

IDENTIFYING THE ROOT OF YOUR PROBLEM

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Knowing the root cause of the life you have lived is important to gaining freedom from the wrong things in your life. The root cause of the evil habits, character and lifestyle that have caused you a lot of losses, pain and shame has to be identified and action taken to overcome them.

1. Everything draws life from its root.

It is the root that supports the plant, for when there is no root, then, there will be no plant or tree. When there is no tree, there will be no branches. When there are no branches, there will be no fruit. So the fruit you manifest comes from your root.

Rom 11:17-19

*17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive **root**, 18 do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the **root**, but the **root** supports you. 19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in."*

NIV

2. Jesus is the root (power) behind the victorious and faith filled life of Jesse and his lineage.

Nothing happens without a power behind it. No object moves except a force propels it to move. No action, habit or character is manifested except a thought, desire, idea, belief, mindset, power inspires it. What is the evil root in your life?

Rom 15:12

12 And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him."

NIV

Rev 5:5

5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

NIV

Rev 22:16

16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

NIV

3. Evil has a root. Find it!

The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil; but, by no means is it the only root of evil. Pride can be the root of all the evils in your life – it is the root of rebellion. Find the root of the evil in your life.

1 Tim 6:10

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

NIV

4. Never allow a bitter root to develop in you.

Anger over an offence or disappointment, envy, and jealousy can make a man bitter towards another. Bitterness can lead to many sins – evil words, actions and lifestyle. Do you have a bitter root in you?

Heb 12:15

15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

NIV

5. A thought of rebellion against God is a bitter poison that must not be allowed to take root in you.

Do not allow anyone through the books you read, discussions, evangelism, friendship or any other means sow a seed of abandoning God for an idol or religion. Such thoughts if allowed in can pull you away from the faith. Never allow anyone or anything or any voice or any spirit to convince you that you don't need Jesus or to stay away from fellowship (Church) even after you leave this reformation center. Any seed you allow the enemy to plant in your head and heart will bear fruit with time. Do not open your mind to the devil. Do not accept the bitter poison that will kill your love life with Jesus Christ your Saviour.

Deut 29:18

18 Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

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6. As long as there is a root, there will always be a resurrection.

Though Israel was defeated by the Philistines, God still says, from the root, victory over the Philistines will come. If you don't root out that evil in your life, it will resurrect again. If you don't identify the root cause of your lifestyle and deal with it with the word of God which is the Truth, there will always be a resurrection of that same evil in your life. You need to take a close look at your life to find the root. Go for counseling and allow God through His servants to help you deal with the root and you will be free forever.

Isa 14:29-30

29 Do not rejoice, all you Philistines, that the rod that struck you is broken; from the root of that snake will spring up a viper, its fruit will be a darting, venomous serpent. 30 The poorest of the poor will find pasture, and the needy will lie down in safety. But your root I will destroy by famine; it will slay your survivors.

NIV

7. Call a spade a spade and deal with the root with sincerity.

You need to break up your fallow (unplowed) ground. That root that has not been dealt with must be dealt with if you must experience true and lasting victory. Breaking up your unplowed or fallow ground is opening your heart to God in the areas that you have not allowed God to deal with. It means to let go and let God in and let Him take over your life. It means to become receptive to God and His teachings. Don't just listen to the teaching and preaching of the word of God, but practice it daily with commitment. Let the bitter root in you be uprooted by the word of God. Let the evil root in you be uprooted by the word of God. Open your heart to God now and never close it for any reason no matter the temptation, opposition and offence against you.

Jer 4:3-4

3 This is what the LORD says to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem: "Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns. 4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, you men of Judah and people of Jerusalem, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done--burn with no one to quench it.

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Hos 10:12

12 Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you.

NIV

STEPS TO VICTORY

To overcome an evil habit or addiction and root in your life, ask yourself these questions and answer them sincerely:

- 1. What has the habit or addiction and root cost me so far?** Make a list on paper of what you have suffered or lost in the many years you have practiced it.
- 2. What do I stand to lose if I stop and break free from this habit?** Make a list if any likely loss is identified and compare with the list of losses the habit has caused you. You will discover that you stand to gain more if you break free from the habit.
- 3. How did I get to this point anyway?** If you do not know how you got to your present lifestyle and experience, you may never have permanent freedom, because you may find yourself going back and forth.
- 4. What action steps must I take now to overcome and stay permanently free?** Identify the things you must change in your life – your beliefs, opinions, ideologies, principles for life, priorities in life, relationships with people especially your spouse and family, attitude to God and His word, church and Christianity generally. You need to deal with pride, temperament, selfishness and self-centeredness in your life.
- 5. Can I make it alone?** The truth is that personal will power alone cannot and has not helped in making permanent your deliverance. That explains the reason for your failures in the past. You need a supernatural force to break the habit in addition to your willingness and determination to be free and stay free.

- 6. Do I need Jesus Christ in my life to be free?** Jesus Christ alone can and is willing to help you if you will allow Him to do so in your life. You need to call Him from a sincere heart – a heart willing and desiring strongly for a change.

Rom 10:13

13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

NIV

It is the person who wants to be truly saved that calls for help. He knows if you truly want to be delivered and saved or not. If you pray the sinner's prayer without a sincere desire to be free, you will never be free. Call now from a sincere heart and he will rush to your rescue and deliver you completely. But, you must be willing to follow Him and walk with Him all your life.

- 7. What about post deliverance? What do I need to remain free?**

- You need a Church family to remain free.
- You need to change your circle of friends. Break free from your former friends that you know will pull you back into your old ways. Pray for new friends that will help you stay free and serve God.
- You need Bible study to grow spiritually and mature in faith and in good character. Daily read and meditate on the scriptures to build up yourself and not just to fulfill all righteousness.
- Develop a strong and vibrant prayer life. Pray daily in Jesus name for strength to hold on and continue enjoying victory.
- Confess your new life in Christ to yourself and to others. Confess daily your faith in Christ and the fact you are a new creation and that the old life is passed away. Confess daily you are no longer bound but free forever in Jesus name and it will be so. What you say you will have and see in your life.
- Always resist the devil and temptations to go back to your old lifestyle or habits.

James 4:7

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

NIV

Never submit to any temptation, for he whom you obey, his slave you become. Once set free, strive to remain free. Never go back to your vomit and eat it again. Never go back to your old life.

Rom 6:16-18

16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey-whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

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Prov 26:11

11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

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2 Peter 2:21-22

21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. 22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

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