

The Slippery Slope of Addiction

by Shane Idleman

This sermon addresses the stronghold of addiction, emphasizing the need to break free and surrender to God. It highlights the dangers of addiction, whether it be to substances like alcohol or drugs, or behaviors like gambling or gluttony. The message stresses the importance of repentance, seeking God's help, and the power of prayer and fasting to overcome addiction. It also touches on the deceptive nature of sin and the need for humility in seeking healing and transformation.

Scripture: Isaiah 28:7, Luke 21:34, 1 Corinthians 6:9, James 1:22, James 4:7

Topics: "Breaking Free from Addiction", "Surrendering to God"

Description

This sermon addresses the stronghold of addiction, emphasizing the need to break free and surrender to God. It highlights the dangers of addiction, whether it be to substances like alcohol or drugs, or behaviors like gambling or gluttony. The message stresses the importance of repentance, seeking God's help, and the power of prayer and fasting to overcome addiction. It also touches on the deceptive nature of sin and the need for humility in seeking healing and transformation.

Transcript

Gaming to gambling and I'm going to give part two of this which is vitally important part two on January 2nd New Year's resolutions are coming and I know there's going to be a lot of resolutions in this area So I'm going to tell you how to break free of the stronghold of addiction on January 2nd So get friends here family here yourself here And if you need extra help or you know somebody that needs help we've made my book help I'm addicted free in the lobby just grab a copy or two or three and get it to those who need to hear what God can do in the lives of People who submit to him and the book is about four and a half hours long so obviously there's a lot more in that than I can give you here, but it's so important because This is something that we're dealing with in our culture today have you read the news about the opiate crisis and the ravage of alcohol during kovat and The disease related things because of gluttony and I mean, it's just like we are an addicted nation and God's Word has something to say about being in bondage to something because it's it can be a form of idolatry If I put anything before God It can become an idolatry now I'll share with you one of my personal struggles is having Christian crack before my Bible study in the morning. It's it's in a cup It's black Something called Keurig You know kind of makes that Starbucks come on you guys know So if I have to have that every I can't don't talk to me don't have the kids around me I don't want to pray first. I can't read the Bible first.

I nothing I have to have this Now I'm ready It's addiction I'm just here to shoot you straight and It will all addiction in some form or another is not meant to be your friend I Didn't read this at the first service and I almost didn't at the second, but I think it's important to help start this third service It was written. I was told by a young woman who overdosed and died And her family found this in her journal and I will tell you I've done a few memorials from this church For those in their 20s who died of heroin It's it's it's it's a nightmare This can relate to alcohol marijuana Things like that and they found this in her journal. I destroy homes and the title is the cost of addiction I destroy homes and tear families apart.

I take your children and that's just the start I'm more costly than diamonds more costly than gold. The sorrow I bring you is a sight to behold Just try me once and I might let you go but try me twice and I'll own your soul You'll forget your morals and how you were raised I'll be your conscience I'll teach you my ways I'll take and take and take till you have nothing more to give and when I'm finished with you, you'll be lucky to live If you try me be warned, this is no game. If given the chance, I'll drive you insane I'll ravish your body.

I'll control your mind. I'll own you completely your soul will be mine Your nightmares the nightmares I give you while lying in your bed the voices you'll hear from inside your head the sweats the shakes the visions You'll see I want you to know these are all gifts from me Anybody detoxing can relate to that? But then it's too late and you'll know in your heart that you are mind and we shall not part You'll regret that you tried me. They always do but you came to me not I to you You knew this would happen many times you were told but you challenged my power and chose to be bold You could have said no and just walked away if you could live that day over now, what would you say? I'll be your master.

You will be my slave and I'll even go to you when you go to your grave Now that you have met me, what will you do? Will you try me or not? It's all up to you. I Will go to hell This is in the book. I mentioned you can get in the foyer and I know this is apply to some people, you know, if you're addicted to caffeine or sugar, it's probably not gonna apply to you know, but it does the harder things that begin to really Really tax our lives and any type of an addiction will take you farther than you want to go cost you more than you want to pay and keep you longer than you want to stay and so We find ourselves in Genesis 9 verse 20 and Noah began to be a farmer and he planted a vineyard So the ark was in the flood on the floodwaters for about five months or so And I believe it stayed stationary and they lived in it for about seven months on the ark And then after that he planted a vineyard it took some time I'm sure and so this is who knows how long maybe a decade or so after the flood And So he planted a vineyard then he drank of the wine and was drunk and became uncovered in his tent So there was this nakedness that happened in Ham the father of Canaan Now it's interesting here.

Ham is Noah's son But he also adds the father of Canaan and that tells me right there that Ham When they were on the ark didn't have any kids so for him to identify Canaan that means he's had a child So this is some time after the ark had landed there on the mountains of Arat So Ham saw the nakedness of his father and he told his two brothers outside about the nakedness of his father Now this is interesting because commentaries are divided Nobody really knows Uncovering a person's nakedness often would mean sexual relationships in the Old Testament However, if you keep reading verse 23 But Shem and Japheth the two sons that did was right what was right took a garment and they laid it on their shoulders and what they did is they walked backwards and they didn't Look at their father's nakedness. They covered the father's nakedness So some because of the language and different thing I mean if you get somebody who's a Hebrew student and they can really unpack it They would even say that this son mocked their father Was chest was was kind of belittling and making fun of his father. Look at this Look at

what he's done and he uncovered his nakedness Maybe he maybe he did something and and so we don't know exactly but we do know that it brought some wrath From the father and so Noah awoke Awoke from his wine and knew that his younger son had what his younger son had done to him again We don't know exactly what he had done.

