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## **OCTOBER, 2023** **STRANGE ADDICTIONS**

I found a report on my computer about strange addictions and learned that several years ago there had been a serialized documentary about this subject that ran for five years.

Following is a partial list of addictions that is indeed strange and hard to believe: “drinking paint, sniffing gasoline, eating rocks, eating a mattress, chewing dirty diapers, eating sheetrock, dressing and role-playing as a horse, treating teddy bears like children, being a perpetual baby, being a perpetual teenager,” and the list goes on and on

Why do people get addicted in these crazy ways? The computer program gave a scientific answer: “When the pleasure circuits in the brain get overwhelmed in a way that can become chronic and even permanent — connected to the dopamine reward pathway.” Addiction is defined as: “When people lose control over their actions.”

This is craziness, isn't it? But the reason we think it's crazy is because these things are so unusual. But there are many addictions in our society that we consider “normal” because they're so common.

Alcohol has been a common drink for mankind throughout history. It's relaxing, it relieves stress and anxiety, and if used in moderation is probably good for people. Drinking wine in moderation is affirmed in the Bible, while drunkenness is always condemned. I have had relatives and friends who literally drank themselves to death. They lost their health, families, reputations and lives because of an addiction to alcohol. In the United States, 75,000 people per year die because of alcohol. And think about the destruction caused by cocaine, meth, Fentanyl, and gambling.

And people can also become addicted to another person, even a toxic person. It's called codependency. And people can become addicted to all kinds of sexual practices. And people can become addicted to the internet. I think I read that the average teen is on the internet for 6 hours a day. I also read that there are over 2 million automobile accidents annually in the United States and that one out of four - 500,000 - is caused by texting!

You and I would rightly consider someone crazy, out of their mind, who drinks paint, eats rocks or chews dirty diapers. Ugh! But isn't it just as crazy for a person to drink himself or herself to death, or to use “party drugs,” even though they know people who died because they used those drugs? Or to drive down the road at 60 miles-per-hour while they are texting someone?

It breaks my heart to think about some of the people I have known personally who died because of some of these addictions. They were not bad people, they were good people.

Can Jesus heal people, set them free of these addictions? Of course He can, “He healed all who came to Him.” He healed Mary Magdalene, and the wild man in the tombs with an addiction to cutting himself, and Glenn. In fact, at the beginning of His ministry He said that He had come “to set the prisoners free and to release the oppressed.” (Luke 4:18)

(My observations and teachings about **addictions** are found in my Video Index, numbers 6-9. Click on the following icon—

- No. 6 [“Overcoming Addictions”](#)**
- No. 7 [“How do people act when addicted?”](#)**
- No. 8 [“Rebellion vs. Freedom”](#)**
- No. 9 [“Beware Traps of the Devil”](#)**

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Now, please sit quietly and think about your life. Have you lost control of your actions in any area? Are you still acting like a teenager in some ways? Are you codependent on someone? Will you work with Jesus and allow Him to heal You?

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## **THE SCAPEGOAT**

In the Old Testament, two animals were used on the Day of Atonement; one was sacrificed, the other was used for the scapegoat. (Leviticus 16:10) After the high priest placed his hands on the scapegoat's head, confessing the sins of the nation, it was released into the wilderness never to be seen again. It symbolized Christ the scapegoat, crucified outside the city, bearing away our curse.

Dutch sheets in his book Intercessory Prayer tells the story of a couple who discovered that their 14-year-old son had skipped school three consecutive days. He was found out when his teacher called his parents.

The parents were more upset by Steven's lies than his missing school. After talking with him and praying with him about it they decided on a severe form of punishment. They said to him, Steven, how can we ever trust each other if we don't always tell the truth? That's why lying is such a terrible thing. It destroys our ability to trust one another. Do you understand that?

Yes. sir.

Your mother and I must make you see how serious this is. For the next three days, one day for each day of your sin, you must go to the attic and stay there by yourself. You will even eat and sleep there. So Steven headed off to the attic and the bed prepared for him there.

It was a long evening for Steven and even longer for Mom and Dad. Neither could eat and for some reason when Dad tried to read the paper the words seemed foggy. Finally it was bedtime.

About midnight, as the father lay in bed thinking about how lonely and afraid Stephen must be, he finally spoke to his wife. Are you awake?

Yes. I can't sleep for thinking about Steven.

Neither can I.

An hour later he asked, Are you asleep yet?  
No, I still can't sleep for thinking about him alone up in the attic.

Me neither.

At 2:00 a.m. Dad said, I can't stand this any longer. He climbed out of bed,

I'm going to the Attic.

He found Steven wide awake with tears in his eyes. Steven, said his father, I can't take away the punishment for your lies because you must learn that sin, especially lying, has serious consequences.

But your mother and I can't bear the thought of you being alone here in the attic. So I'm going to share your punishment with you. So he lay down next to his son and the two put their arms around each other's necks. The tears on their cheeks mingled as they shared the same pillow and the same punishment for three nights.

What a picture! 2,000 years ago, God crawled out of his comfortable bed, put his tear-stained cheek next to ours, and bore our punishment for sin. That's right. Christ was not alone on the cross, we were with Him spiritually. (Romans 6:4-6)

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## **THERE'S A LION IN THE STREET!**

I usually wash my dishes every day or two, but last month on one occasion I let them get away from me. The dishes piled up in the sink for many days until there were not any dishes or bowls left in the cabinet, and there were pans and plastic bowls and a skillet full of old oil. It's awkward to wash dishes from a wheelchair, and I was hoping the job would magically go away, but it didn't.

Finally, the thought came to me, "JUST START!" So I started and of course it wasn't a big deal. In twenty minutes it was all done.

