

Wednesday 1.12.22 - Having Faith in Your Hope Filled Recovery

Yesterday we looked at how important it is for those of us battling this addictive behavior to have hope. Yet that is hard to do...right? We can look back at many times we have made promises to stop. We have asked God to please heal us and if He does we will do whatever He wants us to do. And when He doesn't we draw some seriously wrong conclusions.

We believe lies that enter our thinking. Lies like God doesn't love us anymore. We had a chance of a life with God, but it was or is contingent upon whether or not you can work your way out of your sexual brokenness. But that has not happened, and we go further down into darkness where there is no hope and we have no faith.

I mean we view our salvation as a quid-pro-quo. Jesus died for your sins and so now you have the chance to do your part and become a godly person. And if you do that well enough you will remain saved and might still get into heaven...but you cannot know for sure because you keep going back to porn and sexual sin.

I had a thought the other day that I think is an important one...among the torrent of bad ideas I have daily. Let me ask you a question...

If you were instantly and completely healed from your sexual addiction...

do you think that you would not struggle with sin...other sins?

I mean our focus on this struggle can consume us. It is the elephant in the room of our life. It is huge and we cannot ignore it, we try to defeat it, but find ourselves going back to it. And it is as time goes by instead of getting better we feel like a piling pounded deeper into that world by the pile drivers of our guilt and shame.

Where does one begin to find success in their recovery? I think it begins with faith because if you do not believe that God is going to heal you then you will not be healed in this life. Remember when Jesus was in His hometown? Mark tells us that Jesus had just healed a demonically possessed man who was living in the tombs of the dead.

Then He heals the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years, touches His robe and is instantly healed. And then He heals Jairus's daughter after she was dead, and she comes back to life and begins walking around at the age of 12. (See Mark 5) Everybody was amazed at these three healings...until Jesus got to his hometown.

After Jesus and his disciples reached His hometown He goes into the synagogue and begins teaching. They were astonished and wondering where this son of the carpenter learned such things...and we read these words...**they took offense at Him.** So, Jesus said these words...

*"A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." **And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief.**"*

Let me ask you a very simple and very direct question relative to your sexual brokenness...

Do You Believe God wants to and will heal you of this sin?

If you look at your past and your present and conclude that He either does not want to heal you or is unable to heal you then your first problem is a faith problem. Your lack of faith in God stays His hand from working in your life. So, if He is going to work and heal you we need to help you increase your faith...and remember what faith is from Hebrews 11:1?

**“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.”**

Faith begins with a hope for something to happen in the future...it has not happened yet, but you must have hope that it will happen...PLUS... you have the conviction that this healing will happen in your life.

If you are a believer in Christ's death and resurrection and have been born-again by the Spirit then these words I am absolutely positive are true about me and about you. This is the reality that God has for all His children...

***When we die physically here on earth
we will enter heaven and will be perfected in every way.***

Do you believe the Bible teaches that so that even though you cannot know when or what that will be like...you believe by faith and have the assurance of this happening to you? And about this you are convinced that it will happen even though you have not seen it. And if you need a verse to help you have faith in this happening here it is in Ephesians 1:13-14...

*“...when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, **and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance** until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”*

So, believe this...put your faith and your hope in this biblical truth...this rock-solid reality that has already happened in you and is a rock-solid guarantee that you will receive your inheritance in heaven. It is absolutely true for we have been signed,

sealed...and will be delivered. And we will then be perfected in heaven for all of eternity.

I can say this with absolute assurance based on God's Word that all of us who are born-again will be perfected forever in heaven. That is our hope...that is where we can put my faith and stand against these lies saying God is finished with us...that we will never be set free from sexual sin... **YES WE WILL BE SET FREE AND WE WILL BE FREE FOREVER!!!**