**Rebellion and Addictions**

A friend was once a prostitute, took drugs, and used alcohol. Some say, "Once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic/ ' or "Once a drug addict, always a drug addict." No. Once she repented,

broke the covenants with her past sexual partners, and was delivered from the spirit of rebellion, she was free. God purified her. She is a new creation.

Addictions stem from rebellion. They take the place of God in a person's life and violate the physical body, which is:

... *the temple of the Holy Spirit who* is *in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Whether the addiction is alcohol, drugs, food, tobacco, sex, video games, or shopping, compulsive addictions distract our focus and energy away from God, our spouses, our children, and our responsibilities. The enemy uses subtle ways to destroy us and keep us from doing God's will. Slowly, but surely, these addictions have devastating effects on mental and physical health, well-being, and relationships.

Addictions are innately a form of selfishness. People in bondage to addictions live for the fleeting temporary pleasure they experience. Destructive addictions such as drugs and alcohol sicken or kill you. Promiscuous sex not only can transmit deadly diseases, but it also destroys the foundation of marriage and family life. A more modern form of compulsion is Internet addiction. In South Korea, a growing number of adults and up to 30 percent of children under 18 are at risk; some have even died of exhaustion because they could not tear themselves away from the Web.1 Who do you think is behind such addictions? Jesus said:

*The thief* [devil] *does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I* [Jesus] *have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly* (John 10:10).

Sometimes people turn to drugs or alcohol to numb the pain of a previous traumatic event in their lives, so prayer for those individuals should address trauma, fear, and pain. Once the causative issue is taken care of, the substance abuse is handled also.

Since the root of addiction is rebellion against God, repentance is the first step to being set free. If you have broken an addiction or other bad habit, yet you struggle with a desire to return to it again, the root of rebellion has not been destroyed.

**Prayer Against Rebellion**

***Father, I have rebelled against You. I repent of this sin. Take it from me and put it on the cross of Jesus, never to be held against me, in Jesus' name. I renounce anything I said in rebellion against You, my parents, or others in authority over me. I repent of all those words. I break the power of the spirit of rebellion over me and command it to leave, in Jesus' name, never to return. Thank You, Jesus. Help me to obey You in all things and to always be led by Your Holy Spirit, in Jesus' name.***