveals the changes initiated by the new master in charge.



VICTORY AT ANY COST

July 14, 1918: German forces were making a final push to take control of Paris. Under French command, Allied forces took heavy casualties. As French forces began to retreat, US forces moved forward and held firm at the Marne River. Defeat at the Marne, paired with several recent German victories, could have spelled the end of the Allied forces. However, holding strong, US soldiers were later called “The Rock of the Marne,” and that victory became the starting point of the end of the German offensive in Europe.



The Church is much like the military. To quote Rev. B. H. Clendennen, “The Church is a militant organization.” We are all soldiers following after one leader, who delegates down to many other leaders, whom HE has appointed. It is this Chain of Command we must keep in order. Soldiers follow orders; they don’t make orders. That’s anarchy! If you’re one who has an insatiable desire to be in control or in a position of authority, you probably don’t need to be. We all know that Almighty God is at the top of the Chain of Command. That is a given! But under Him is the Pastor of each local assembly. We are to

follow after our Pastor, our “Commander”, as he receives his orders from the Lord.

As someone who has been part of a church split, I often reflect and ask myself multiple questions: Why did it happen? Did I play a part in things? What was the motive? Who is in charge? How do I get over it? WHY? It has been over 20 years since that dreadful day has taken place. Although thoughts of that day don’t run through my mind daily or even hourly as in the beginning, there are times I still ask, “Why?” No one wins in a church split. People are hurt, names are smeared and relationships are damaged. Unless you’ve been through it, you can’t understand how badly it destroys! To look at what has come from two opposing groups both wanting control is awful. To think of those who live in the same town, who once called each other Brother or Sister who now turn and walk in opposite directions when seen in public. To have said, “I will do whatever the Church needs,” and now he/she doesn’t even go to Church. A large percentage of our former congregation do not attend church. Those who do aren’t as faithful as they once were. The picture I just painted does no justice to what it is like to be part of a church split.

How do we prevent a split? I’m just a layperson; I will not attempt to give some great theological dissertation on what to do and not do. Instead, I

will use the acronym KISS: Keep It Simple, Saint. You have to keep things in order. Perfect order.

- 1) Our Pastor is the head. I cannot put premium on what a man says. It must be “Thus saith the Lord”. Respect the position and the one who holds it.
- 2) If you have a problem with what the Pastor says on Sunday morning, don’t tell a friend; don’t sit and stew on it for weeks. Just man-up and respectfully ask him about it. What you’re thinking may not at all be what he was saying.
- 3) DON’T SWEAT THE SMALL THINGS, AND REMEMBER, ALL THINGS ARE SMALL THINGS! Who cares what color the carpet is? Does it really matter if your name is called from the pulpit because you cleaned up after the last event in the fellowship hall? NO! It doesn’t! Check your motives!
- 4) The final point: If you’re the spoon the devil is using to stir the pot, and you’re just looking for trouble, then here is the best advice I can give: repent.

We have to have a victorious church, no questions asked! It’s hard work, but anything worth having doesn’t come free. It costs something. It cost Christ his life for us, so it’s up to us to give our lives for Him.



ONE LOOK

I grew up in church and gave my life to Jesus at a young age. I truly wanted to serve the Lord with all my heart, and I still do. In school, I became friends with a boy that was from a broken home and was very ungodly. He tried to get me to smoke, drink, and listen to his rock and roll music, which I refused all. When he and I were alone at his dad's house, he introduced me to some adult magazines that his dad had. One look was all it took, and I was hooked in an addiction that the enemy had me bound in for years.

Over the years, I tried to get victory over this addiction but would always fail because I would never give it all to Jesus. There were times over the years that I would have victory over this addiction for months at a time, and then I would fail again. The enemy, the devil, knew the desire I had in my heart and mind. He would tempt me daily saying, "Hey, do you remember looking at this?" I did remember the image, but my problem came when I would entertain that thought. I would dwell on past pictures that I had looked at or movies I had watched. Entertaining that thought would bring out the desire in my heart and mind, and I would allow myself to fail again.

