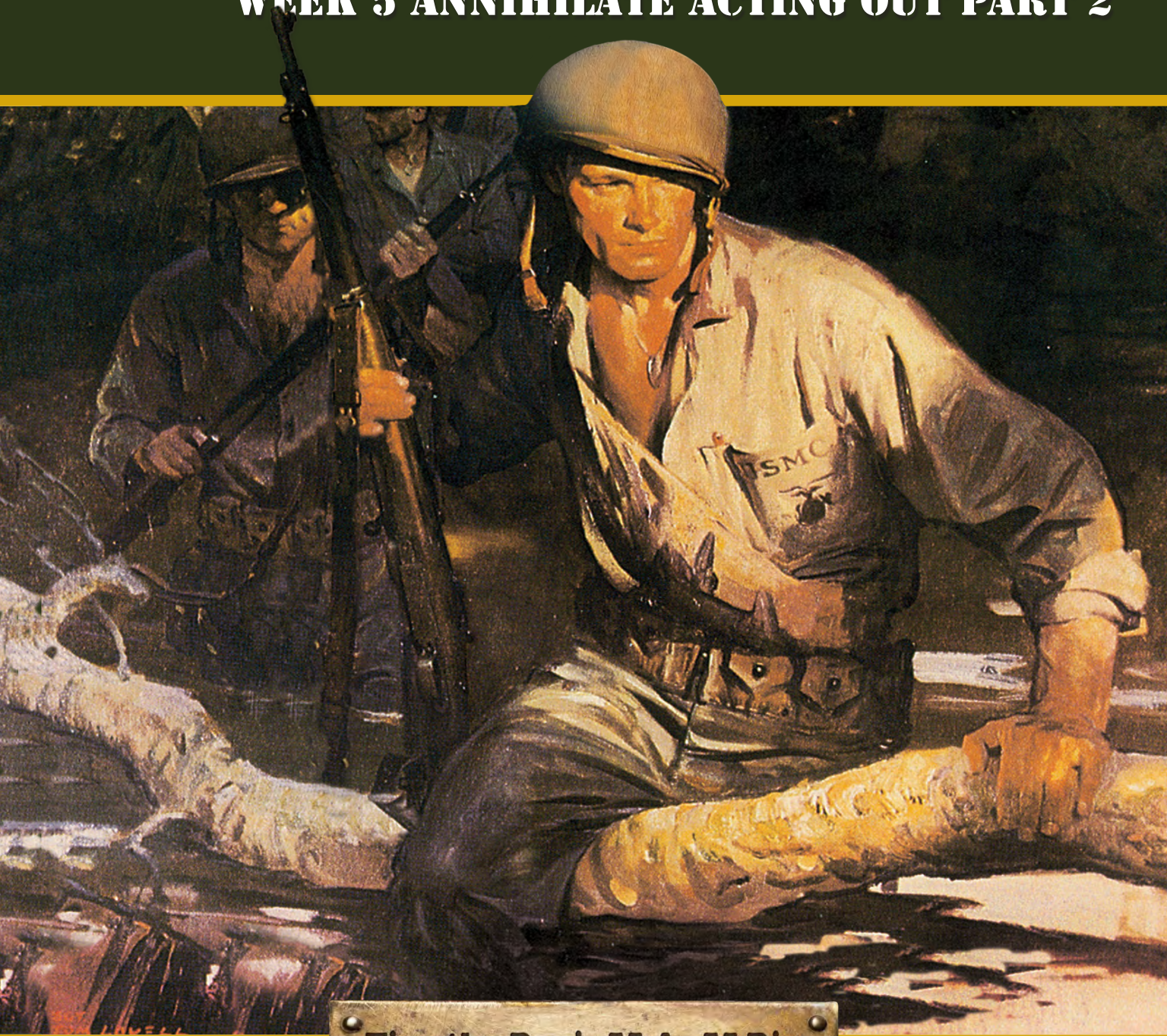




BASIC TRAINING!

**STAGE 1: OPERATION PURITY
WEEK 5 ANNIHILATE ACTING OUT PART 2**



Timothy Davis M.A., M.Div.

**THE #1 BATTLE-TESTED GUIDE
TO SEXUAL PURITY**

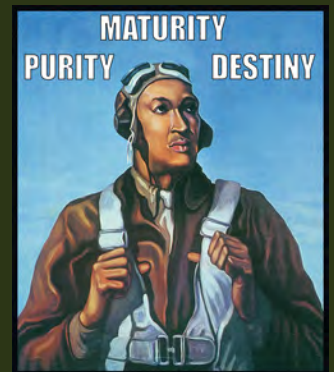
YOUR MISSION, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT:



Basic Training! provides a step-by-step process for breaking free from sexual sin into consistent purity, spiritual maturity, and personal destiny. Refined during 1000's of hours of pastoral counseling and proven in the transformed lives of over 500 counselees and 100's of marriages saved, the Truth can set you free!



