

## **Delivered from the Bondage of Addictive Sins - Part 2**

### **1 Samuel 7**

#### **Introduction:**

1. It is a terrible feeling to live in bondage. Do you ever feel like you're handcuffed to some particular sin, addiction, or situation and there is no key to get yourself loose?
2. There is hope, and that hope is found in Jesus Christ. No matter what situation you may find yourself in, Christ can set you free. John 8:36
3. Here in our text, the nation of Israel (God's people) found themselves in constant bondage to their enemy, the Philistines. Their bondage had caused them to lament after the Lord (vs. 2). "Lament" means "to utter cries of sorrow; to bemoan; to mourn."
  - Their lives were not characterized by joy, peace, and contentment. They felt overcome, frustrated, and defeated.
  - The source of their bondage really wasn't the Philistines. It was their own habitual sin of following false gods and heathen idolatry.
4. I believe that there are many of us today (who know Christ as our Savior) who can associate with these feelings of despair and bondage. We are frustrated in our Christian walk because we are battling with some addictive sins of our own.
5. Do you remember the boy, Samuel, who helped Eli, the high priest, in the tabernacle? He has now grown into a man. But not just a man—a man of God!
6. Samuel stood up and proclaimed to Israel what they needed to do in order to gain deliverance from those pesky Philistines (vs. 3). They are "keys" to unlocking the handcuffs of addictive sins and overcoming the "Philistines" in our lives. Every believer can be set free from the bondage of addictive sins.
7. How can we be delivered from bondage?

**First, by possessing true, heart-felt repentance**

**Second, by dealing decisively with your sin**

**Third, by preparing your heart unto the Lord**

1. Throughout the Bible, you will discover the principle of replacement. That is, we are to put away sinful behavior, but then replace it with godly actions. Romans 12:9b
2. Samuel says, "*Put away the strange gods... and prepare your heart unto the Lord.*" It wasn't enough to simply put away their false worship; they had to replace it with true, authentic worship of the Lord.
3. In life we prepare for everything we do (to come to church, for a trip, jobs at work, grocery list, etc.). If you have a wall you want to paint, what should you do to the wall first? You must prepare it.

4. Our spiritual lives are no different. They take preparation. We will not automatically get up each morning and live spiritual lives. We must prepare our hearts each and every day.
  - Paul taught that believers should prepare themselves “*unto every good work.*” 2 Timothy 2:21
5. When it comes to overcoming addictive sins, it is essential that we are engaged in true worship of the Lord each and every day (preferably the morning before you start the day).
  - I recommend that you have a certain place that you meet with God each day. Read His Word, talk to Him, get to know Him, tell Him the areas that you are struggling with, seek His strength and His sustaining grace.
6. As you do this, you are preparing your heart unto the Lord. It allows you to start the day with a tender, soft heart that desires to walk with God.
7. You don't overcome addictive sins by simply gritting your teeth and trying harder. This is just a work of your flesh, and flesh doesn't overcome flesh. It has to be a work of God's Spirit and that will only come as you walk with Christ and yield to Him each day.
8. The Christian life is not a list of "do's" and "don'ts." It is all about a walk (a relationship) with Jesus Christ. This is what Christ desires. If you could somehow overcome every addictive sin on your own and always obey every one of God's commands, but not have a relationship with Christ, it wouldn't please Him.
  - Religion is all about "the list." The Christian life is all about your relationship with Christ.
9. Have you been preparing your heart unto the Lord each day? It is a key in overcoming addictive sins, but more importantly it is the longing of God's heart. He desires to have you walk with Him daily.

#### **Fourth, by serving the Lord fervently**

1. It appears from Samuel's use of the word "only" that Israel was still attempting to serve the true God while they were also serving other gods.
2. Remember Israel's leaders back in chapter 2? They were still trying to serve God with sacrifices and following parts of God's law, but they were called sons of Belial. They were serving God half-heartedly. This will not work. It is an offense to God.
3. Notice what Christ tells the church of the Laodiceans in the last days. This is what God thinks of half-hearted service. Revelation 3:15-16
4. Paul told the body of Christ in Romans 12:11, "*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.*"
  - The word "fervent" means "to be hot; to glow."
  - God wants us to be red hot—on fire for Him.
5. Are you fervently serving the Lord, or have you been a lukewarm Christian? Is your walk with Christ something that you are passionate about or do you possess a "ho-hum" attitude about it?

6. I think one of the reasons why believers struggle with addictive sins is because we are trying to keep one foot in the church and another foot in Satan's world system. We are riding the fence, so to speak.
  - There is nothing worse than when this happens, because believers who do this become misfits in both places. We don't feel comfortable in either place.
7. I like how Joshua charged Israel in Joshua 24:15: "*Choose you this day whom ye will serve.*" He told them that they could either serve the false gods that their fathers had served, or they could serve the true Lord. He said, "*But as for me and my house...*"
  - God give us believers like this today—believers that are sold out for Jesus, whose hearts' desire is to serve their Lord and Savior!
8. Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters. If we want to be delivered from the bondage of addictive sins, we must get totally committed to serving the Lord. Half-hearted devotion to Christ won't cut it.

### **In Conclusion:**

1. For the believer, God's Word is clear. We now possess the righteous nature of Christ. Christ lives in us and Christ "*is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we [could] ask or think.*" Ephesians 3:20
2. You do not have to live in bondage to your sin or some particular addiction. You are not a victim of your past or your present circumstances. God's Word says that you are more than a conqueror through Christ. Romans 8:37
3. But there must be a spiritual awakening in your soul and a true desire to change. 1 Corinthians 15:34a
4. If you have that desire today, study the four principles that we have learned in this lesson and begin to practice them daily. Then watch those Philistines fall!