

Testimonial

addictions, religion, handicap, arthritis, degenerative disks, fibromyalgia, opiate, oxycontin, Percocet, pain, swollen ankle

When we came to this conference a year ago, we were not looking for somewhere to dance in the aisles, here or anywhere else, and I just feel like I need to say that if you kind of pull back from that a little bit, or that yanks on the tail of your sacred cows a little bit, give us grace. That wasn't immediate for us and it wasn't natural at all for me. In fact, if you're one of those "oh I don't know" if you stop me later I will apologize to you, and if you like I'll apologize to your sacred cows, because I understand, believe me.

When we came to this conference a year ago, Bryn said to you all, "take your little sacred cows and put them out there in the pasture". You have to understand, I have an undergraduate degree in Bible seminary, 15 years of pastoring in a mainline denomination, and I had so many sacred cows, she said just "put them out there in the pasture and they'll be alright", and the Lord said to me "no they won't." We live on 25 acres out there in the woods and the Lord said "you have too many ...you need to start killen 'em and eatin' um ". (laughter) The first couple were kind of stringy, they were tough going down. But I have absolutely developed an appetite for them. There's a world of difference between religion, and coming to the place where you can be in the presence of the living God and be not only comfortable, but absolutely CRAVE it.

We're talking about addictions tonight, to come to the place where you crave not all that stuff that destroys you, but the presence of the Living God. It is awesome. Can you see this in the back, can you see this Charlie? This handicap sticker is good 'til 2012 if anybody needs it - I don't! (cheering, praise, applause).

A year ago, I couldn't have danced if I wanted to because I had arthritis so bad in my ankles they'd swell all up. I couldn't stand on one foot like this. I had fallen and damaged two disks in the lower lumbar region in my back. Deteriorating disk disease took out a third one. And then I had fibromyalgia so bad that the opiates they gave me for my bad back would not stop the pain of the fibromyalgia. To give you some idea of where I was at my worst, I took 300 milligrams – 320 milligrams a day of Oxycontin, and an additional 30 milligrams a day of Percocet for breakthrough pain.

During that week, this sounds silly, but I do not remember coming to a place where I said "Lord you heal me", I came to a place where I said "oh God, will you just touch me, will you just have me back?" And as I came to that place and as I came out of agreement with all this stuff, I could move, and all of this stuff just melted off of me, including a number of years of opiate addiction because of my back. Now, somebody



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here needs to hear this: they were all doctors' prescriptions, it was all doctor monitored, I did not abuse it, but I had to have it. My body absolutely had to have it.

This has helped me a lot in understanding **addictions**. What happens with addictions is you get an unnatural order. That's what happens with a lot of this stuff, you get an unnatural order. We were created to have dominion over the plants, the animals, everything on this earth. What happens with addictions is that it gets flip-flopped. So if you have **alcohol** addiction, you're addicted to a product made out of a plant. We were to have dominion, now it has dominion over you. If you're addicted to **opiates**, made from a plant, we were to have dominion over those. We were to control those but you get this flip-flop, and all the addictions are that way. By our definition, anything, it doesn't matter if you drink it, take it in a pill, look at it on a screen, I don't care what it is, anything in your life that you cannot say "I'm not going to do this any more" and walk away from it is an addiction. The good news is, He can break any of those. He is an awesome, awesome, God, and He can break it.

I don't know what it is you've got, but He can break it, He can take care of it. I've been healed of all that stuff...all that stuff, the **bad back**... I went to the back doctor and I kind of held back a little bit, all that stuff, and I asked "what do you think?" He said "I don't know what to think". This was early in the morning. I rode my motorcycle over (*to his office*) early in the morning because he told me not to ride it. So I rode it over and parked it right outside the door and I said "what do you think?" He said "I don't know what to think, but I tell you this, you have made my day!" What an awesome, awesome God we serve.

Thank you to this team, and just know everything He's done for me, He will gladly, GLADLY, do for you! Oh yes, and God set me totally free of that **addiction**. As we went through the week (I mean you're talking heavy duty stuff) I'd forget to take my medicine – as the Lord dealt with it -- I'd just forget to take it, until I'd get these tremors in my leg muscles. My body was just so used to this stuff. So yes, I've been so totally free of that stuff, forever. I mean, I don't even remember what it's like, absolutely all gone, praise the Lord!



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