This sinful cycle went on for years throughout my teenage years and into adulthood. I thought in my mind, "Once I get married and have a wife, I won't struggle in this area anymore." That was a lie. I realized that, even after I was married, I still struggled with my addiction. It wasn't because I didn't love my wife and think she was beautiful. It was because I hadn't allowed Jesus to take all the desire out of my heart. I wanted victory over my addiction. I shared my addiction with my wife in order for her to bind with me in prayer for complete victory. Even though I knew I needed to change, and I wanted to change, I kept allowing my flesh to overtake me day after

day. I wasn't crucifying my flesh daily. The desire of my flesh grew stronger and stronger in my life, and I was allowing it to. It led me to hitting rock bottom — I acted out my desires. I am ashamed to admit that I was unfaithful to my wife. Guilt and conviction filled my heart. I confessed to God and to my wife.

I hated myself for what I had done and for what I had become. I felt at rock bottom. I still wanted complete victory over my addiction. I read in II Corinthians 10:5, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

The Lord showed me that I needed to stop entertaining lustful thoughts in my mind. When the enemy would try to get me to dwell on something I had seen in the past, I would begin to pray, sing praises, and rebuke the devil. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." The

Lord showed me that our mouth is our weapon against our mind. When our mind concocts every conceivable hinderance, with our mouth we can praise our way above our mind.

When I finally gave all of my desire to Jesus, began crucifying my flesh daily, and stopped entertaining lustful thoughts, I began to have victory over my addiction. It is no longer a constant, daily battle of my mind, but a walk of victory. The enemy will still try, every once in a while, to tempt me, but he does not succeed because "Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world!" I am walking in total, complete victory today, and my marriage is stronger than it has ever been. My addiction now is to draw closer to Jesus.



Tragedy, Mercy, and Redemption - continued from page 3

ence between the two. This is an awful life to live, not only for you but also for all of those around you. They have no clue what's really going on as you become distant and increasingly irritable. You make excuses of the stresses of your job or some other lie while the addiction absolutely consumes your life and leaves those around you with their needs not met while they live with a shell of the man they knew and loved.

I hate that things had to happen the way they did because I hurt and let down so many people in the process, but something had to change. God always gives us free will, that is what makes faith in Him so precious. We have to make a decision to follow Him. I had to be totally broken and deprived of everything I held dear to realize I was nothing and I could not survive without God in control of my life. My eyes were opened so that I could see how selfish and thoughtless I was in all the things I had done and failed to do. I could see clearly how God had never stopped loving me even though I turned my back on Him and chose the pleasures of the flesh. When I sat alone the first night in jail, not knowing if I would ever have anyone speak to me again, He was there. Once I started to ask that His will be done in my life and trusted that what happens is His will, I have seen God clearly working in my life and in my favor. He has been there with me and allowing me to experience a great peace even in the midst of chaos.

Some of you who are reading this are with your wife and kids playing your part as a husband and a father while you are actively leading a double life looking at or possibly addicted to pornography. RUN for your life; get help now while you still can. The path you are on leads to disaster and damage to your family that can never be undone. You are being brainwashed by the desire of the flesh by Satan himself. Many things in the society we live in are laced with sensual images; they may not be explicitly pornographic, but they nevertheless lead your mind to wonder, getting ever closer to that edge. You have to treat pornography and anything close to it as a cancer; you must go to war with it and eradicate it from your life. Tell your wife what you are struggling with. Of course she will be hurt and the discussion will be tough, but it is imperative you have her on your side in this battle. Tell your pastor and others you trust to help hold you accountable. If you think you can rid yourself of this addiction on your own you are simply deceived. I thought I could handle things on my own as well, and I am writing this from a prison cell. I warn you before it's too late. Your life will be destroyed if you keep doing what you are doing — that is a guarantee. I hate pornography with a passion. I despise and detest it because of what it has done to me and so many others.

