



HOW TO OVERCOME SELF-DESTRUCTION

Sermon Series: At War – Part 3

Pastor Craig Coulter

ROMANS 8

1. I MUST REMIND MYSELF – WHAT JESUS DID FOR ME.

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving SPIRIT has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses could not save us, because of our sinful nature. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours are sinful. God destroyed sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so the requirement of the law would be fully accomplished for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow THE SPIRIT. (Romans 8:1-4 NLT)

2. I ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT – TO GIVE ME BETTER THOUGHTS.

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the SPIRIT have their minds set on what the SPIRIT desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the SPIRIT is life and peace. (Romans 8:5-6 NIV)

The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. (Romans 8:7-8 NIV)

3. I REALIZE – I HAVE A NEW ABILITY TO SAY NO.

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are now controlled by the SPIRIT if you have the SPIRIT of God living in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ living in them does not belong to Christ. (Romans 8:9 NLT)

So, dear brothers, you have no obligations anymore to your old sinful nature to do what it begs you to do. (Romans 8:12 LB)

4. I NEED TO – TURN MY THOUGHTS TO GOD WHENEVER I'M AFRAID.

Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's children. For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God's children, and by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, 'Father! My Father!' God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children! (Romans 8:14-16 TEV)

5. I FOCUS ON – THE LONG TERM – NOT THE SHORT TERM.

Since we are his children, we WILL possess the blessings he keeps for his people, and also we WILL possess with Christ what God has kept for him! For if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory! I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:17-18 TEV)

6. I MUST REMIND MYSELF – GOD IS IN CONTROL.

Also, the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, and even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain. God can see what is in our hearts... and the Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way God wants. (Romans 8:26-27 NCV)

AND we know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love Him, who've been called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28 NIV)

So what can we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? And since God did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else? (Romans 8:31-32 NLT)

Since God did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else? (Romans 8:32 NLT)

7. I TRUST THAT – GOD WILL NEVER STOP LOVING ME.

I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39 NLT)