

Living Life Recovery ~ 40 Days of Recovery ~ Week 4

Not Restoration - RENEWAL 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Do not wait; the time will never be 'just right'. Start where you stand, and work with whatever tools you may have at your command, and better tools will be found as you go along. - **Napoleon Hill**

Romans 5:18-21 *Adam's sin brought punishment to all, but Christ's righteousness makes men right with God, so that they can live. 19 Adam caused many to be sinners because he disobeyed God, and Christ caused many to be made acceptable to God because he obeyed. 20 The Ten Commandments were given so that all could see the extent of their failure to obey God's laws. But the more we see our sinfulness, the more we see God's abounding grace forgiving us. 21 Before, sin ruled over all men and brought them to death, but now God's kindness rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

STEP SEVEN: Through the acknowledgment of God's supreme power, I humbly ask Him to help me change my sinful habits and attitudes.

I. GOD HELPS PEOPLE CHANGE:

Mark 1:7 *he preached he said, "The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will change your life.*

John the Baptist acknowledged as we all need to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is **'The One True Higher Power'**

John 16:33 *"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world."*

What an encouragement! With His help we can face whatever is ahead of us. With His help we can tap into all that God has in store for us.

Mark 1:3 "This messenger will live out in the barren wilderness," Isaiah said, "and will proclaim that everyone must straighten out his life to be ready for the Lord's arrival."

II. INWARD CHANGE LEADS TO OUTWARD CHANGE:

Matthew 3:8 Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.

In the process of recovery we need to be aware of shortcuts. The 'Big Book' of 'Alcoholics Anonymous' says of the Twelve Steps

"At some of these we balked. We thought we could find an easier, softer way.

But we couldn't. With all the earnestness at our command, we begged of you to be fearless and thorough from the very start. Some of us have tried to hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely."

Ecclesiastes 3:6 MSG A right time to search and another to count your losses, A right time to hold on and another to let go.

III. GOD'S CHANGES ARE COMPLETE:

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Recovery is not about restoration it's about Rebirth.

Think about It! When you were born, as you grew up you didn't know what you know now.

You couldn't do all the things you can do now. And it is the same with recovery.

It is a continual process of spiritual growth. Through relationship with Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit we have all we need to successfully travel the recovery road and come out the other end healed, whole and transformed.

Entry into the process does not automatically make all your problems disappear.

There is a lot of hard work to do! You have to get to know the real you, the you that God created.

You have to start taking responsibility for your past and doing what you can to set it straight. Most of all you have to learn to trust God and rely on Him to fix the things in you that you cannot fix in your own strength.

You have to learn to rely on Him, even when you don't understand or you can't see the way forward.

Romans 5:17 TLB The sin of this one man, Adam, caused *death to be king over all*, but all who will take God's gift of forgiveness and acquittal are *kings of life* because of this one man, Jesus Christ.