**Breaking the Shackles of Sin**

I know for certain that there is a God. Let me tell you how.

I once wondered why I could not walk away from the bad things in my life: Things like pride, lust or anger. If the world is correct in saying that there is no God and I am in control of my own life then shouldn’t I be able to do what I want when I want and if I say I am done with something shouldn’t I be able to walk away. But everyone here today knows it doesn’t work that way, does it?

It is easy to see this truth when you look around and see the things that are driving this world: greed/money, Lust/pornography, depression/ Alcohol and drugs, Anger, gossip, it goes on and on. Don’t we all want a better world to live in but yet we create havoc everywhere we go and destroy everything we touch. WHY?

If the scientists are correct and the cosmos went from total chaos to an orderly state shouldn’t things be getting better?

So now you take all that and apply the bible then you can see that there is this unseen force that shackles us to our sins (shackle leg to something) so every time I try to walk away it pulls me back. Oh sure I could walk away for a day, maybe a week or a month or even maybe a year but it always pulls me back.

Sometimes if I try really hard I can drag this weight around with me and try to make it look like I am just fine to everyone else but in the end it just drags me down and everyone else around me with it.

That shackle is the enemy and he will lie to you. He will tell you: There is nothing wrong with your actions,” everyone does it.”, It is a mental or physical addiction that can’t be broken or “It’s not your fault” & “There is nothing you can do about it.” He may even tell you that you deserve it. (Good or Bad)

* **The enemy will try and convince you that there is no shackle**

No matter how many times I told myself “I” can overcome these actions/addictions the enemy would always pull me back again and again. Because the shackle was always there and the chain was never broken.

Paul explains this problem in Romans

Romans 7:18-21 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a rule that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand

 The amazing truth is that when Jesus died on that cross, he took the keys to set us free and all we needed to do is ask him. Now that is amazing!!!!

[Romans 8:1-4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A1-4&version=ESV) 7 There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Some people believe that we are free to go on sinning because Christ has already paid the price and therefore, we do not need to follow the old Testament Law as a means to salvation (Antinomianism). The bible does tell us that When Christ died on the cross, he fulfilled the Old testament Law (Romans 10:4, Galatians 3:23-25)

But if we read that last part of [Romans 8:](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A1-4&version=ESV)7 again it says: In Order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk NOT according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

So there is a catch, we have to walk in the Spirit and if we are walking in the Spirit we will desire to please God and not man.

Paul also deals with this Romains 6:1-2

Romains 6:1-4: What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?  **By no means**! **We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?** 3 Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life**.

If we continue in our sin we have to ask ourselves if we are truly in Christ

1 John 2:3-6 We know that we have come to know Him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

So what is the Law of Christ that we are to follow:

Matthew 22:36-40 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

So, based on this we can’t do anything to harm others (gossip, hate, steal, disobey our parents) and We have to put God first over everything else in our lives. Let me say that again “We have to put God first over everything else in our lives”

I am here to tell you today you can turn your life around. You can walk away from all your sin. Whatever it is! (over-eating, drinking pornography and addiction) You can walk away from any shackle by giving your life to Christ and desiring nothing more than to put God first and asking Christ to help put everything else in order.

I am a living example after I gave my life to Christ and asked him to remove these shackles I walked away from Pornography, Drinking and Drugs and all I did was ask Christ into my life and to remove everything that was keeping me from his blessings and have a real desire to do it. (I am not saying it was easy and yes, I fell back a few times but I was always under conviction)

This did not happen overnight, and God continues to work on many things in my life, but it started with a desire to follow Christ and once I started following Him, He started making all my sins very visible to me. At that point I had a choice either to yield to Him and ask him to help me remove it or to hang on to the Sin.

If you love the sin or addiction more than Christ then he will not be able to change you. The Bible tells us that you can not serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). You have to put Christ first in your life and ask & give him control

sometimes God will use bad situations to get your attention. (I can remember many that I went through but refused to turn back)

**🡪Sometimes we need to hit rock bottom before we can climb to the top.**

**The Path to Sin & back to Righteousness**

I am going to tell you a story that happened to me where God had been working I my life to change me but then I fell back into Sin. You may ask why would I reveal myself like this but it is in an attempt to show that we all fall in to sin and there is always a path back to righteousness.