I should know, it's the story of my life. I was sexually and ritually abused as a child. I was sickly, depressed, demonized, and sexually addicted for many years. I suffered from PTSD, repressed memories, and recurring nightmares. With character flaws too many to mention, I was an unfaithful husband, a harsh father, and a failure as a pastor. As a Christian I was wounded, addicted, cursed, carnal, and immature.

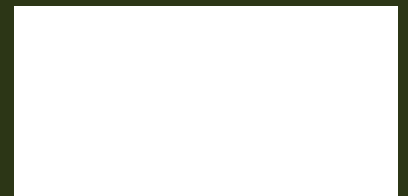


God has transformed my life in ways I never imagined possible. I now walk in purity, maturity, and destiny, and if I can do it, anyone can. Using my trademark WWII graphics, blunt and Biblical truths, and life-changing homework, I want to share my journey with you. Accept your *Basic Training!* mission today so you too can

Win the War for Purity!



Timothy Davis is the Founder and Director of Pureheart Ministries. A graduate of Wheaton College, Denver Seminary (M.Div.), and Western Seminary (M.A. Counseling), he worked as a pastor for 10 years before launching Pureheart. Timothy has personally counseled over 300 men and helped save over 150 marriages. Pureheart counselors have ministered to people in all 50 states, most Canadian provinces, and over 20 countries and seen many miraculous transformations. The truth really can set us free! Find out more at www.PureheartMinistries.net



Basic Training! Stage 1: Operation Purity

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WEEK 5 ANNIHILATE ACTING OUT! PART 2

Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It...



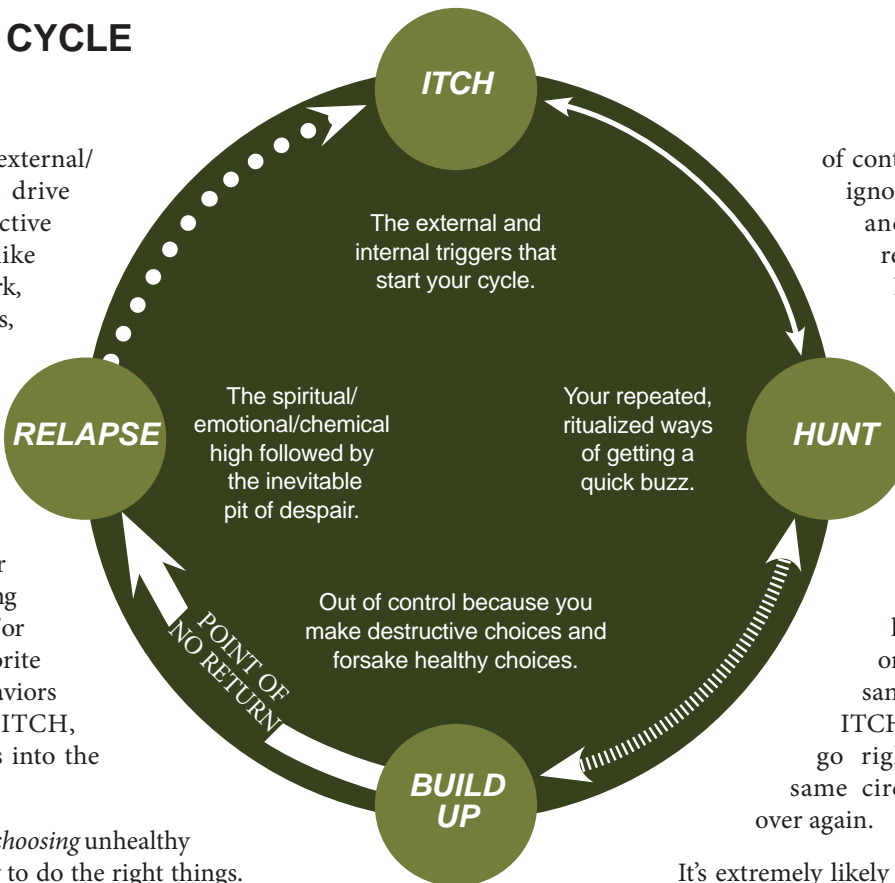
Let's start with a recap from Part 1, since it will take you some time and practice to identify the particulars of your personal cycle. The Acting-Out Cycle is the ritualized, endlessly repeated process we go through to get our fix. The Cycle consists of four stages: ITCH, HUNT, BUILDUP, and RELAPSE.

ACTING-OUT CYCLE (simplified)

ITCH stands for the external/internal forces that drive our external addictive behaviors—things like loneliness, stress, work, old trauma, horniness, and procrastination.

Unscratched ITCHES always lead to HUNT behaviors, where we dabble with whatever gives us a quick buzz—searching Google for soft-porn images, flirting with a co-worker, and/or indulging in our favorite fantasies. HUNT behaviors only increase the ITCH, which then pushes us into the BUILDUP stage.

