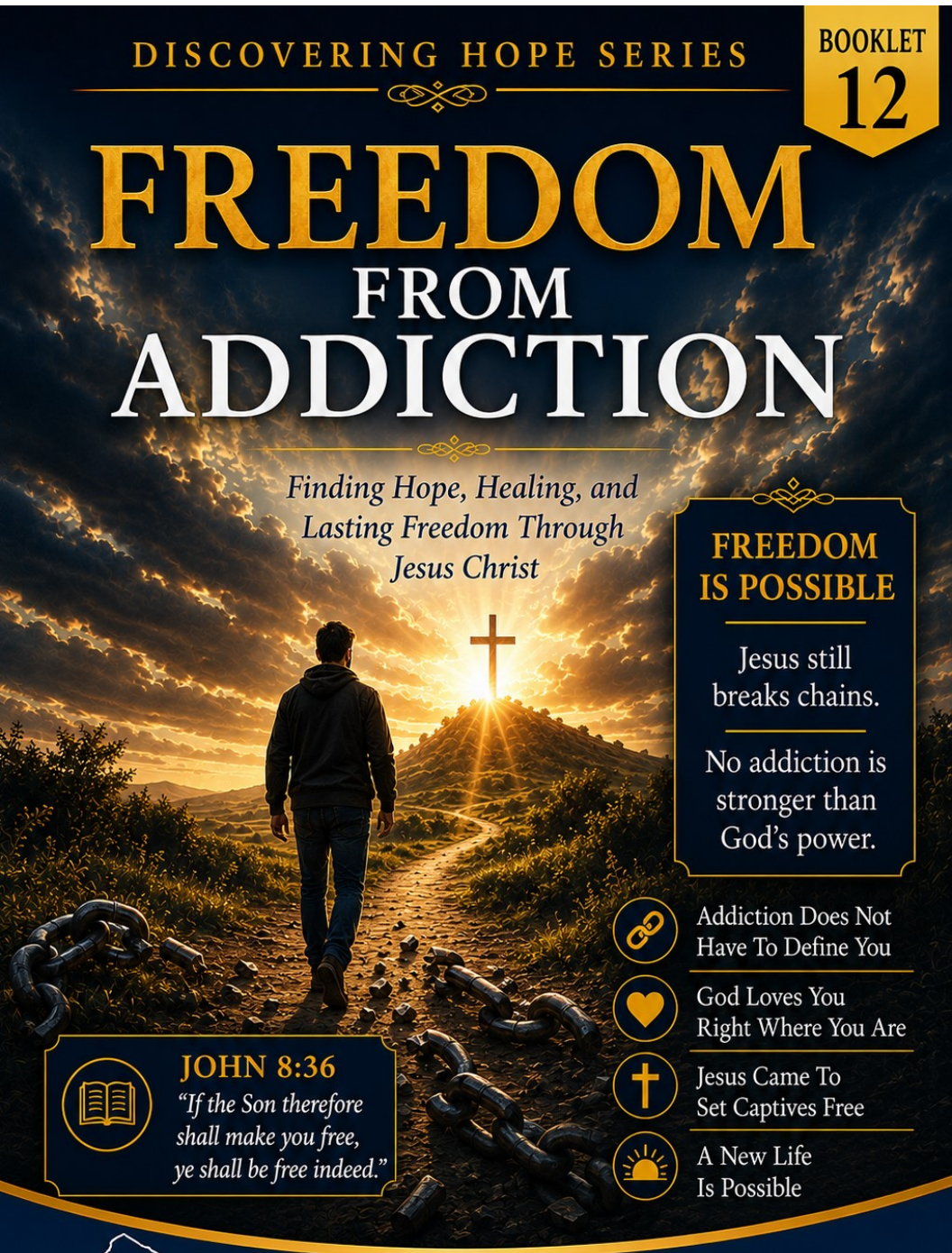
DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

BOOKLET 12

FREEDOM FROM ADDICTION

Finding Hope, Healing, and Lasting Freedom Through Jesus Christ



FREEDOM IS POSSIBLE

Jesus still breaks chains.

No addiction is stronger than God's power.

- Addiction Does Not Have To Define You
- God Loves You Right Where You Are
- Jesus Came To Set Captives Free
- A New Life Is Possible

JOHN 8:36

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

THE NORTH JERSEY
UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Pastor Gary Evensen
pastor@njupc.org

pastor@njupc.org
www.njupc.org
51 Centre Ave
Secaucus, NJ 07094

WELCOME TO THE

DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

Real Questions. Biblical Answers. Lasting Hope.

Life raises questions that are not always easy to answer.

Why am I here?, Does God really exist? , Can I trust the Bible?, Why does God allow suffering?, Can my life really change? Is there hope when I feel trapped, broken, or uncertain about the future?

