

Addictions – God’s only guaranteed, failsafe way to cure me

What’s an addiction? Webster’s: To devote or surrender myself to something (or someone) habitually or obsessively (and become a slave to it or them).

God says, when I’m addicted my human nature strongly wants something (or someone) so my will is taken captive by it and cannot say no to its craving, so I give in to what it wants.

1 Pe 2:11 **Do not give in to bodily passions, which are always at war against** (and seek to control) **the Soul** (my will) – (But I, an addict, cannot say no). TEV

What are some common addictions? Alcohol, Anger, Cigarettes, Coffee, Danger, Drugs, Envy, Evil, Exercise, Fantasies (sexual, or romantic, or heroic), Food, Gossip, Hobbies, Internet/phone, Jealousy, Lying, Masturbation, Making money, Perfectionism, Pornography (90% of men), Power, Self-pity, Sex, Shopping, Sleep, Sleeping pills, Sports, Status, Stealing, Swearing, TV, Un-forgiveness, Violence, Work, Worry and Wrong people.

God says, that we all are or have been addicted - for most of us it’s with many of them. None of us therefore can be aloof, judgmental and without compassion for those plagued by the more obvious addictions just because ours happen to be of the more secret kind.

Eph 2:3 **Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the wants of our human nature and of our imaginations...**

God says I can try and change these traits of my human nature but I will never be able to:

Jer 13:23 **Can an Ethiopian change the color of his skin? Can a leopard take away its spots? Neither can you start doing good, for you always do evil** (by nature). NLT

Despite this truth we still try with our human nature to restrain our human nature, and with white knuckles and much reinforcement by others may achieve a measure of success in modifying our behavior. But the desire is still there we haven’t changed our nature one bit.

God says there’s only one cure, Christianity. What’s that? An un-addicted Christ living in me and me living in Him – it is a change of nature from addicted me to un-addicted Him:

Col 1:27 **...God wills to make known...this mystery...which is Christ in you...**

Gal 2:20 **...it’s no longer (addicted) I who lives, but (an un-addicted) Christ lives in me...**

1 Jo 4:13 **By this I know that I live in Christ, and He in me...**(saving my soul, from me).

How does Christianity work? **Step 1** – I begin a relationship with God by being forgiven

1 Cor 15:1-4 **I declare to you the gospel that Christ died for your sins...and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,**

2 Cor 5:19 **...God was in Christ reconciling you to Himself, not counting your sins against you** (because Christ died for them, so that even though we don’t deserve it)

Eph 4:32 **...God, for Christ's sake** (who bore them), **has forgiven you** (your sins). KJV

The very moment my heart, my spirit, not my head, believes any one of these initial gospel truths, God's seed in those words enters me and my spirit is now born again. Just a little, a fraction of the nature of the un-addicted Jesus has now entered my heart.

1 Pet 1:23 **Having been born again...by the word of God which lives** (in me)...

Step 2 – My spirit is re-born, I've become a spiritual baby with just a tiny bit of Christ's un-addicted nature in me. Even that is enough to make some changes in me, like my now forgiving others. But my will, which is my soul, is mostly controlled by my addicted human nature. My greatest need now is to receive more of God's living words, Christ's nature, into my heart to make me stronger; by letting others feed me at meetings or by recordings.

1 Pe 2:2 **As newborn babies, drink the pure milk of the word, so that you may grow,**

John 8:31-32 **...If you continue in My word...you'll know the truth, and the truth** (in you - Christ's nature) **will make you** (increasingly) **free** (from addictions, they'll drop off).

Step 3 – As I'm encouraged by what a loving God has already done for me, I will want Him to make me completely free and I will want to yield to His will and have His power to do it in every area of my life. For this, God will need to put His Holy Spirit into my heart.

Rom 8:9 **You do not live as your** (addicted) **human nature tells you to; instead, you**
TEV **live as the** (un-addicted) **Spirit tells you to if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you.**

Ezek 36:27 **I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My words, and you will keep My words and do them** (this occurs only after we are born-again).

Gal 3:2 **...You receive God's Spirit by...hearing God's word** (as above) **and believing it.**

Christ's Spirit will continually feed me more of God's words, my daily bread, imparting to me more of Christ's un-addicted nature. By God's Spirit in my heart, my will now lives in my heart and not in my human nature or head, and has all the power needed to make me want to and be able to say no to all of my past addictions. The Holy Spirit, who is the mind of Christ, causes my thoughts to agree with God's will. Yet I can still slip back into sin, by a tempting thought from the devil or the words of people, that appeal to my human nature.

Prov 16:3 **...God will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will...** AMP

Step 4 – Jesus came with an addictable human nature just like ours. At the cross He let His body be put to death so that He could die to that unchangeable nature on our behalf. Our complete deliverance from the tyranny of our addicted human nature comes when we participate in Christ's death by simply believing God's words that say so, to in fact be so.

Rom 6:10-11 **Christ died to sin** (to addicted human nature) **once for all...so you also, believe yourselves** (by this truth) **to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ...**

Rom 6:6-7 **Knowing this your human nature was crucified with Him, so that the body of your addictions might be done away with, so you're no longer its slave. For those who have died** (with Christ by simply believing it) **have been freed from sin.**

Jer 32:40 **I'll make a New Covenant with you...I'll put My fear** (My Words, Spirit, Christ) **in your heart so that you won't depart from Me** (and go back to your addictions).