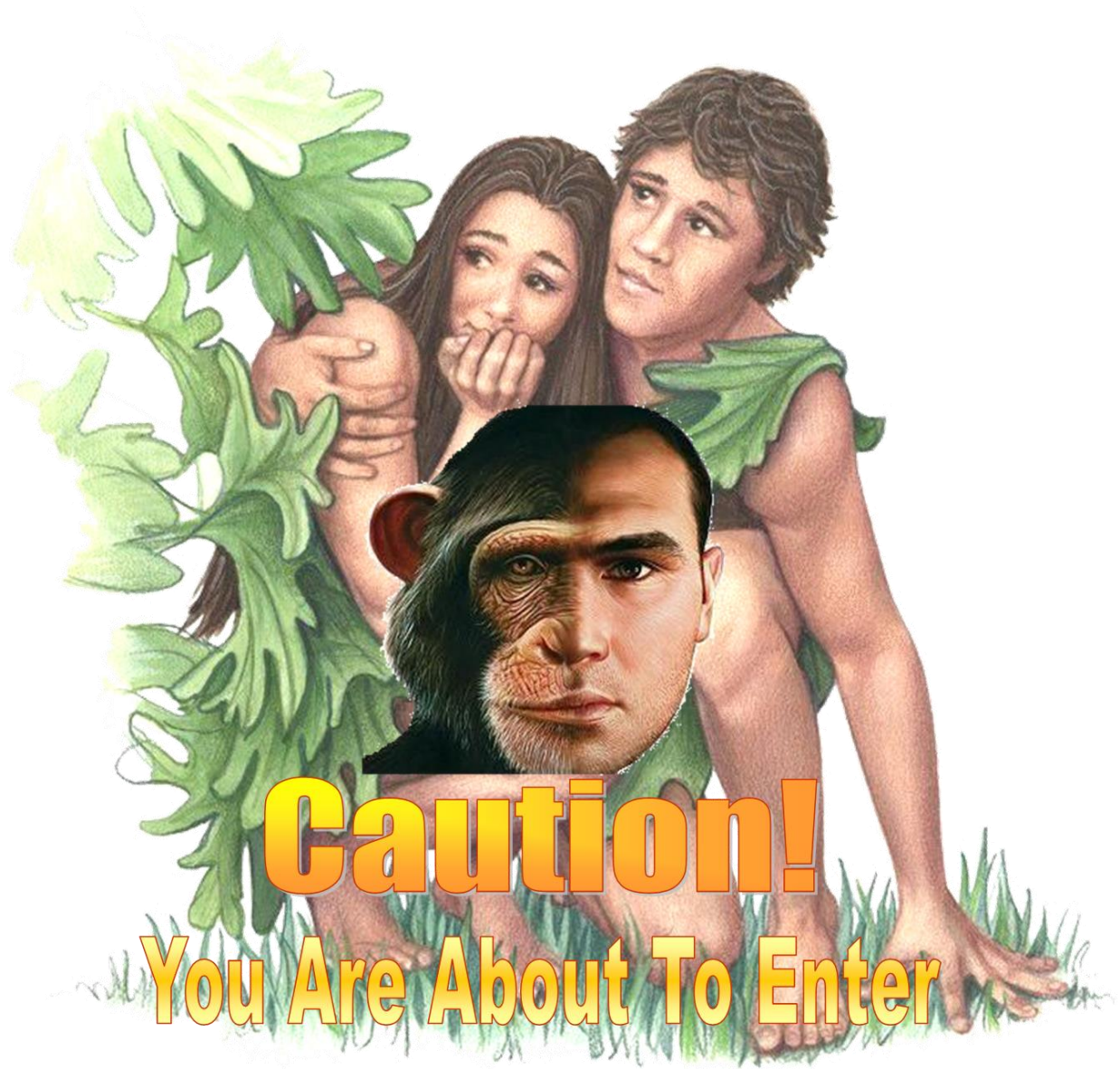




Caution!
You Are About To Enter
The KNOW Sin Zone™

"Find Your Game"

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"Find Your Game!" This slogan was made famous by the Taylor Made Golf Company when they introduced their "Burner Bubble" golf club line. Of course, like the other golf manufacturers, Taylor Made tries to convince us with their advertising that all we have to do to *"find our game"* is buy their latest products. They even entice us with endorsements from top professionals. The problem with this approach is that more of these clubs find our basements or the trunks of our cars rather than bring our games to the next level. They don't tell us the time and self-searching the top players spend to find their games.