But then he said curse be Canaan Notice, he didn't say curse be ham the son. He actually went to the grandchild and Canaan is actually the Canaanites You've heard that as we're going through the Old Testament the land of Canaan flowing with milk and honey the promised land And so we see that's descendants here of him But curse be Canaan and how is Canaan going to be cursed in a nutshell? He's gonna have to serve the other two brothers Especially in the Jewish culture that the the firstborn or the heir of everything and they were Elevated they were they were up here and to be so be serving your brothers is actually a curse it's a curse on Canaan for doing that to Noah and It really should have been on him, but we see here the sins of the father affect the family How many of us can shake our heads to that? Don't worry wives. I'm not done yet the sins of the parents Can really affect the children and what we're seeing and then one of the things that I'm concerned about really is with With now a new variant.

Here we go again You know, it's in the fear that many people are instilling in their children At a fear at a very young age and they're gone they're fearing all these things and and the parents are in fear so the kids are living in fear or Addictions or different things that can really be passed down to our children And so the the children the grandchildren the great-grandchildren of Ham We're gonna pay you the price of their father's sin Now I need to clarify because it does come up. I don't use the terminology generational curses The reason is now if you talk to people who do we're kind of saying the same thing It's not like something way out there. It's I just don't use that because it would be like telling somebody.

Well, you're cursed Because of your great-great-grandfather. Sorry, buddy There's a curse God's curses on you but what we do know is that because in the Old Testament that was the case for many from for millennial if a father did something for example Achan Took the things from the city of Jericho and they had to stone his whole family Can you imagine stoning little children or when the the ground was swallowed up when they challenged Moses? Authority and the man in this whole household or they'll take the man in his household There was always that identity the sins of the father were passed down to the children But then in Ezekiel and other places that are taught no longer God says well I punish the children for the sins of the father or the father for the sins of the children But each one will be judged based on his own behavior And that's what's been taken down now since the time of Ezekiel and in the in the Old Testament prophets But you can still say there is and what I say is there is a pre predisposition So if there was something in your family if you know 1930s your great-grandmother was into seances and the occult the horoscopes You know that could be an open door To where there's no stronghold and it can be passed down to the children doesn't mean God can't break it doesn't mean there's freedom But if somebody struggled with alcoholism, there's a good chance and I don't know if it's in the DNA You know, I don't know exactly how it works But there is an inclination often often that is passed down and if you know if you've seen certain sins come out that you know I know my dad dealt with that or my grandparents dealt with that or and so there can't be a predisposition I just personally and I don't think the elders here do as well saying that there's a generational curse on that family I would say there's a predisposition to that sin. There's a likelihood There might be an open door a demonic open door that you need to close and we I mean sometime we should tell you about all the different types of Demonic things that are released in people once they submit and surrender repent of other things There seems to be a release because there's no longer that stronghold on someone because repentance has taken place and now there's

freedom in that area.

So that's what we see here and Noah lived 350 years after the flood actually lived to be 950 years old and so I take the Bible literally I believe that that did happen because a couple things most speculate that the atmosphere was much different the rays of the Sun the covering around the earth the natural environment. Also, I personally believe it was very clean eating Not all the junk and garbage that we have today that is really affecting it affects your cell at the cellular level what happens is these toxicities, let's say glyphosate for example and roundup or sodium bicarbonate or Aspartame or MSG monosodium glutamate partial hydrogenated oil. I mean you name it all this Jim we're eating a lot of chemicals and it begins to damage the cell and your cells are meant to reproduce die reproduce die and Technically you can see how a person could keep living based how the body was designed And so I think in the fall something happened that stopped that renewing process So God said you're not gonna live to be under 100 over 120 years old in my opinion that's what that meant and No So we see something now happening that where that people die because it's the body's not you die of a toxic state wrinkles old age It's all because the body can't continue to fight off disease and different things and on a separate note The one reason we're calling the church to prayer and fasting January 1st one of the best benefits of fasting of course spiritually, but physically benefits of fasting is something called a Tophagy takes place and your body instead of having no more food because you're not eating begins to burn Your fat as fuel but also decay and dead and disease cells now become food for the body begins to break them down Autophagy self-consuming.

It's a Greek word. I believe a Latin word and it consumes Tumors and different things by fasting it has major major physical benefits as well but let's talk about this for a minute the slippery slope of addiction The slippery slope of addiction Noah began to be a farmer and he had drunk wine and was drunk now Let's define addiction and this is from the biblical counseling coalition very good resource on this the Bible can Sympathize with the feeling of bondage from addiction yet. It never avoids holding us morally responsible for our actions Is that interesting the Bible says yes? Oh, we know it's hard.

It's slavery, but you're still in you're still in control That kind of that goes that goes against popular psychology Does it not how often have you heard this alcoholism is a disease? Well, I'm here to tell you it is not a disease according to Scripture And I know that gets people upset, but that's okay. You can't you can't you can't fix it unless you stir the pot And let's put something up there. I heard this actually from Greg Lori, I reached out to his secretary many many years ago and got the exact wording if It's a disease.

