

# Living Loved – “What can I offer the LORD for all He has done for me?” Psalm 116:12

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## 1. The Illumination of Introspection & Repentance

- a. Search and try my ways – Lamentations 3:40
- b. Illustration: The farmer
- c. I need God’s discipline – Hebrews 12:5-7
- d. Who can be against us? Romans 8:31
- e. What are God’s thoughts toward us? Jeremiah 29:11-14
- f. Is my guilt authentic? (1 John 1:9)
- g. How’s my light? **Luke 11:34-36**
- h. Don’t compare with others... **2 Corinthians 10:12**
- i. Are there un-confessed sins in my life?
- j. What is my character really like? **Psalm 139:23-24**
- k. Prodigal repentance – Luke 15:15-20
- l. God’s strength is made perfect in my weakness – 2 Corinthians 12:9
- m. So, let’s run with patience – **Hebrews 12:1-4**
- n. The goodness of God leads us to repentance – Romans 2:4

## 2. Confession

- a. 1 John 1:9 – to God
- b. Leviticus 4:27-29 – public
- c. Matthew 3:6 – public
- d. Acts 19:18 – public
- e. **James 5:16** – to one another
- f. Do you want to prosper and receive God’s mercy? **Proverbs 28:13**

## 3. Forgiveness & Amends (see “**Forgiveness**” handout)

- a. Forgiven much => loves much (Luke 7:47) and love forgives... 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- b. Sawdust & Wood – Matthew 7:1-5
- c. Forgive and be forgiven – Matthew 6:14-15
- d. Go and be reconciled – Matthew 5:23-24 plus Romans 12:18
- e. Zacchaeus – Luke 19:8

## 4. Witnessing

- a. Overcoming by giving my testimony – Revelation 12:11
- b. For I am not ashamed of the Gospel – Romans 1:16-17
- c. Show off or witness? Matthew 5:16
- d. Tell everything the Lord has done for you – Mark 5:18-20

# In Conclusion...

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The most exciting part of this experience with Christ is that a life of victory over every temptation, every sin, and even addiction is possible for me and for you. The secret is in uniting our weak, faltering will to the all-powerful will of the King of the Universe. Jesus came to save us from our sins (Matthew 1:21). God says that all our temptations are common to all humanity and that He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear by His grace (1 Corinthians 10:13) and that we "can do all things through Christ", who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). Jesus even says that He will make us "perfect in every good work to do His will" (Hebrews 13:21). Thanks be to God, who gives us the "victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

In summary and conclusion I would like to make several points as clear as possible.

- My will power, and yours, is not, and never will be strong enough to successfully resist every evil temptation that comes our way.
- Our human will power is **always** strong enough to surrender our will to Christ -- saying, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6) "Thy will be done" (Matthew 26:42). This is the power of choice that God will not allow taken away.
- In this surrendered condition the power of God will always, and forever, successfully thwart the powers of evil that are constantly seeking to destroy us. The temptation will be gone!
- This is **NOT** a one-time surrender. Temptations will come again, and again... Surrender to Jesus must be a continual way of life in order to experience ongoing victory over sin. This is what it means to die to self and to live by the Grace of Christ. This is what Paul meant when he said, "I am crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20). "I die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31).
- I know for a fact that this works, because whenever I follow this formula by surrendering my will to Christ, He gives me the victory -- every time!

Ellen G. White said it this way: "Everything good in men and women is the fruit of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit teaches us to reveal righteousness in our lives. The greatest work that can be done in our world is to glorify God by living the character of Christ. God will make perfect only those who will die to self. Those who are willing to do this can say, 'I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me' (Galatians 2:20)" (MS 16,1900).

Friend, Jesus is calling for your heart now. Wouldn't you like to have a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26)? Wouldn't you like to have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5)? Jesus will give you the victory over every sin, every temptation, every addiction, and every regret that you have ever had. It matters not how low you have sunk in the mire of sin. Jesus loves you with an infinite love. He is the answer to all of your troubles and mine. Clasp the hand of Jesus and He will lift you up. He may not speak to you in a loud voice and with a blinding light (Acts 9:3) as He did with Saul of Tarsus. More likely, He is speaking to you now in a still small voice (1 Kings 19:12) saying, "come to me ... and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28) "I will also save you from all your uncleanness" (Ezekiel 36:29) You can trust Jesus. Just say "Yes Lord, what would you have me to do?"

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen" (Jude 1:24, 25).