



## “Dealing with Addiction”

**Nehemiah 4: 7-9** *Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.*

### 1. Situation - Close what we should not be open

The Israelites worked with all their heart close the gaps in the wall. **The addict must not approach recovery half-heartedly.** In other words “without enthusiasm or energy”; or **doing it without any real effort, interest.** **The freedom from addiction requires a full effort, and part of that means getting rid of any sin at the root.**

- *don't just deal with the leaves, sometimes the problem resides in the root*
- *Is there any opening, space, gap or breach that need to close up?*
- *In what areas are you allowing the enemy to come in?*
- *What needs to be eliminated?*
- *It may be that the serious recovering sex addict will need to throw away the television, get rid of access to the internet, quit his job, or cut off unhealthy relationships.*
- *Bottom line is that he must be willing to do whatever it takes to close the gap and shut the door to the enemy.*
- *The gaps were beginning to be closed”; as a personal initiative otherwise, the enemy would like to have all the opportunity once a while to get to destroy all your effort*

**Colossians 3: 5** - Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- You cannot go through recovery half way through
- Unless you are transformed, you end up by being deformed..
- **“Information leads to transformation. If you are not inspired by being informed, you will expire by becoming deformed!”** Quote from daily drive 365

Paul emphasis on putting to death our members from earthly desires. **Romans 8:13** - For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

- Close what we should not be open
- Check properly your boundaries
- Reinforce your boundaries and know your limits

## 2. Close what we should not be open - Redefine your boundaries

- Personal boundaries are what define your identity.
  - They're like the property lines around a home. This is my property and that is not my property. This is me — what I value, am good at, believe, need, or feel — and that is not me.
  - Good boundaries help you to care for others because you have a stable foundation to operate from and are not distracted or depleted by personal insecurities or blind spots
  - You are subject to relapse if all the gaps in your life are not closed and secured
- Boundaries help us to accept our personal limitation

Boundaries help us to have expectation from people we are helping or vice versa

- Jesus had expectations for people in need
- **What do you want?** Two blind men called out to him for help from the Jericho road. He asked them, "What do you want me to do for you?" They needed to ask for what they needed and they needed to trust Him (Matthew 20:29-34).
- **Do you want to get well?** For 38 years the invalid at the Sheep gate pool hadn't been able to get into the miracle waters. He felt helpless and sorry for himself. He expected someone to fix his problem. Jesus challenged him, "Do you want to get well?... Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." It was up to him to be motivated and to take responsibility for himself (John 5:1-14).
- **Do you believe?** A father sought deliverance for his son who was mute and had seizures and said to Jesus, "If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." Jesus put it back on the father, "If you can"? Everything is possible for him who believes." The father needed to believe that Jesus could cure his son (Mark 9:17-27).

## 3. Dealing with generational gaps, or open doors or gates

- Sometimes, to deal with the drinking habit you must search its origins (root)
- Any addiction has its own root and you must find the root and deal with it
- Some problem will never go away unless you address that issue from its root...

**Matthew 12:43-45** - *Unclean Spirit Returns*

**43** "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. **44** Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. **45** Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

***Proverbs 4: 23 - Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.***