It's the only disease without germs or virus if it's a disease It's the only disease that is self-inflicted If it is a disease, it's the only disease Contracted by the act of the will if it is a disease It's the only disease that is bottled and sold over the counter for a profit if it is a disease it's the only disease that will cause a father to grab his baby and shake him violently or cause a mother to desert her children or cause them to Not have money for for clothes and things if it's a disease It's the only disease that will keep one out of heaven and send that soul to hell that sir is not a disease It's an addiction called sin and Why this is so important I Remember actually a couple leave the church when I just told you I just told you it's it is a disease and you know I the reason is when it's a disease is not my fault There's different views now I was trying to try to see where they're coming up with the concept of disease and when they talk about the mental Anguish the physiological pain the dependence of the body I can see what they're saying But disease is not the right word because disease removes all types of responsibly. There's nothing you can do You're not you know, you can't do anything about a disease it comes upon you now. I think some disease is self-created For sure, especially what we're seeing and especially in our country with the health care system and a lot of

disease is directly related to lifestyle Choices, but this is what the Bible calls sin It's it's a it's a choice And so what we'll say is hey, it's not my fault.

It's a disease and When I researched this the word disease actually came up I think about 80 years ago or so the whole reason the whole reason it was called a disease is because those in the medical field didn't want addicts to feel bad and So they changed the the diagnosed diagnostic whatever they call it diagnosis to disease They have a disease a a calls it a disease most places online call it a disease But if you look at the definition of a disease, it's not a disease it's a choice and The reason they want to remove that that feeling of feeling shame because this term addict and I got it you know, that's a harsh term and but Conviction that can also be good Right We own it. I got God has us feel Shame and guilt so I take it to the one who took my shame and guilt Without filling these areas of conviction. We don't change to the degree we could so somebody's always excusing their sin You're not going to see a lot of freedom and many of you know could be you those, you know caught in addiction is Excuses are at the top of the list Correct.

I can stop whenever I want I don't have a problem. It's not my fault. It's Your fault.

I can't control myself or my favorite the devil made me do it The devil made you do it flip Wilson The old-timers remember that guy right the devil made me do it. No, he doesn't he just entices. He just temps now I'm not minimizing the pole of addiction because if you ever been caught in it, it's not it's not something just get up and pray Lord take this away.

Thank you very much positive thoughts read scripture. I'm good Sometimes it's a battle the battlefield of the mind But the Bible counseling coalition goes on to say the individual feels both guilty because they caved in yet unable to stop They feel responsible, but they also feel out of control The Bible is not naive about the nature of addiction God holds us morally responsible for our actions But he also recognizes the way in which sinful choices can enslave us This is one of the best definitions that I've ever heard on the addiction and just a few words here Addictions are best described as voluntary Slavery that's exactly what it is volunteer voluntary Voluntary slavery and if we had time we could turn to Paul's words, I believe is in Romans He says whoever you choose to obey becomes your master So there's a choice involved If there was really no choice behind it, we'd have to get rid of quite a few scriptures Make no provision make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts Meaning I make provision for thought for planning. No temptation has overtaken you but what is common to? All-men that God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able But with the temptation will make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it Unless you're addicted to such such such and such No, you don't have that.

There's there's and it's it's actually quite empowering to say Lord, I got with your help. I can't overcome this with your help. I can I can do this versus well This is a disease this is my death sentence.

There's nothing I can do and I think the enemy keeps us trapped in that area as well But again, I'm going to talk about more about more about that on how to be set free on January 2nd right now I'm just just laying the foundation But this area I should clarify two things to Drug what is the word drug? well, we have a Without taking anything if you just you know who you are You're you're the way you think they caught, you know cognitive patterns, you know your heart rate your hormone levels You know, if any of us weren't taking anything how we would act as normal, you know, sleep eat normal Communicating people there's normal normalcy there But when you take something labeled as a drug it alters that So So using them in the mind right a lot of Neurotransmitters What cocaine will do it'll make you I remember the very first time I tried crystal meth at 17 years old I looked at a dime for about 30 minutes and couldn't believe The dime is

just Wow and then alcohol gives you a different effect I was in a running with the wrong crowd of people and we would you know Smoke weed then get drunk then take you know That's something a little harder and it was that they would have they would offset each other I remember a trip to Las Vegas. I stay up the whole weekend My friend's dad would make the crystal meth and sell it It was just it was a hard it's a hard thing to break out of so I have sympathy for that. It was a teenager But they do different things to you.

They they were alcohol make you it's like sedating That's what most people say. I just want to relax Anybody relate just want to work work your venti Starbucks doesn't make you relax Gives you the opposite Let's go go go go go move move. It's a central nervous stimulant.

It's actually a drug I'm trying not trying to upset people today, but caffeine is a drug. It's actually listed in the manual of mental disorders Caffeine-related stress disorder caffeine induced sleep disorder all under five all over 500 milligrams a day Which is a vent a is probably 300 of strong coffee. And so you get that in a couple monster drinks you are Soaring and so it alters who you are And that's why I've talked about this before because Morgan will say you've had coffee didn't you? How'd you know because you're a jerk? You're meaner to the kids.

