

## **EVERYONE IS AN ADDICT (Psalm 51)**

### **I. Attention.**

- A. The first step in cleansing oneself of an addiction of any type is having attention brought to the fact there is a problem.
  - 1. If we live in a state of denial, we are never going to admit that there is a problem.
  - 2. At some point, either we or someone close to us, has to bring to our attention that there is a serious problem.
- B. This is what happened with David.
  - 1. David had committed a terrible sin with Bathsheba.
  - 2. It involved adultery and murder.
  - 3. After everything was done and David thought he had everything covered, Nathan the prophet came to him.
  - 4. He told David a parable and then when David, not knowing it was a parable, passed judgment on the one who had done wrong, Nathan said, "Thou art the man" (2 Samuel 12:7).
- C. David was not going to admit a sin problem and it had to be brought to his attention.
  - 1. It isn't easy to do this when the one committing the sin has no desire to stop or admit a problem.
  - 2. However, if you love someone enough and you see they refuse to admit there is a problem, it must be done.

### **II. Decision.**

- A. Once attention has been brought to an addiction, there is a decision that has to be made.
- B. We can either admit there is a problem and make a change or continue the way we are living.
- C. Admitting the problem is difficult because none of likes to think or know we are wrong.
  - 1. It takes a big person to admit he or she is wrong.
  - 2. Small people want to hide behind things and blame others and not make changes.
- D. This involves repentance.
  - 1. True repentance is difficult.
  - 2. It is brought about by a realization that you have hurt God with your sin (2 Corinthians 7:10).
  - 3. It is then a turning completely away from the sin.
  - 4. Some people, when confronted with their addiction to some sin, refuse to change.
    - a. They may feel it's too much cost to self.
    - b. They may enjoy they way they are so they see no need to end their addiction.
  - 5. Others choose to quit their sinful ways and follow Christ.
    - a. It may be to check oneself into a rehab facility.
    - b. It may be to remove oneself from a destructive lifestyle and the situation that brought it about.
    - c. It may be to end a relationship that is sinful.
- E. Thankfully, David did this.
  - 1. After Nathan pointed out the sin David committed, David admitted his sin and repented (2 Samuel 12:13; Psalm 51:3).
  - 2. He realized his sin and repented in a very heartfelt way

### **III. Direction.**

- A. Once a decision has been made a direction needs to be chosen.
  - 1. Some say they are repenting and turning to the Lord but don't do so because they don't go to Him in His way.
  - 2. We must come to the Lord in the way He has appointed.
- B. Which way are we going to go?
  - 1. Man's ways aren't going to work (Proverbs 14:12).

2. People do this religiously all the time, even in the times of Jesus (Matthew 15:9).
  3. Men have devised ways to choose the direction of Christ but in no way bring one to Him.
- C. Only by coming to Jesus in His way does one choose the right direction.
- D. David understood this (Psalm 51:6).
1. Truth, God's word, is the only place to find the proper directions to get to Jesus.
  2. There is truth and it can be and must be known in order to come to the Lord.
  3. Jesus tells us to come to Him but it must be by His way and not ours (Matthew 11:28-30).

#### IV. **Intention.**

- A. Some of the best laid plans fall apart because there was never a commitment to the ideas.
1. How many times have you started to quit some addiction but went back to it?
  2. How many times has some sin crept back into your life because of some reason or other?
- B. There has to be a great intent to quit once the proper direction has been taken.
- C. David showed his intent with these words...(Psalm 51:4).
1. He knew what he had done to God and intended to never do that again.
  2. Notice verse 10.
    - a. David knew that God was his only hope.
    - b. He wanted to be the righteous person he had been before this sin.
  3. David followed through with this as well (1 Kings 15:5).
    - a. This doesn't mean David never sinned again.
    - b. It means he sought forgiveness from then on right when he sinned and did not let it linger.
- D. Clearly, he intended to be right with God from then on.

#### V. **Continuance.**

- A. Addictions are with us for life.
1. One who is no longer using drugs or alcohol will say they are a recovering addict.
  2. This holds true for those of us who are Christians and striving to stay away from sin.
- B. Once our intentions are clear, we must stay faithful to the Lord.
- C. We must follow the path of righteousness and stay as far from sin as possible.
1. We must remove those things that tempt.
  2. We can't be around it any longer.
- D. David realized the need for continuance (Psalm 51:11).
- E. You and I must be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10).

#### VI. **Teaching.**

- A. One of the best ways to continue to be faithful is to teach others.
- B. David knew that as well (Psalm 51:13).
1. He had been blessed by God with forgiveness.
  2. Others needed the joy he had (vs.12).
- C. Doing this makes you practice what you preach.
1. No one wants to be a hypocrite.
  2. You can't preach sobriety as a drunkard or user.
  3. Paul spoke of this in Romans (2:21-24).
- D. Each of us has the ability to help others because of our past experiences.
- E. Teaching others will help us remain faithful.