"How unsearchable His judgments, and who has ever known the mind of the Lord?" the Bible asks us. The exact game that pulled yours truly away from God as a teenager brought me back in my mid-thirties, only to find out I had no game left. Like that old proverb, *"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

Not short on determination (or maybe pride), I set out to find my game again. In each round I played, I kept statistics instead of score to determine the parts of the game I needed to find. Here's what I found out:

The average fairways hit per round was 5.5. Greens hit in regulation were 10.4, of which my conversion rate of the missed greens was a poor 3.1, and I averaged an abominable 34.6 putts per round. Aside from my hands turning to stone, what does all this mean? Bluntly, if I don't get better at shaping my tee shots and develop a marksman-like approach from a hundred yards and in, I can forget about ever finding my game again. Most importantly, being the over-achiever I am, I need accountability that reminds me that if I conquer the world, I may lose my life.

So, I used my tenth club to play the game of life. I began taking an inventory of my life along with my golf game, and here's what I discovered: To live a 168-hour weekly prioritized lifestyle, I would need to spend 16.8 hours in communion with my God, 49.0 hours sleeping, 8.0 hours of exercise, 16.8 hours with my wife and children, 16.8 hours of personal time, still leaving me with 60.4 hours every week to work, work, work. What I discovered is not that I don't have time, which is a symptom of our area, but I'm sloppy with the time I have, and it's much easier anticipating life than being an active participant in it.

Find Your Game, and the Truth Will Set You Free!

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The KNOW Sin Zone™

The KNOW Sin Zone is where those of us who live with a "God-Consciousness" of varying degrees choose to play life flirting with the out-of-bounds markers – while trying to *"Have It All"* live. It's living *"SEPARATED"* from *"Whose They Are"* while they function as the centers of their little universe. However, since they were created to be dependent on God, they instinctively seek to close their separation from God with various other *"Dependencies"* or *"Strongholds,"* as the Bible refers to them. Upon entering The *"KNOW"* Sin Zone, you will determine:

- **"Whose"** you are. Are you a creation of an "Intelligent Design," or have you evolved due to scientific progression?
- **"Who"** you are
- **"What"** do you believe
- **"Why"** do you believe what you believe

Those living in The *"KNOW"* Sin zone must come to accept when life is good they're on a high, yet as time goes on the feeling that *"Something"* is missing gnaws at them and deceives them into believing they are *entitled* to *"more"* of the good life they have adopted in order to maintain the level their *separation* needs in order to satisfy their innate need for *"Wholeness"*. Their enslavement to *"Knowledge"* and *"Reason"* traps them into a downward spiral of quiet desperation of chronic un-fulfillment, blame and unhappiness. Underneath it all is a deep-seeded fear and anxiety deceptively disguised as a self-protective confidence as we desperately try to hide from who they really are. As the saying goes, *"Mirror, mirror on the wall, the mirror isn't on the wall at all. The reflection I see comes deep from within me."*

"Reason and Rationalization" are secondary tumors that have metastasized from the primary tumor *"KNOWLEDGE"* described by God as "sure death". As a simple guy I find it so interesting how many of those who live in The *"KNOW"* Sin Zone are of the opinion the Bible is out of date. Yet, at creation the Lord God forbid us to eat of just one thing..." *The Tree of KNOWLEDGE*", and today we overdose on it. Problem is *"Reason and Rationalization"* slowly begins to break us down and sucks the life out of us if it goes undiagnosed *and accepted*. The antidote – Jesus Christ. A life rooted in Christ surrenders *"Reason and Rationalization"* daily as we live in a state of humble remission. A life rooted in Jesus Christ doesn't mean one needs to be a fanatic of sorts and it certainly doesn't mean a man needs to surrender his masculinity. A life in Christ looks very similar to the reverence a golfer holds for the game. They play with an

uncompromising honesty and commitment and well-founded humility unmatched by any other sport.