You're snappy. You're irritable You're anxious your attention span is not there it all because it's affecting me. It's a central nervous stimulant It makes your body like fight-and-flight Thousands of years ago.

You had to run from a lion. So what will kick in? adrenaline Cortisol these are these are fight-and-flight and that's what this drug does to your body It's actually not very healthy to take that type of drug and sit and do nothing because your body needs an outlet for all these these these hormones and neurotransmitters that are they're firing and so other drugs Crystal myth will give you something different cocaine is a little bit different but similar and then He was at our first service today mark. He's gonna talk on January 2nd I noticed and asked him if you give his brief testimony, but he's six months free of crack cocaine Do you want to talk about something? hard to break That he's just gonna briefly just give his testimony briefly, but that's something really hard We can't love us can't relate to that and at 24-hour fitness.

I had a lot of people Well, not a lot probably a few dozen that were addicted to crack cocaine. It would take them out I mean you it's your payday. You wouldn't see him for a week and Trying to have sympathy with him, but it's a hard hard thing.

So that's what a drug is it alters? Who you are and what you do and that's why? We have to be careful because when we take drugs to offset something how we're feeling sometimes the the drug has worse Side-effects than what you're actually feeling just go and look at the side effects of Xanax Whoa, that's worse than the depression or the anxiety and this is make sure you talk to your doctor about weaning off carefully and slowly if not, it could lead to suicidal thoughts and traumatic types of episodes and and hallucinations, I'm like Unbelievable. So we have to be careful in this area of Big Pharma because Big Pharma is not for big health It's putting a pill on it I Mean that's what we do, right? You call most doctors call most doctors. Tell them you're struggling with anxiety.

What will they do? First good what I would do is say, okay. Tell me about your mental diet. Tell me about what you're feeding your mind Next tell me about your relationship with the Lord your devotional your prayer time.

Tell me about that and then I'd look at what's their physical diet Did you know your deficit and key vitamins and nutrients and things it can really mess up your hormone levels Thyroid levels all of it. It's how God

designed us you start playing with God God designed us You're gonna start having problems mental diet physical diet. No, I'm not saying there's never a time in a place for something I mean, I've seen where people have actually Reset their serotonin levels by taking some intake up hibitors that can really balance out So is it why do we always think it's brain chemistry right off the bat and that's our first go-to We don't know that.

Have you done your due diligence? I mean if somebody's struggling with anxiety, the first thing I do is wean yourself off of caffeine quickly Because what it is it makes you anxious. Hello. This is not rocket science, but we don't want to do that Just give me a pill Just give me the pill Same thing a doctor.

Hey doctor. I have very high blood cholesterol levels here my HDL my LDL ratio high density lipids low density lipids It's not good. What am I going to do? Here you go.

Here's a statin drug This will cause your liver to produce not produce cholesterol To me, that's not a good thing. You're supposed to produce your every cell in your body needs cholesterol. It's very important to the body Why don't you ask them what their weight is what they're eating and how to get them in shape? That's how you combat these things.

I mean we can go down the line of diabetes Did you know type 2 diabetes is health-related? It's a disease that is caused by poor lifestyle choices It's it's caused by that losing sight amputation on limbs gaining weight and then we go and we get We go and we get the insulin What's insulin actually when you do that leads insulin is the hormone that tells your body to store fat Oh, we've got a problem here And if you're insulin resistant, how are you shooting more insulin to your body really gonna fix the problem most doctors will tell you this is Unrepairable this you're gonna have this for the rest of your life, and it's just not true I can I can tell you dozens and dozens of people I've known personally who have reversed all of these things by taking care of how the body was designed So what kind of person would I be if I didn't tell you the truth? Yes, it's convicting. It's hard to hear But we need to hear it those things we need to hear are often the most important but this word drunk then means affecting someone's behavior to the extent of losing control over That behavior that causes problems embarrassment and shame Uncovered like he was uncovered you become spiritually dull Spiritually dull Ephesians 5:18 do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery. I love that word What is debauchery excessive? indulgence in sensual pleasure so Getting drunk leads to excessive indulgence in sensual pleasure Without a shadow of a doubt after 12 years now.

We're going on a planning the church Anytime somebody is addicted to let's say alcohol. They've also got a problem with pornography or Gluttony, there's no way like hey. I'm not I'm this alcohol.

It's got me, but all these other areas are doing great Because you just open the door to all types of sensual It's a sensuality that spiritual aspect is taken over your life, and we'll rule and reign in all areas of the lust of the flesh You lose that discipline or that that knowing of the Holy Spirit that filling the Holy Spirit in that area other areas will cumble as well And he said instead be filled with the Spirit Instead Paul in Ephesians 5 instead be filled with the Spirit to me. It tells me there's a choice Don't be filled with this spirit ever see on the liquor store spirits That there might be something to that but be filled with God's Spirit, so I Know you're all curious on our church's stance on this issue So here it is obviously the Bible allows for the enjoyment of an alcoholic beverage now and then But what we forget is that the alcohol content in Jesus's day was not what it is today Wine was not at 12% you can ask Jewish historians or Josephus early church fathers different things was probably around 2% because it was very diluted with water So you could drink

a big glass of wine, and you're not gonna have 12% alcohol and feeling pretty good It's not gonna alter that state. That's why the Bible goes on to say hard drink or Strong drink that's a differentiation of the alcohol content so yes it allowed for a little bit of alcohol But what is that definition? Every night well, that's not a little bit.