Proverb 26:13 says - "The sluggard (lazy man) says, 'I can't go outside and go to work, there's a fierce lion in the street. I'll just stay here in bed where it's safe.'"

People find all kinds of excuses to avoid responsibilities. I think it's more than laziness,

it's apathy and an inner resistance that becomes a kind of paralysis.

Why don't people whose marriages are slowly falling apart do something about it? Why do they let the situation continue to deteriorate until divorce seems the only option?

Why does someone with an alcohol or drug problem refuse to listen to their friends and family who keep trying to speak truth to them? It's not ignorance, they're very aware, but they act as if their brain is paralyzed.

Sometimes people are in a job that they hate, while they know there is an opportunity to do something that they love..... but there's a big lion in the street that convinces them they had better not make a move.

And there are people who know in their hearts that they need to get serious with God. They need to start obeying Him, but there's so much resistance inside and outside.

The only solution is to just start.

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## THE GIVER OF ALL GOOD THINGS

From Jesus Calling

“ I am the one you have been searching for. *I am the first and the last, who is and was and is to come.* Before me you expressed your longing in hurtful ways. That time is past.

I have lifted you out of darkness into My marvelous light. Though I have brought many pleasures into your life, not one of them is essential. Receive my blessings. Enjoy my good gifts, but don't cling to them.

The one thing you absolutely need is My presence.

Many people turn away from me when they are exhausted. They associate me with duty and diligence, so they try to hide from my presence when they need a break. This saddens me. As I spoke through Isaiah, *In returning to me and resting in me you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength.*

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## WHEN SUFFERING STRIKES

Also from Jesus Calling

“ Be prepared to suffer for me. All suffering has meaning in my Kingdom. Pain and problems are opportunities to demonstrate your trust in me. Bearing your circumstances bravely - even thanking me for them - is one of the highest forms of praise. This sacrifice of thanksgiving rings golden bells of joy in heaven. And on earth, your patient suffering sends out silver ripples of beauty.

When suffering strikes, remember that I am sovereign and that I can bring good out of everything. Do not try to run from pain or hide from problems; instead, accept adversity in my name, offering it up to me for my purposes. Thus your suffering gains meaning and draws you closer to me. Joy emerges from the ashes of adversity through your trust and thankfulness.

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## SIT, WALK, STAND

(from my Ancient Files)

( I just read Watchman Nee's little booklet, Sit Walk Stand, a brief study of Ephesians, and hope these insights touch you as they did me. )

“**Sit** has to do with our position in Christ (1:1 - 3:21) and concerns our relation with God; **Walk** has to do with our life in the world (4:1 - 6:9) and concerns our relation with people; **Stand** has to do with our attitude and relation to the enemy (6:10 - 24).

‘God..... raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places.... and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.’

Walking implies effort, whereas God says that we are saved not by works but by grace; which means to rest in the Lord Jesus. When we sit in a chair, we rest all our weight and trust in the chair. Spiritually we rest our weight - our load, ourselves, our future, everything - on the Lord. This was God's principle from the

beginning. God worked for six days and rested on the seventh. But Adam was created on the sixth day so that Adam's first day was a day of rest. It was because God's work of creation was truly complete that Adam's life could begin with rest. And so in the Gospel, God has completed the work of redemption, and we need do nothing to merit it but can enter by faith directly into a life of resting in the finished work of Christ.

But how can I be sure that I am "in Christ"? Because the Bible affirms again and again that it is so and that it was God who put me there. "Of Him (God) are you in Christ Jesus." If I put a photo of myself between the pages of a Bible and then burn the Bible, where is my photo? It has gone with the Bible to ashes. Where the one goes, the other goes too. Their history has become one. Just the same, God has put us in Christ. What happened to Him happened to us all. "Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away." That is not an exhortation to struggle, that is history, our history written in Christ before we were born, Righteousness is a gift from God. it is not an accomplishment of our own. It is all of Him by faith.

Walking is the practical outworking of that heavenly position here on earth - "Walk worthily of the calling wherewith you were called" - "No longer walk as the gentiles also walk, in the vanity of their mind" - "Walk in love, even as Christ also loved you" - "Walk as children of light."

Paul first learned to sit. He has come to a place of rest in God. As a result, his walking is not based on his efforts but on God's mighty inward working.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord." - "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, and having done, all to stand."

Our task is one of holding, not of attacking. It is a matter of advancement, of sphere, the sphere of Christ. In the person of Jesus Christ, God has already conquered. In Christ, we are "more than conquerors." Therefore, we stand. We do not fight for victory, we fight from victory.

Only those who sit can stand. Our power for standing, as for walking, lies in our having first been made to sit together with Christ. Our walk and warfare alike derive their strength from our position there with Him.

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## **THE LORD'S FAVORITE**

Doris and I had three sons and a daughter, and one of them is my favorite. That is the one I happen to be with or to be thinking of. When I'm around any of our four kids, I see what a special, wonderful person he or she is, and I think how God blessed us to allow us to bring them into His amazing world.

In John 13:3, John wrote, "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved." John himself is the one who wrote those words. John thought of himself as being the one Jesus loved. He thought of himself as the Lord's favorite, and he was right. But Peter and James and Thomas could likewise have thought of themselves as being the Lord's favorite, and they would have been right as well.

I read somewhere that God has the capacity to regard each of His children as His favorite. Jesus said in John 17:26 that the Father loves each of us as much as he does Jesus! (Stop and look up that verse and think about it for a few days.)

God is not angry at us, disappointed with us, barely able to put up with us. He Loves us beyond our capacity to comprehend. You are His favorite! Pray for the revelation that John had that you are the disciple whom Jesus loves.

God bless,

Glenn