In the book [The Bondage of the Will] an excerpt from Martin Luther's writings speaks to "Knowledge / Reason" as follows: *"The Holy Spirit is no Skeptic, and the thing it has written on our hearts are not doubts or opinions – but assertions, surer and more certain than sense of life itself. Luther's unflagging polemic against the abuse of knowledge / reason is aimed only at the ideal of rational autonomy and self-sufficiency – **the ideal of philosophers and scholastic theologians, to find out and know God by the use of their own knowledge and self-convenient unaided reason.**"*

*It was in her capacity as the prompter and agent of 'natural' theology that Mistresses Knowledge / Reason were in Luther's eyes the Devil's whores; for natural theology is, he held, blasphemous in principle, and bankrupt in practice. **It is blasphemous in principle, because it seeks to snatch from God a knowledge of Himself which is not His gift, but man's achievement** – a triumph of human brain-power; thus it would feed man's pride, and exalt him above his Creator, as one who could know God at pleasure, whether or not God willed to be known by him. Thus natural theology appears as one more attempt on man's part to implement the program which he espoused in his original sin to deny his creature-hood, and defy himself, and deal with God henceforth on an independent footing. But natural theology is bankrupt in practice; for it never brings its devotees to God; instead it leaves them stranded in a quaking morass of insubstantial speculation."*

"Man's part therefore, is to humble his proud mind, to renounce the sinful self-sufficiency which prompts him to treat himself as the measure of all things, to confess his blindness of his corrupt heart, and thankfully to receive the enlightening Word of God. Man is by nature completely unable to know God as to please God; let him face the fact – and admit it."ⁱ

As those who seek the full and complete satisfaction of serving God while enjoying all the pleasures of the world find themselves wandering aimlessly in **The KNOW Sin Zone,**[™] they continue trying one thing after another seeking the "*Something*" that is missing in their lives which they really have never identified. They can be dying inside, yet on the outside they appear to "have it all." Around the club we call that the, "Fernando Lamas Syndrome - when someone would much rather look marvelous rather than feel marvelous."

Man was not made to serve both God and "*Mammon.*"ⁱⁱ It is impossible to serve both God and the world. We were not created to claim the rewards of both. **Putting God first means we must be prepared to sometimes stand apart from the world.** You cannot always turn to the world and expect all the rewards which life has to offer. If you are trying sincerely to serve God, you will have other and greater rewards than the world has to offer. This does not mean one must turn fanatical, self-righteous or go around trying to convert everyone they meet. Of critical importance it doesn't mean a man has to give up his masculinity. **It means one has found the courage and has dug down deep into their being and has faced and now "KNOWS" the glaring character dependencies that push them into their addictive behaviors which afforded them comfort and dominance in their fraudulent kingdoms.** This "God-knowledge" is the freeing

knowledge given us by Christ on the cross. It leads one to a humble, gracious, credible and authentic life. ⁱⁱⁱ

"Upon discovering they are clinging to strongholds that they will not let go, they must sincerely ask God to help them to be willing to let those go. They cannot divide their lives into compartments keeping some for themselves and some for God. They must give it ALL to God saying, *"My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to You and others."*

The laws of nature cannot be changed - they must be obeyed. No exceptions will be made in any case. **We either submit to the laws of nature or they will eventually break us.** When this happens and depending on our current condition, we will either accept our broken condition or we will impose it on others in an attempt to break them keeping the focus away from ourselves. Those who are so enslaved in self-will, cowardly impose their brokenness on others.

These are mostly people who are constitutionally incapable of being honest since their fraudulent lifestyles have become their desperate attempt at survival. However, as they continue their cover up and continue to break the laws of honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love, they will eventually spiral down to a point of no return being left abandoned, angry, bitter, and alone. The moral and spiritual laws of God, like the laws of nature, are unbreakable without some disaster. If we are dishonest, impure, selfish, and unloving, we will not be living according to the laws of the spirit, eventually we will suffer the consequences and the more intellectually arrogant one is we are the harder they we are doomed to fall. **No one beats the rhythm of this life since the laws of nature respects no one who lives in their breach.**

The pain eventually becomes so chronic that we find ourselves suffering physically, emotionally, spiritually socially and financially. Those who achieved financial success tend to suffer more intensely from those who find themselves in poverty, since financial success typically was a form of their power and usually the way they controlled and manipulated others. The intellectual component of their life now becomes their bankruptcy leaving them insufficiently funded deep in the depths of **The KNOW Sin Zone™**.