That's an addiction and Just because something is allowable or permissible doesn't mean it's necessarily a good idea Paul said yes, all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the bondage of anything So just because you can we really shouldn't be asking I tell people this afternoon. We're saying can I do this? No, you see here's how you should here's what you should be asking Should I do this? Should I cuz it can can you I mean technically biblically speaking sure you can have a Beer, and it's those people have one beer every couple months or a drink of wine now once a week now I mean, it's not it's not part of their life And and that's the Bible allows for that But you can also own a rattlesnake You know you can own a rattlesnake But should you? You can go catch a coyote and make him a family dog you can you have the Liberty as a Christian to go do that You motorcycle riders you can go dirt bike riding without any gear in any helmet go 60 mile You can do that as a believer. You can do that Should you I know he says no you shouldn't So see I think we missed the question look the Bible said the Bible never Encourages crossing the line the Bible never says Jesus was even a remotely intoxicated But he made the water into wine sure but diluted wine the print that the the we don't know the fermentation process How long we but they're never encouraged drunkenness, and this is something interesting as well God now Let me flesh this out for a minute.

God never created alcohol You're not going to go into the Garden of Eden when we learned about earlier, and there's going to be that though the wine tree Or the modelo keg The IPA the big popular thing I looked at some of those the other day at the storm like eight percent Nine percent you're feeling pretty good on that beer. No wonder you can have just one Because see that the content has been increased, but what he did what happened there was an alcohol before the fall The fall What how is alcohol made it's made in the decaying process of the fruit so as the fruit is decaying and dying There's fermentation, and that's where alcohol comes from So it's because of the decaying aspect of fruit After the fall and from that comes the alcohol so God allows it in In moderation where it doesn't affect or influence you I remember I've been I've been at Christian gatherings And it's like, you know, they're very liberal in this area and like yeah I just have one and the goblet is like a 32 ounce goblet You fit the whole you fit the whole bottle of wine in there. I bet you just have one And and so we love we love good news about bad habits And I get people ashamed but the antioxidant effects the benefits the antioxidants i'm like no just eat some grapes Much better much healthier So here's the thing you're in control, but I but that's the church's stance, but we also promote I would encourage abstinence You know why why walk the razor's edge? now Now growing up and have a history of this, you know It's it's when I was 12 years old is when I started I remember in court still I remember the street I remember the Coors container and I didn't say ooh gross I said wow that makes me feel pretty good and it was hooked at a young age And so I know the struggle that is there and we're not talking about perfection here.

We're talking about direction Where does God want the direction of our heart, but you're in control until you take that first drink And it begins now now you take that strong drinker and now it begins to alter Now I was in control Now i'm I don't know i'm in semi-control now. I've got this influence kind of Talking to me a little bit And now well, maybe if one is good two might be even better And I I can handle and so you once you once you open that door, it's hard to close it That's all i'm saying and most people I talk to now There's people going here. This is I mean lies are are affected more than you realize some of you might know But

there's a lot of families here dealing with this at this church and who listen online And nobody sets out to be an alcoholic And a lot of times it starts with the first or the second or they've got it for a few years but then here comes Difficulty and they run to that and here comes and now now it's now it's not about feeling good anymore Now it's about not feeling bad So now we have it more And now it's turned into kind of a problem But I I got this and now it's that slippery slope This this is a slippery slope Because most people and you know who you are the people who don't have a problem with it Say shane, we got to get this sermon out This is so important the people have a problem with it, but they acting like they don't they don't like this sermon You're judgmental The bible says I can drink.

No, it doesn't say that So be careful There's the scripture supporting, you know, alcohol are are far outweighed by those warning of its dangers. Let me tell you Oh, there's old testament examples. There's new testament scriptures proverbs is filled with it.

Strong drink is a brawler. It's a mocker. Jesus actually said Don't be weighed down by carousing and drunkenness and that day come upon you unexpectedly The reason it's a razor's edge as well is because a person could have just one too many to to drive and here they are driving Do you know if you hit somebody and they're injured? It's a felony You could become a felon like that They're injured Try talking your way out of that one razor's edge slippery slope Or what about if we have it in the home, you know now and then have some strong drink in the home Well, guess who sees that strong drink little kiddos I think that's what started mine You know just barely learning to drive I named the houses and the parents I still remember those families We're like, oh what a wild turkey.

I wonder what that is and you try it's wild. Let me tell you And you can pour a cup out just get a cup of water replace it and the parents will never know Don't act like you don't know what i'm talking about. Come on Please But see out of sight out of mind so I would encourage parents I wouldn't have in your house It's just it's too easy to open that door First time I had wine was on m14 m4 across from the little league field in quartz hill.