I was praying for God to remove all the sin in my life and he has been changing me. It usually starts out with gentle reminders but as you continue to fall back over and over again then sometimes it can hurt.

Well IT happened one day where I had decided to upgrade my computer. In an attempt not to lose any data, I purchased another Laptop with no operating system and was going to load the new operating system and move all my data over to the new machine. Simple enough.

(**Step 1** The **trap / Temptation from the enemy)**

While I was running some test on the new machine to make sure everything was working I decided to check emails and looking at my Facebook and whatever. Then some small ad popped up on the side with a picture of a barely clothed actress.

(**Step 2 the decision** - **God will provided a way out**)

Immediately all my training (Reading the bible, Prayer, Church) kicked in and told me to click it away and that was what I “planned” to do. It would have been very simple to just close the window. One Click! At this point I should throw in some cliché about good intentions but I will continue. Needless to say, I did not walk or “Click” away.

(**Step 3 taking the wrong path**)

Seeing that I had a few minutes while my other system was loading I decided what would it hurt if I just find out more about this actress? I just wanted to know who she was. What movies has she been in? Just do a little research and then be done with it.

(**Step 4 going deeper and deeper till hitting bottom – deep in Sin)**

Well next thing I knew I was googling all these pages with all these different pictures of her. Many bordering on Pornography.

(**Step 5 The results of Sin)**

It was about this time I looked over at the new computer and noticed an error message so I stopped what I was doing to read it. The error message said “Hard drive not found”. I tried a few tests and sure enough it was not finding the hard drive. **So I did a stupid thing**. I shut down my good computer and pulled out the hard drive to see if my “know good” drive would test good. I hooked up and ran the test on it and it failed. “Must be a faulty test cable”. I put it back into my old computer and that is when it happened: HARDDRIVE NOT FOUND.)

 I will say usually we do not see the results of our sin within seconds of committing them. It can take days, weeks, years or even a lifetime. But I think God really wanted to put this sin away. See I had been praying for God to remove all the sin in my life. Lust, Pride, Anger and he was responding. This is not the way I had hoped he would respond but He got His message through.

Well I figured I somehow had shorted something in the computer so I went online (on My Work laptop) and ordered another laptop and hard drive through eBay. After several hours of investigation, it turned out that at some point, probably while I was looking at those pictures, I had crossed the wires on the test cable. So, positive was going to negative and negative to positive and killing the drives. By the time it was all over I had killed 3 or 4 drives and **I had lost all my data.**

If you remember the whole reason I was doing this was to make sure I did not lose my current computer and all my data and that is exactly what happened.

**(Step 6 Recognizing your sin and asking for forgiveness**)

I immediately knew what had happened: I had sinned and now I was paying the price. I told God I was sorry and asked for his forgiveness and asked for his blessing in getting everything back in order.

(**Step 7 full restoration**)

It took me quite a while. But I found another drive I had and loaded the new operating system. I also found a backup that was 6 months old that restored most of my data. I was still missing a lot but I told God thanks for forgiving me, getting me back up running and that I was ok with losing the data. Don’t get me wrong it was important data “to me” (but not really).

Then when I was content with the way things where I remembered I had a server I would plug in twice a year to back up my data. I had never tested if the data was really there. Was it possible I had done that recently? Sure, enough I was able to recover all but a month of data. I was almost right back to where I had started. It caused a bunch of needless work (3 to 4 days) but it felt good to be made right with God.

(**Step 8 the blessing)**

The story does not end there. So, you remember that I ordered another laptop to replace the one I though was bad. Well that week at church the kid’s group leader came to me and asked me to look at the Kids room laptop. She said it was not coming on. Turns out the mother board crashed and I just happened to have a replacement.

There is a verse in the bible that says

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

I have now doubled down on praying for God to remove the sins in my life GENTELY.

Bottom line is let God take control of your life. Ask him to change you and remove all that is wrong and he will change you. It make take some time and sometimes we may need help from friends and family and that is ok but be willing to let God make those changes.

See Part 2 **God Restores the Sinner**