

I ADMIT MY LIFE IS A MESS AND I AM OUT OF CONTROL

If we are to better the future we must disturb the present.—Catherine Booth

What I don't understand about myself is that **I decide one way, but then I act another**, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary. But **I need something more!** For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, **I obviously need help!** I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. **My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions.** Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. **Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.** I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question? The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. **He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions** where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different. **Romans 7:15-25**

ACTION IS THE MAGIC WORD

God made my life complete when I placed all the pieces before him. When I got my act together, he gave me a fresh start. **Psalms 18:20**

"Walk straight, act right, tell the truth." **Psalms 15:2**

I. DECIDING TO DO THE RIGHT THING IS DIFFERENT FROM DOING THE RIGHT THING

I find this outrageous--the worst thing about living on this earth--that everyone's lumped together in one fate. Is it any wonder that so many people are obsessed with evil? Is it any wonder that people go crazy right and left? Life leads to death. That's it. **Ecclesiastes 9:3**

Obediently listen to God, your God. Keep all his commands that I am giving you today. Do the right thing in the eyes of God, your God. **Deuteronomy 13:18**

II. WE DON'T KNOW OURSELVES AS WELL AS WE THINK WE DO

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another--showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. **2 Timothy 3:16**

The entire congregation of God wants to know: What is this violation against the God of Israel that you have committed, turning your back on God and building your own altar--a blatant act of rebellion against God? "
Joshua 22:16

III. THE ANSWER TO CLEANING UP OUR MESS IS RELATIONSHIP

WITH JESUS

Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on:
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm
proof--Public Sinner Number One-- **1 Timothy 1:15**

"Don't suppose for a minute that I have come to
demolish the Scriptures--either God's Law or the
Prophets. I'm not here to demolish but to complete. I am
going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast
panoram. **Matthew 5:17**

2 Corinthians 5:16-18 Stop evaluating Christians by what the
world thinks about them or by what they seem to be like on the
outside. Once I mistakenly thought of Christ that way, merely
as a human being like myself. How differently I feel now! When
someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new
person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has
begun! All these new things are from God who brought us
back to himself through what Christ Jesus did. And God has
given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor
and be reconciled to him.

[Philippians 4:13](#) ESV / 13 helpful votes

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

[Proverbs 3:6](#) ESV / 13 helpful votes

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

[Proverbs 3:5](#) ESV / 10 helpful votes

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

[Philippians 4:6](#) ESV / 6 helpful votes

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

[John 3:16](#) ESV / 5 helpful votes

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

[John 4:19](#) ESV / 3 helpful votes

We love because he first loved us.

[1 John 1:9](#) ESV / 3 helpful vote

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[2 Timothy 3:16](#) ESV / 3 helpful votes

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

[Acts 8:22](#) ESV / 2 helpful votes

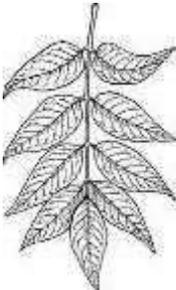
Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

[John 14:6](#) ESV / 2 helpful votes

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Hebrews 3:15 *Now is the time. Never forget the warning,
“Today if you hear God’s voice speaking to you, do not harden your hearts against him, as the people of Israel did when they*

rebelled against him in the desert."



living life recovery message handout