I'll never forget the house We opened it up My mom said are you drunk when she picked me up at 12 years old? And see I didn't I didn't say oh this is gross I said oh Because it makes you feel alive now i'm talking because I was shy And introverted and and and and not the party guy and quiet and kind of you know Maybe dorky the right word or not smart uneducated kind of and then this Oh 10 feet tall and bulletproof And now the life of the party But it cost me a great deal Because it takes and takes and never gives It's a slippery slope You will not be filled with the spirit to the degree you could be filled You will not be filled with the spirit to the degree you could be filled If you're engaging in this Even now and then I believe I i've never i've never unless it's you maybe tell me afterwards I've never met someone who came up and said man After that big glass of wine I had amazing prayer time I was in god's words just amazing I just oh, it's usually the opposite Let me see what's on netflix Let me feed The spiritual side that I just opened up this door. That's not healthy. It's not good R.a. tory said the gratification of the flesh fulfilling the flesh and the fullness of the spirit do not go hand in hand You can't have both So I know christians go to this church Or outside the church friends christians.

Yes, they have a little bit now and then But the fullness of the spirit is not there They're not on fire for god filled with the spirit doing great things for god They have this liberty, but this liberty is costing them the fullness of the spirit Because you can't be you can't have you can't have both in this case And with the slippery slope the farther you slide down the harder it becomes to get back up Like I said, you know earlier I alluded to this. I don't have a bone to pick. I just have a truth to tell I'm, not trying to ruin anybody's fun, or

i'm just telling you the truth Did you know that there's three million deaths a year as a result of harmful use of alcohol in the world? That's five percent of all deaths in the world the abuses I mean we if we had time I could talk about gaming addiction, you know, that's huge right now with covid And I mean that that one I never understood I can't sit in a computer and and play mario Or pac-man or whatever the games are call of duty, you know these games these games I just that's not my cup of tea, but others can sit in there for hours It begins to affect their health their relationship their attitude.

Don't be doing this to people. I see you guys Gaming is very addictive Very addictive What else is very addictive like gaming? Just try going no day without it each day. I try them like this Oh, that's right Oh, that's right What's going on? What's going on? What's going on? Oh, let's see right now But there's this it's a stronghold that takes you captive uh gambling Have you ever seen a family destroyed by gambling? It's that one you just want to slap them in the face Because there's no there's no drinking nothing.

It's just like I know the next time the next trip to vegas That's what or the next or down to the races or and it's just like they're all about getting it's a fix Adrenaline and they eventually end up losing and listen vegas doesn't look the way it looks because there's lots of winners very slippery slope What happens the devil plants thoughts and we think they are our own thoughts? Probably over the last year I've talked to a couple dozen people Who've went years? And they'll fall back into it The number one at the top of the list is this It's been a while. I can handle it now. I'll just have one And when when you when you have a stronghold in an area of life and kate unless you've been completely delivered Good for you.

I've never heard. I haven't heard that very often But opening that door again the door that god wants you to close and satan has a strong when you open that door again It actually sometimes becomes harder now And that verse jumps out at me a lot when jesus said You know the spirit leaves But then the house is not swept put or swept and put in order, but there's there's nothing there and he brings back more spirits And the last state of that man is worse than the first state of his man There's something i've seen that many times when you open the door to something when it comes back in it ravishes It's hard to stop now, but that's the excuse It will never happen to me One won't hurt. I got this I'll never forget.

I mean I open up I think in the book a little bit, but many years ago. I was in construction I just met morgan And uh, you know, I was done with it destroyed my life in like 2002 three four five six i'm like it's been it's been five years or so and me and my friend are talking I think I can have a beer now. I mean gosh Boy, oh boy one turned to six And then six pretty good.

How about ten? How did how did this happen years and years and years and years? Because that addictive nature it's that it's that hook of the enemy that always wants to get you I even I mean we started the church a friend of mine told me you got to try this. It's pretty good It was called called kabucha And when you know I could I had to have one every single day For like a month i'm like lord this can't what is going and then you look. Oh, wow trace amounts of There you go And the longer you let it ferment the stronger it becomes And so all these things that are there that can pull the enemy Is waiting for opportune times He's not in a hurry.

He's patient. He knows What will take us down and they'll teach you in recovery that halt is something to be aware of hungry angry lonely tired Those are the areas he will hit even with pornography even with pills Hungry the body's craving something so you run to that lonely tired Angry, you know if you go run to the liquor store when they get in a fight at home What they're really looking for is an excuse But these things are triggers triggers triggers, I just called a man from our church About a month ago or so that this

happened to was doing great and then fell And I didn't I didn't rebuke or anything. I said, hey just get back up You got hit with the right hook.

We've all been there. Just get back up Fight again learn from it. But then you get caught in shame and guilt And failure and you stay there And you start going back into the addiction it gets deeper See, it's really it I often say it's not the fall that hurts.

It's staying down that does Now don't fall because it does hurt. Don't get me wrong but that I mean life to me is like a bunch of setbacks a bunch of right hooks a bunch of failures and But you're getting back up and you're you're fighting saying lord. I repented that I don't want to go there again But the enemy wants to keep you in discouragement because then it's shame And guilt and failure it leads to caving in again Then now you're now you're doubly shamed and guilt and it's just an endless cycle that he keeps you defeated Most addicts are miserable those addicted to things Those addicted to gluttony is is something that was actually talked about a lot 100 years ago But we don't talk about it anymore really because it's it's kind of offensive and I understand that I mean if i'm not careful, I could I could put on some weight because Some of you have that addictive nature.