Rigorously identifying one's character defects and the various salves used to cover up these defects is the manner in which one can hope to narrow the gap between God's design for humanity and sin itself. Once this identification is made the best we can hope for is a consciously repentant self which keeps us on noticed to the fact that we are flawed and humbly aware that without the person on Jesus Christ we would be living in eternal abandon.



What Does A Hard Reset Look Like?

Let's begin by defining a "Hard Reset" in today's technology terms.

*A hard reset, a factory reset, or a master reset is restoring a device to its state when it leaves the factory. **All settings, applications, and data added by the user are removed.***

Now, let's define a hard reset and how it is defined here at the club.

A hard reset, also known as a creation or "Reset by the Master," is the restoration of a person to the "Image of the Master Creator." "The old has gone. The new is here!"

Let's look at two passages of scripture very practically and see if you can identify a pattern.

Genesis 3:1-24	The KNOW Sin Zone™ (As you read thru these two passages, carry over the "Strongholds" that were identified.) ↓	Acts 9:43
3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it <u>your eyes will be opened</u>, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."		9 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "<i>Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?</i>" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "<i>I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,</i>" he replied. 6 "<i>Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.</i>" 7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, <u>but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing.</u>

Identifying Strongholds and Temporal Substances

What habit, substance, or activity do you tend to turn to when under pressure or stress? (Check those that apply)

☐	Excessive Work
☐	Sex / Pornography
☐	Over-Achievement
☐	Binge Eating
☐	Taking Control
☐	Uncontrolled Anger
☐	Money Dysfunction
☐	Hoarding
☐	Exaggerate Success
☐	Shopping When Stressed
☐	Spending on Toys
☐	Gambling
☐	Approval Seeking
☐	Toxic Relationships
☐	Rescuing Other People
☐	Physical Illness (Hypochondria)
☐	Excessive Exercise Conditioning
☐	Cosmetics & Surgery
☐	Excessive Clothes Buying
☐	Academic Achievement
☐	Religiosity
☐	Excessive Intellectualizing
☐	Perfectionism

[illegible]

☐	Obsessive Cleanliness
☐	Compulsive Organizing
☐	Excessive Worry
☐	Low Self Esteem

☐	Other: _____
☐	Other: _____
☐	Other: _____
☐	Other: _____

Y N (Check “Yes” or “No” to the following)

☐	☐	1.	I need more of the habit, substance, or activity than I used to experience a useful life under pressure.
☐	☐	2.	I turn to the habit, substance, or activity for reward or protection.
☐	☐	3.	I sometimes hide the habit, substance, or activity from those around me.
☐	☐	4.	Has the habit, substance, or activity affected my productivity on the job, at home, or in other areas of my life?
☐	☐	5.	Have I been deceitful with the habit, substance, or activity to the detriment of others around me?
☐	☐	6.	Could the habit, substance, or activity left unaddressed be destructive to me or others? (<i>Look at the worst-case scenario</i>)
☐	☐	7.	Have those around me ever mentioned the habit, substance, or activity?
☐	☐	8.	Do I get defensive when the subject of the habit, substance, or activity is brought up?
☐	☐	9.	Do I feel guilt or remorse for indulging in the habit, substance, or activity?
☐	☐	10.	Do I promise myself I will stop the habit, substance, or activity without doing so?
☐	☐	11.	Do I find that regardless of my resolve to stop the habit, substance, or activity to turn to it again?
☐	☐	12.	After attempting to stop the habit, substance, or activity unsuccessfully, do I find that they actually increase?

[illegible]

[illegible]

ⁱ The Bondage of the Will

ⁱⁱ **Mammon:** While not money itself, “*Mammon*” is an evil / spiritual power which grips and enslaves one through the medium of money.

ⁱⁱⁱ Twenty-Four Hours a Day, Hazelden-Betty Ford Foundation