

Spiritual Life Dynamics (09) **(Conquering Addictions – Part Three)**

The last three lessons in our series on Spiritual Life have been studying Conquering Addictions. We have labeled two types of addictions by the effect they have on the addict and recovery: light and hard.

We have labeled one type as light because its primary effect does not alter the mind. It also has a lighter withdrawal effect on the body and mind. Last week we discussed the light drug of tobacco or smoking.

We know that hard addictions have hard alternating effects on the addict's life which also will be true in recovery.

This lesson will study 4 aspects of the subject of conquering hard addictions taken from Eph.4:17-24.

1. Paul outlined the mechanics to conquering addiction whether light or hard in Eph.4:17-24. It is important that we examine these Scriptures closely for conquering addictions.

Paul opens (Eph.4:17) with the special phrase, *touto oun* [this / therefore], that refers us back to (Eph.4:1-16) (goal) (Eph.4:13). This passage can be divided into three sections of study on the Christian Way of Life (CWL) (Eph.4:1-6, 7-10, 11-16) [One Greek sentence].

Thus (Eph.4:11-16) is continued into (Eph.4:17) by special phrase (*touto oun*).

Note the confidence with which Paul introduced conquering addictions in (Eph.4:17) -“So that I say, and affirm together with the Lord.”

The greater passage (Eph.4:17-32) could be divided into two sections of therefore (oun) related to recovery and maintenance of the CWL (Eph.4:17-24) [**therefore**], (Eph.4:25-32) [**therefore**].

- It helps to know that (Eph.4:17-24) consists of two Greek sentences (Eph.4:17-19, 20-24).

2. The first Greek sentence (Eph.4:17-19) begins with a warning,

(Eph.4:17) “that you no longer walk **just as the Gentiles** also walk, in the futility (*matiaotes*) [vacuum] of their minds.” (Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD reversionism).

Paul established the dangers of believer living an OMCD reversion life style “in futility of their minds (*tous nous*)” as Gentiles or unbeliever (1 Cor.2:14) (*psuchikos*).

3. Paul used three Greek markers (perf.ptc) to show dangers of bondage of OMCD addictive reversion life style in (Eph.4:17-19).

It tears down the spiritual life of inhale-exhale of God Word's under the filling ministry of Indwelling Holy Spirit (Heb.5:11-12; Jude 20; Acts 20:32).

Paul used three markers:

1 st marker – “Being (eimi / p.p.ptc) [perfect periphrastic] darkened (**perf.a.ptc.aplm of skotoo**) in their understanding (te dianoia) (Eph.2:3)” (Eph.4:18a; Acts 26:18; 1 John 1:5; 2 Cor.4:4)

2 nd marker – “Excluded (perf.p.ptc.nplm of apallotrioo (Rom.6:4; 8:2, 6; 2 Cor.3:6) from the life of God because (dia+acc) [of cause] of the ignorance that is in them, because (dia+acc) [of cause] of the hardness (porosis) (Mark 3:1-5) of their hearts.” (Eph.4:18b)

3 rd marker – “They have become callous (perf.a.ptc.nplm of apalgeo) [cease to feel pain] having given themselves over to sensuality (aselgeia) [without restraint] (1 Pet.4:3-4) for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness (pleonexia) [covetousness] (Col.3:5) [god].” (Eph.4:19)

4. The second Greek sentence (Eph.4:20-24) gives the grace solution to OMCD.

(Eph.4:20-21) “But you did not learn Christ in this way. If (1cc) indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus.” (John 14:6)

God’s truth is at war against the Devil’s lies (John 8:44; Rom.1:25; 1 John 2:21).

Once again, Paul used three Greek markers (infin) to show how to Conquer Addiction by living New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) – “that in reference to your former manner of life (OMCD).” (Eph.4:22a)

- When applied, these three epexegetical (verbal) infinitives complete this principle - “and you have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus.” (Eph.4:21)

1 st marker – “**You lay aside (a.m.infin of apotithemi)** the old self (OMCD), [which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,] (Eph.4:22b)

2 nd marker – “And that **you be renewed (p.p.infin of ananeomai)** in the spirit of your mind.” (Eph.4:23)

3 rd marker – “And **put on (a.m.infin of enduo)** the new self (NMDV), [which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth].” (Eph.4:23)

- Note the two brackets [aorist/ OMCD] and [aorist/ NMDV] are in contrast until resolved by (Eph.4:23) (present).