

The Practical Outworking of the Holy Spirit in Addiction Counseling

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I. Introduction

Goal: Learn how to be practical in the disciple-making of an addict, while recognizing the Holy Spirit's work to transform the heart. The role of the Holy Spirit is crucial in transforming the heart desires of the addicted.



II. OVERVIEW OF ADDICTION

A. Secular Definitions

- The Center on Addiction, “What is An Addiction?” (accessed July 13, 2020), [https://www.centeronaddiction.org/addiction.](https://www.centeronaddiction.org/addiction)
- American Society of Addiction Medicine (accessed July 13, 2020), [https://www.asam.org/resources/definition-of-addiction.](https://www.asam.org/resources/definition-of-addiction)



II. OVERVIEW OF ADDICTION

B. Biblical Definitions

1. Ephesians 5:18



II. OVERVIEW OF ADDICTION

Re-defining addiction Biblically: *“The persistent, habitual thoughts, words, and actions, stemming from the desires within one’s heart, that are associated with excessive pleasure-seeking which are known by the user to be harmful and physically enslaving; these are sinful, willful choices to disobey God whether one acknowledges it or not.”* – Mark E. Shaw, 2020

Addiction is the manifestation of a sinful heart desire problem. It is a worship disorder. Luke 6:45



III. OVERVIEW OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE WORD OF GOD

A. What do we believe about God's Spirit?

B. What do we believe about God's Word?

C. What do we believe about the partnership between the Holy Spirit and the Word of God?

D. What do we believe about the counselor and counselee in a biblical counseling session?



IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF A HEART

A. Holy Spirit works inwardly in the desires of one's heart.

B. For those motivated externally, the Holy Spirit works in the desires of their hearts—outward to inward. Romans 6:12-14



V. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK TO REVEAL WRONG DESIRES

(See Charts in notes)



VI. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK USING PRACTICAL ACTIONS OF REPENTANCE

(See examples "A" through "O" in Handouts)



VII. CONCLUSION

- A. God has revealed His knowledge and has revealed Himself to us through His Word.
- B. He wants us to be connected to Him, and He wants good for you and your counselees.
- C. The Holy Spirit is alive and active in our everyday lives.