The **Discovering Hope Series** was created to help people explore questions like these through the truth of God's Word.

You need not be a Bible scholar or have all the answers.

And you do not need to have everything in your life figured out before you begin.

Each booklet focuses on a different question, struggle, or biblical truth and is designed to help you discover what the Bible actually says.

As you read, take your time.

Consider the Scriptures for yourself.

Ask questions, Pray.

And most importantly, allow God to speak to your heart through His Word.

The Bible is more than a book of religious teachings. It reveals a God who loves us, seeks us, and desires to transform our lives.

Whatever brought you to this booklet, we hope it becomes one more step in your journey toward discovering the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

There is hope. There are answers.

And God may be closer than you think.

Pastor Gary Evensen Author

Pastor @ njupc.org

https://www.njupc.org

https://www.youtube.com/@NJUPCINC

51 Centre Ave, Secaucus NJ 07094

FREEDOM FROM ADDICTION

Introduction

Millions of people live with addictions.
Some addictions are visible.
Others are hidden.
Some involve substances.
Others involve behaviors.
Yet all addictions share something in common:
They promise freedom but produce bondage.
Many people trapped in addiction have said:
"I can quit anytime I want."
Yet weeks become months.
Months become years.
And the chains remain.
The good news is that addiction does not have to be the end of your story.
The Bible teaches that real freedom is possible.

1. WHAT IS ADDICTION?

Addiction occurs when something begins to control us.
What may begin as a choice eventually becomes a habit.
The habit becomes a stronghold.
The stronghold becomes bondage.

1 Corinthians 6:12

"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: ... I will not be brought under the power of any."

God never intended for anything other than Him to rule our lives.

2. ADDICTION PROMISES WHAT IT CANNOT DELIVER

Addictions often begin because people are searching for something.
Relief.
Comfort.
Peace.
Acceptance.
Escape.
Pleasure.
The problem is that addiction never truly satisfies.
What once required a little eventually requires more.
The temporary relief fades.
The bondage grows.

Proverbs 20:1

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging..."
Addiction promises freedom.
It delivers slavery.

3. THE REAL BATTLE IS OFTEN DEEPER THAN THE ADDICTION

Many addictions are symptoms of deeper wounds.
Pain.
Loneliness.
Rejection.
Fear.
Abuse.
Disappointment.
Trauma.

People often attempt to medicate emotional pain through destructive habits.
The addiction becomes a coping mechanism.
Yet only God can heal the deeper wounds of the heart.

Psalm 147:3

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds."

4. SIN ALWAYS SEEKS TO ENSLAVE

Jesus taught that sinful habits eventually become masters.

John 8:34

"Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."

Many people think they are in control.
Eventually they discover the addiction is controlling them.
The enemy always advertises the pleasure.
He never advertises the chains.

5. JESUS CAME TO SET CAPTIVES FREE

One of the primary reasons Jesus came was to bring deliverance.

Luke 4:18

"He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives..."

Jesus did not come merely to forgive sin.
He came to break bondage.
The power of Christ is greater than the power of addiction.

6. FREEDOM BEGINS WITH HONESTY

Many people remain trapped because they refuse to admit they have a problem.

Healing begins when we stop pretending.

Proverbs 28:13

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Freedom begins when we acknowledge the truth.

You can never be free from that which you cannot admit is binding you.

God cannot heal what we refuse to surrender.

7. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FIGHT ALONE

One of addiction's greatest lies is isolation.

It tells people:

"No one understands."

"No one can help."

The Bible teaches the opposite.

God created us to walk with Him and with others.

James 5:16

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed."

Freedom often begins when we reach out for help.

8. THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES PEOPLE FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Many people attempt to overcome addiction through willpower alone.

Willpower has limits.

Transformation comes through God's power.

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature..."
God does not merely change habits.
He changes hearts.
The Holy Spirit gives power to live differently.

9. RELAPSE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THE END

Many people give up after a failure.
They think:
"I tried."
"It didn't work."
"I'll never change."
The Bible is filled with imperfect people who failed and got back up.
Proverbs 24:16

"For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again..."
Failure does not have to define your future.
Keep getting back up.
Keep reaching for God.

10. TRUE FREEDOM IS FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST

Programs can help.
Counseling can help.
Support groups can help.
Medical treatment can help.
But ultimate freedom is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.
John 8:36

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."
The freedom Jesus offers is more than temporary sobriety.
It is freedom for the soul.

Conclusion

Addiction may explain part of your story.
It does not have to write the ending.
Jesus still breaks chains.
Jesus still heals hearts.
Jesus still restores lives.
No addiction is stronger than the grace of God.
Romans 6:14
"For sin shall not have dominion over you..."
Freedom is possible.
Hope is real.
And with God's help, your future can be different from your past.