



**The Christian Solution
for Addictions:
Jesus!**

"Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living"

Lessons Developed by Pastor Rick McClung



ATTITUDE 6 - Obedience

Watch Video: <http://www.tmewcf.org/video.html>

Jesus said: "Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8

I desire to live day by day under the
guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

For any person that lives the Christian life, obedience will always be a challenge. We can always live in the presence of God; however, we will also always live with the reality of temptation. Both involve choices and they both present their own incentive.

When we are tempted to sin and disobey the Lord, there always appears to be a return offered for doing so. Sadly, many of us have learned the hard way when we do not take the time to consider just what those rewards might be. When we give into the temptation there is never a reward that completely satisfies — we open the door to more temptation disregarding what is actually behind each of the doors.

When we choose to obey, our obedience may not always be motivated by a reward — nonetheless there is a reward to be had. Each time, there is the "unknown factor" prior to our decision to obey or to give into the temptation and disobey. The "unknown factor" is, what will I receive if I obey and what will I receive if I do not obey?

Many people who are deceived by their addiction disregard the possibility of the negative affects of disobedience and give in to the temptation in order to have their desire met immediately met. In doing so, they continue to open themselves up to the effects and consequences of their disobedience.

The bottom line is this: until we ask God to help us and give us the strength to choose obedience over disobedience we will never overcome our struggle with addiction. It will not always be easy, but it WILL always be worthwhile.

Proverbs 4:23-27 - Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

²⁴Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

²⁵Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

²⁶Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

²⁷Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

What we can learn from our text:

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1. **Vs. 23 - SOMETHING TO KEEP.**

Keep (guard) thy heart (the inner man, the mind, the will, the understanding) with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

- **Heart - 725 times in the O.T.; 105 times in the N.T**

What's all the fuss about the heart? I believe it is because what's in the heart is the easiest thing to conceal. Some people become very good at concealing what is really going on in their lives because for whatever reason they do not want to share the reality of their struggle.

When anyone lives in this pattern they open themselves up to more struggles. While they are dabbling in what they believe to be little things (not the big things perhaps of the past), they will not come to terms with the fact that things will not stay the way they are when we dabble.

The longer they get away with it the worse off they become and as always, one thing leads to another and things begin to unravel. All of it could have been avoided had they been honest about the struggle of temptation and not been dishonest concerning the giving in to the temptation.

Deuteronomy 4:9 - Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

- Keep our hearts from getting hurt and doing hurt.....hurt and anger are both triggers.
- Keep them from being defiled by sin and burdened by worry.....sin creates the appetite for more and worry can make us vulnerable to careless solutions.
- Keep our hearts with a clear conscience.....peace with God is priceless.
- Keep out bad thoughts and keep up good thoughts.....bad thoughts lead to worse thoughts and good thoughts lead to better thoughts.
- Keep our affections on the right objects within the right bounds ... always have a line that you refuse to cross.

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Jeremiah 17:9 says that our hearts are deceitful. **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**

Bottom line....the actions of life flow from the heart.

2. Vs. 24 - SOMETHING TO PUT AWAY.

Put away from thee a froward (stubbornly disobedient) mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

Matthew 15:19 - Jesus said: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:"

Matthew 12:34 - Jesus said: "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

There is an obvious connection between the heart and the mouth. When the heart begins to change the mouth will follow. All of this is part of the progressive growth concerning our walk with the Lord and we should pay careful to this connection. Simply said, from a corrupt heart comes corrupt communication.

Proverbs 11:20 - They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are His delight.

3. Vs. 25 - SOMETHING TO SEE.

Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

- Be sensitive to distractions ... or being one.
- Let the eyes be fixed and not wandering.

Proverbs 12:11 - He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

Proverbs 27:20 - Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

This reality was set into motion and has been in motion since the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). Adam and Eve were permitted to partake of all the trees of the garden, but they had to meddle with the one — only one — they were forbidden to have. Always remember, much of the sin that we partake of comes through

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the eyes. Discipline the eyes from being distracted and you will have a lesser chance of indulging in the distraction.

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Job 15:12,13 - Why doth thine heart carry thee away? and what do thy eyes wink at, ¹³That thou turnest thy spirit against God, and lettest such words go out of thy mouth?

4. Vs. 26 - SOMETHING TO CONSIDER.

Ponder (weigh out) the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

- Consider our past ways and see where we have been — consider our present ways and see where they might lead.
- Put God's word on one side of the scale and what we are doing (or are about to do) on the other side, and see whether they agree.

5. Vs. 27 - SOMETHING TO REMOVE.

Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove (depart, turn aside, avoid) thy foot from evil.

Job 1:1 - There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil (same idea as vs. 27).

Here we see an opportunity to choose obedience over disobedience. But notice the tense of the instruction: Solomon tells us that the opportunity to turn things around is present when we are headed for evil or participating in evil. Either way, there is a way out. We are to either avoid it, or when we have failed to do so, we are to depart from it.

Obedience, according to Jesus, should always be motivated by love.

John 14:15

Jesus said: "If ye love Me, keep My commandments."

Cultivate your love for Jesus Christ and your obedience to Him will not be as difficult as you may have thought.