Some people don't a friend of mine doesn't i'm like Praise god must be nice Must be nice to have one piece of gum. I want the whole pack You can have one little piece of that chocolate bar. I want the whole thing dipped in peanut butter You know, right? Who can go buy in and out burger and just have one burger that's it Not me double doubles Two double doubles french fries and a chocolate shake then i'm good.

Don't worry. It's been a long time but that that that is possible Right, but that also that that weakness can also be a strength because many times those people are very motivated Very disciplined go-getters. So if you can turn that to god honoring things you can be very productive So that being a struggle of mine if god that's what people are saying.

How do you write 12 books? Well, I just don't watch tv. I don't do things. I don't waste my time So this this thing that god takes and he channels the energy in the right direction the time the productivity So whatever your weakness is can be turned into a strength god Imperfect and weakness there is the strength of god in your life because you admit that lord I need you So this area that is that it can be a a stronghold can actually be a stronghold for god If you turn it around on its head and be very productive with it So be careful those opportune times if you're looking for an excuse you will find it isaiah 28 Drunkenness in the bible always had friends.

You would see wine and pride You'd see drunkenness and gluttony that they're always married Isaiah 28 they are swallowed up by wine. They are out of the way through intoxicating drink. They air and vision they stumble in Judgment you will not have a clear vision for your life.

You will not be productive You will stumble in making right decisions when alcohol and drugs are leading the way Wine is a mocker. It will mock you Will it not Anybody else relate and say if I could redo that day If I could redo that night if I could redo that time period Man It mocks you mocks you I still run to people and they're like, oh shame. I haven't seen you in 25 years.

I'm thinking. Oh Where was it at? Where where do you see me schooners? I remember the old schooners location And now one of the bouncers that bounce there is one is involved in our homeless ministry. It's pretty cool God, I don't know if you ever kicked me out, but um And you live with a little bit of shame and guilt Because of the past and it mocks you it makes fun of you I still run to people who knew me.

I haven't seen them in a long time like school reunions Like shane, I remember I can't believe you're still alive You were the craziest guy you put your truck in four-wheel drive and just then all i'm like, oh, thank you Thank you for reminding me of this and they just remind you of who you used to be Forgetting of who you are now and it mocks you It's it's it's it's humbling to see how far I mean i've i've totaled vehicles. I don't know how I walked away Got arrested when I was a teenager And spent the night in the jail old location in Lancaster Getting out there in the morning going. Oh, I don't know how what happened.

I know what happened didn't learn my lesson next weekend Here we go again And just god's grace the evidence of god's grace on our lives and and and watching us and having the mercy and helping us Steer us through if we if we commit everything to him That's why I love that verse while you while while you're still a sinner while you're caught in your sin christ died for you While you're mocking god still god died for you Strong drink is a brawler fights Alcohol right 10 10 foot tall and bulletproof Lots of fights lots of of things I remember I shared with some of you a while back. I was kicked out of black angus for life But I think they they don't remember anymore so that's good um it was it was in the 90s and me and my friend and we were on steroids and really big and fighting and There's five bouncers and it didn't go well and the police were called and uh, the bouncers broke their arm, I think and there's they want to do a lawsuit and It was just just you just you just think you're fighting and I remember other times and I would be in los angeles You don't want to mess around in some places people would chase me with a knife And we just have to get out of there. It's just it's just not a good atmosphere Because it opens up all kinds of things And whoever is led astray by them by it is not wise Woe to you men mighty at drinking Woe to you men valent and mixing intoxicating drink meaning there's nothing to that.

Oh, here's the verse I was looking for luke 21 But take heed to yourself. Lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing With carousing nights on the town or unproductive you christians can be unproductive And and woe to you if you're carousing And drunkenness and the cares of this life and that day come upon you unexpectedly. What day is that? The day of jesus's return and so the final statement here I want to make is I talked about this.

Maybe you might want to go and listen to the last service if you need Thoughts on this but I talked about aa recovery or Celebrate recovery my thoughts or a teen challenge, which that would be my my top choice Of course what my thoughts are on that. I don't want to go into it now But if something's working for someone I don't want to discourage that I mean i'm not really just I guess I will talk about for a minute But like aa, you know, it's all like a higher power Hi, my name is chris. I'm an alcoholic even though you've been clean for six.

I mean, it's just there's it's not really biblical however, it's helped a lot of people and a friend of friends of mine go there and they they are mentors to people and They help them. So, you know if it's working for them, i'm not gonna i'm not gonna You know speak against it I would just point them in making sure that you do identify the true and living god and that you are surrendering your life to him Because you can be sober but not saved Sober but not saved it's amazing I had a guy so bothered by that statement the last service that he realized that he's sober but not saved Because you can go through the motions of christianity You can be sober but not saved and that's my problem with groups that are not christ-centered So we'll close with that first corinthians. Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of god? Do not be deceived Folks listen do not be deceived neither fornicators sex outside of marriage nor Idolaters putting something worshiping something above god nor those who cheat on their spouse nor homosexuality nor thieves nor covetous nor drunkards Nor revelers nor extortioners will enter the kingdom of heaven Now, of course Many people and I get this question, but shane I struggle with some of these

well remember struggle is not a lifestyle Because a person struggles with a certain sin i'm not encouraging you to do that i'm just saying that's not a lifestyle of sin It's like the the lamb And the pig they both get caught in the mud The mud represents the sin of our lives The lamb hates its condition It cries out it needs help But the pig loves the mud And it wallows around and enjoys it and it even leads others in That's the difference so this verse Do not be deceived means If you practice such things if you're like, I don't care.