God can and will help you through this. It is going to be a very hard and embarrassing journey, but well worth it in the end. God has blessed me with so much. I still get to talk to my children, my family has been with me every step of the way, and so many of my friends have never left my side, praying for me without fail. I am able to spend time in God's word and in prayer more and more every day. God has even allowed me to explore new career opportunities while being in prison. I couldn't or wouldn't see His many blessings because my life was devoted to following the lust of my flesh. I will always have to keep my guard up when it comes to pornography. I know I have a weakness, but that doesn't mean I have to let it rule my life again.

My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. Proverbs 3:11-12

The journey to freedom is going to be tough, but I promise you that God will always be there. Just open your eyes and look.



A YEAR END LOOK AT QUOTES FROM HPC...

(Compiled by Sister Genell Webb - Hodgenville Pentecostal Church)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revival with Bro. Ryan Ralston - Jan. 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Christ died on Calvary, He not only saved our soul but also saved our mind. - Bro. Ryan Ralston • Our fellowship meetings renew us, strengthen us, bring balance, and accountability. - Bro. Ryan Ralston • Holiness is the blessing of the separation of something for the saving unto something. - Bro. Ryan Ralston • Ministry doesn't require a microphone. - Bro. Danny Compton • Why do we always feel worse at night? ... - Bro. Dustin Ross • ... Because joy comes in the morning. - Sis. Leah Ross • Convenience is a luxury that leaders do not have. - Bro. David Webb • Leaders need to be searching for solutions. - Bro. David Webb • Our desire has to overcome our drawbacks. - unknown • People walk around with heavy loads that God never intended for them to bear. - Bro. Jeremy Pinson • Is our relationship a fountain or a cistern? There is an experience in Jesus where we can lead, worship, and live out of the overflow of the love, peace, and joy of Him. - Bro. David Webb • Bro. LD Savage... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not an ice-house. This is a firehouse. • God's people have always been associated with fire: from sacrifices or supernatural fire. • Nothing is accepted by | <p>God until there is total surrender.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What some people call sacrifice, others call worship. • The most critical age group in a church are the young married couples. They are reaching up with a hand to the elders and embracing what they've been taught while reaching down to the younger and pulling them toward that. This is the way to follow. - Bro. David Webb • We get weary from worrying more than weary from working. Better to be weary from working for the Lord rather than from worrying. - Bro. Danny Judd • The fairness of God: when Satan points out our sin, Jesus only sees the Blood. - Bro. Evan Reed • The truth does not change as we lose the ability to stomach it. - Bro. David Webb • Don't follow signs; follow the Savior. - Bro. David Webb • Will you coast or conquer? - Bro. Andrew Astor • He made our lives beautiful. - Sis. Susie Sidebottom • Some churches are closing doors. Ours is buying them. - Bro. Elijah Taylor • A mark of maturity is when you are not consistently being poured into, but consistently pouring into others. - Bro. David Webb • Shout it out and get the devil off your back. - Bro. Elijah Toro • Submitting is different than obedience. - Bro. David Webb | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak desire brings weak results. Small fires bring little heat. - Bro. David Webb • If He can find a lost coin, He can help a lost cause. - Bro. Philip Webb • Bluegrass Pentecostal Youth Camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't let receiving the Holy Ghost be a goal but a gateway. - unknown • Manufacture results, not excuses. - Bro. David Webb • What I have on the inside is like an artesian well. I don't have to run to the broken cisterns of this world to be filled. - Bro. Bill Watson • Live salty. Stand up and stand out. Salt doesn't blend in; it enhances. - Bro. Andrew Astor • Don't get distracted - don't be a distraction - don't miss a window of opportunity. - Bro. Jerry Barros • Keswick 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know how to possess your vessel in sanctification and honor. - Bro. John Gabbard • Most error can be traced back to the misconception of sin. - Bro. John Gabbard • We never get too big, too popular, too lifted up to not need God. - Bro. John Gabbard • The Holy Ghost - it takes obedience to get it; it takes obedience to keep it. - Bro. Bill Watson • "The outcome is not our responsibility but rather our response to His ability." - Bro. Zane Estis • We must not trade talent for the anointing of the Holy Ghost. It's the anointing that makes the difference. - Bro. W. H. Wyatt |
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