PRIDE WILL LEAD YOU BACK TO ADDICTION

Proverbs 16:18
Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

THE LIFE OF ADDICTION

Romans 7:17-20
But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can’t keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don’t have what it takes. I can will it, but I can’t do it. I decide to do good, but I don’t really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don’t result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

STEPS OF ADDICTION

- **Step 1:** “You admitted your addiction made you powerful and you could manage your life
- **Step 2:** “Came to believe your addiction was a way of escaping, and it kept you sane”
- **Step 3:** “Made a decision to turn your will and your life over to the care of your addiction, even though you didn’t understand it”
- **Step 4:** “Weren’t willing to look at anything about yourself, but instead blamed others”
- **Step 5:** “Admitted to no one what you were really up to”
- **Step 6:** “Became entirely ready to compromise your character to stay in your addiction”
- **Step 7:** “Added to your shortcomings, which added to your guilt”
- **Step 8:** “We’re unable to acknowledge any of the people that you had harmed”
- **Step 9:** “Harmed those people whenever possible in order to stay in your addiction”
- **Step 10:** “Never looked at your side of the street, wronged many people and never admitted it”
- **Step 11:** “Sought to improve ways to stay in our addiction, praying only when you were in trouble, then went back you your addiction”
- **Step 12:** “Having lost everything as a result of your addiction, you realized you needed help and answered the call God has on your life ...or you’d die

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES OF THE STEPS TO ADDICTIONS

- **1 John 2:16**
STEP 1: DESIRES OF POWER AND POSSESSIONS

16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life[a]—is not from the Father but is from the world.

- **Proverbs 28:19**
STEP 2: CHASING FANTASIES TO ESCAPE

but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty.
John 8:44  **STEP 3: TURNING YOUR LIFE OVER TO CAPTIVITY**

44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Genesis 3:12  **STEP 4: BLAMING OTHER PEOPLE FOR YOUR MISERY**

12 The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

Proverbs 14:12  **STEP 5: HAVING SECRET THOUGHTS AND PLANS**

12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Proverbs 25:28  **STEP 6: COMPROMISING YOUR CHARACTER**

28 A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.

Psalm 51:3  **STEP 7: LIVING IN GUilt AND SHAME**

3 For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night.

Ephesians 4:19  **STEP 8-10: CONTINUED TO HARM PEOPLE TO STAY ADDICTED**

19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

Proverbs 26:11  **STEP 11: ASKING GOD FOR HELP BUT NOT RECEIVING THE HELP**

11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.

Romans 8:13  **STEP 12: YOU HAD TO LOSE EVERYTHING TO GAIN HIM**

13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

IN CLOSING

James 4:6  **IF YOU’RE STILL HERE GRACE IS STILL AVAILABLE**

6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

Jeremiah 17:9  **THE PRIDE WE HAVE RESIDES IN OUR HEARTS**

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Ezekiel 36:26  **DO YOU WANT GOD TO GIVE YOU A NEW HEART?**

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.