I love my gin and tonic I love this. I love this lifestyle That's who I am I'm an i'm an unrepentant Sin I'm, not repenting and acknowledging that this is wrong Because a person can be on fire for god a couple and they fall into fornication before like oh Lord, we made this mistake and we don't want to do this lord. Our heart's not to do that See the heart is right.

So the a struggle with sin is not the same as a lifestyle from sin And the judgmental jerry's like to email me and say shane you're encouraging sin No, i'm not i'm encouraging making a stepping stone not a stumbling block get back up and fight again Don't sin, but but the bible says if you when you do sin I'm, sorry if you do sin do this you have an advocate the father through the son And so we have to encourage people. This is serious If if this type of if anything any one of these lifestyles is unrepentant if you enjoy it Oh, this is the way I am god created me this way. Who are you to tell me this is wrong? This is how I was made god loves me.

Regardless. I'm going to embrace a sinful lifestyle Really it's not the it's not the sinful lifestyle. That's really, you know, all these different distinguishing marks.

It's the heart That's why he says all these things All if you embrace any one of these things The heart is not right. You've not repented of your sin and allows and allow christ to change you That's why we warn people if you put if they put homosexuality way up here You know and now there's the bible has a lot to say about it But if you're if you're drunk and you're cheating on your wife and you're and you're and you're worried about this one Let me you better first be worried about this one That's what they mean by all sin is the same because in god's eyes if it's unrepentant sin, no matter how it manifests itself And some it manifests itself this way in drunkenness others that manifest in in this thing if it manifests itself And there's unrepentant sin That's a very dangerous road to be on But then paul encourages us and such were some of you And such were some of you isn't that great news? It doesn't it doesn't just keep beating people It says hey listen such were some of you but because you've been washed by the lamb You've been sanctified by jesus christ. You are justified because of what christ did on the cross You have been set free.

You have been saved. You have been cleansed Yes, such were some of you so many of us can say this morning. Yes, that was me That was me amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me though I struggle don't hold me down though.

I struggle don't hold me back I the lord jesus christ is still on the throne and god you will get me through this struggle You will get me through this challenge the power of persevering prayer This kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting you better get on your face before god and be set free of these things So I'm going to close on that note and just throw it out there if if that is you If you do not know jesus christ as your lord and as your savior you can say i've been justified. I am i'm not Embracing this any of these sinful lifestyles If you can't say that then repent this morning And say I need that I need that i'm sober, but i'm not saved I know about the bible, but I don't know the god of the bible don't leave here different Don't leave here in this state. Don't live your life with the question mark here And also what we're going to do.

I know it's a step of humility But those who are struggling with addiction any type of addiction The altar is going to be open. We did that the first service the second service The altar is going to be open if you struggle with something that has got you bound Gluttony food sugar caffeine alcohol, whatever it is We want to open the altar during worship and we want you to just that time with god We'll also open the prayer room. So the prayer team will be available Maybe maybe here first then there or there and then here Or of course you can stay in your seats.

You can leave quietly out the exits You know, that's up to you and god, but we want to make that a place of Transparency because that's where healing takes place And that's with any good recovery. You know what the first step is The first step is it's not my fault It's not my fault, it's my spouse I have a tough job I need to relax The first step is lord I need help I can't overcome this on my own This this is beyond my scope of repair i'm humbling myself And i'm coming forward and saying lord I need help in this area. I need to be I need you to overcome What is overcoming me? It's a step of humility.

Here's here's why this is so important. Listen to this Hearing from god's word. I just spent an hour three hours actually today to different congregations It's wonderful to hear what god's word has to say it's powerful many people are encouraged I see a lot of this But do you know that won't help you that's called hearing And not doing Bible says if you hear god's word, but don't do it.

You live in deception And that's why unlike many churches they have okay quick song. Let's get out here. Let's go to the buffet We do the opposite like let's wait on god.

Let's go and pray for you Let's have the altar open because that's the time that god begins to heal the heart and change the heart That's the time of pressing in and having that relationship with god built and and be satisfied. That's the time where the heart changes It actually doesn't change all the time when the message is being preached it can But a lot of times it's changed when action follows For example, how many people do you think and even heard it today thousands of people on facebook media social media youtube heard it and said Boy, he's got a good point He's got a good point That's where it ended that's where and if that's where it ended that's where it's going to end there will be no change Because god's word never says agree with it and say that's a good point in my mind, but not backed up by my actions so again We're going to open the altar Don't be ashamed. Don't be don't be worried about what people think Because if the truth be told most of us struggle with something Let's be honest That's why I tell people, you know that come down hard on a maybe a child that that fell back into addiction I say well, you can't give up your your uh, caffeine and your nicotine And you're you're binging on tv and you're porn well, that's different really That's different.

Now the outcome might be I mean, you know, if you're you're you're hooked to heroin and you're hooked to sugar There's going to be different Consequences don't get me wrong But people are there's many people have a stronghold in their life that they just can't give

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/o3tNtfgf5Jg.mp4>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/shane-idleman/the-slippery-slope-of-addiction/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net