

## ***Celebrate Recovery V: Voluntarily Submit***

November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### ***Romans 6:12-14a***

***“Present yourselves to God ... and your members to God as instruments of righteousness.”***

*Present:* “yield”<sup>1</sup>

*Present:* “Yield...to give...surrender...to give away; not to oppose.”<sup>2</sup>

*f* We give every part of our lives to God (time, talents, service, finances, abilities) and let Him direct and use us for His purposes!

### **Eight Principles ...**

1. **R**ealize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable. ...
2. **E**arnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.
3. **C**onsciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.
4. **O**penly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.
5. **V**oluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.
6. **E**valuate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.
7. **R**eserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.
8. **Y**ield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.<sup>3</sup>

**Principle Five:** **V**oluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.

*Matthew 5: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”*

“Most of us, if not all of us, would be very willing to have *certain* character defects go away. The sooner the better! But let’s face it, some defects are hard to give up.”<sup>4</sup>

“The sin is like a weed in a garden: It will keep reappearing unless it is pulled out by the roots. And the roots are the actual defects of character that *cause* the particular sin. In my case, [John Baker] the major sin in my life was abusing alcohol. That was the act, the sin. The defect of character was my lack of any positive self-image.”<sup>4</sup>

**Step Six:** We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

*James 4:10 “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”*

## Are we entirely R E A D Y?

### Release control

“Willingness is the key that goes into the lock an opens to door that allows God to begin to remove your character defects, ... Let go; let God!”<sup>4</sup>

*Romans 6:16 “Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?”*

### Easy does it

“These principles and steps are not quick fixes! ... Remember, the sin is the *symptom* of the character defect.”<sup>4</sup>

*Psalms 37:5 “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act.”*

### Accept the change

“Seeing the need for change and allowing the change to occur are two different things, and the space between recognition and willingness can be filled with fear.”<sup>4</sup>

*Romans 12:1-3 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”*

### Do replace your character defects

“You spent a lot of time with your old hang-ups, compulsions, obsessions, and habits. When God removes one, you need to replace it with something positive, such as recovery meetings, church activities, ... and volunteering! If you don’t, you open yourself for a negative character defect to return.”<sup>4</sup>

📖 *Matthew 12:43-45*

“I [John Baker] said that one of my major defects of character was a negative self-image, a nonexistent self-esteem, to be more exact. I wasted a lot of time in bars, attempting to drown it. When I started working the 12 steps, I found I had lots of time on my hands. ...

In addition to working my program and attending meeting after meeting, I fellowshiped and worked with ‘healthy’ people. I volunteered. As the months passed, I got more involved at church too. That’s when God called me to start to build Celebrate Recovery. I started going to seminary.

You don’t have to start a ministry, but you do have to replace your negative character defect with something positive. There are many, many opportunities to serve and get involved in at church.”<sup>4</sup>

*Ephesians 4:15-16 “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*

### Yield to the growth

“At first, your old self-doubts and low self-image may tell you that you are not worthy of the growth and progress you are making ... Don’t listen! Yield to the growth. It is the Holy Spirit’s work within you.”<sup>4</sup>

*2 Corinthians 3:4-6a “Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers...”*

The question is...

‘Are you entirely ready to voluntarily submit to any and all changes God wants to make in your life’?

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989. Print.

<sup>3</sup> Baker, John. "Eight Principles Based on the Beatitudes By Pastor Rick Warren." *Growing in Christ While Helping Others*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. 10. Print.

<sup>4</sup> Baker, John. *Celebrate Recovery: Leader's Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. Print.

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