BUILDUP is all about *choosing* unhealthy behaviors and *refusing* to do the right things. For example, you stay up late 3 nights in a row on the Internet by yourself, then sleep in each morning, so you miss your devotions all three days. BUILDUP is getting so out



of control you can finally ignore your conscience and the Spirit and reach the Point of No Return, thereby taking the plunge into RELAPSE.

RELAPSE feels good for a time, because you get your fix. But inevitably the shame, fear, guilt, self-loathing, lies, hypocrisy, and so on combine with the same old unscratched ITCHES. And here we go right back into the same circular madness all over again.

It's extremely likely that you've already circled through your cycle somewhere between 5,000 and 50,000 times (like most addicts). This, brothers and sisters, is why we call it an *addiction!*

From Test to Testimony: Yes, This Is A Test!

Now that you understand your cycle from an addiction recovery viewpoint, it's time to revisit the big picture yet again. Speaking spiritually, your Acting-Out Cycle is your personalized, miniaturized Wilderness experience, and your addiction is your Goliath awaiting decapitation. That's right, it's back to the Israelites stumbling around Sinai and Jesus in Gethsemane, because this is *not* about masturbation or sex or drugs or alcohol—the idol right in front of your face. Instead it's about the *unseen* Promised Land of your destiny awaiting fulfillment.

Go back, Agent Hunt and skim over chapter 1, “Define Your Destiny”—because you have been put on this planet for Purity, Maturity, and Destiny. But here's what's crazy: Your Acting-Out Cycle is a critical part of God's testing process that helps you fulfill your destiny and take your specific Promised Land. That's right. THIS IS ALL A TEST! Indeed, the first test is that *you get that this all a test.*

There's no such thing as a Testimony without a test! It's a basic Biblical fact that God tests His children. I will cite but a few instances to prove my point. A mere 2 chapters—count them—into the Bible, we get the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil! God knows that this tree is going to FUBAR everything for everyone—to unbelievable extremes—and *yet the importance of testing His children outweighs the trillions of tragedies caused by knowing right and wrong.* Stop and think about that sentence for a moment—the implications are universe-shaking!

Jump from Genesis 2 to the very end of the Bible, and God is still testing us. Revelation 3:10—*I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.* From beginning to end, and everywhere in between, God is always testing His people. *Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands* (Deuteronomy 8:2).



God's tests expose the depths of our hearts because we don't have a clue. The truth about us is buried in the desert sands of denial, lies, dysfunctions, woundedness, trauma, generational sins, etc.—and of course, addictions galore. God obviously knows everything there is to know about us, but He feigns ignorance and forces us—literally—to discover what lies within, good and bad. Indeed, in 2 Corinthians 13:5 God commands us to both “examine yourselves” and “test yourselves,” so that in effect we get a double dose of testing even as we acquire the personal know-how we so desperately need. God will use almost anything to test us—people, demons, persecution, disease, money, sex, success, events large and small—but regardless of the means, no child of God ever escapes His testing process.

As a Christian, you'll spend your life aimlessly wandering and wasting away in the cyclical Wilderness of God's testing—or you'll pass His tests and successfully take your personal Promised Land. Your Acting-Out Cycle, your addiction, your divorce, your sickness, your sucky job, your trauma, your depression—well, welcome to the Wilderness! You can't stop God from testing you any more than you can stop Him from loving you. Indeed, if God doesn't test (discipline) you, He doesn't love you, as Scripture states explicitly in Hebrews 12:6.

He loves us—but do we love Him, truly and utterly? Are you a modern-day Esau? Would you rather have the Cheeseburger and Golden Calf? Utterly focused on his impulsive, short-term lifestyle of an addict, Esau lived oblivious to the big picture of his Abrahamic legacy and destiny, and he therefore completely missed the fact that *the stew was a test!*

***Who are you?
God's tests will expose the real you!***



Are you, like the Israelites, wasting your Wilderness?

Are you a 21st-century Israelite? Every time the Israelites pined for the good-old-days back in Egypt (talk about denial!), they revealed their mind-boggling cluelessness. No other group of people in history has ever seen such an open display of God's supernatural power and presence, and yet the Israelites can go all of 3 days before they are testing God. *Promised Land? Who cares? Get us some water and some meat! God Himself manifesting on Mt. Sinai? We're so bored, there's nothing to do in the desert! Ten Commandments? Hey, anybody else up for another orgy?* This is the testament of an entire nation utterly missing the point of their Wilderness experience, failing the same old tests, reliving the same old pain, and wearily stumbling through a living death.

Cheeseburger, Golden Cow, or bloody Cross? Are you a modern-day Jesus Christ, a little *Christ-ian*? I mean, who in their right mind picks a *Cross*?! Consistently choosing purity (and turning away from sexual sin) is picking up your personal cross. A mature Christian chooses the short-term pain of sexual crucifixion that leads to delayed eternal glory; you pay the price to become consistently pure in order to fully mature as a follower of Christ.

Indeed, Agent Hunt, your Acting-Out Cycle is just as much about *maturity* as it is *purity*. Maturity is nothing more than the ability to consistently produce the same results no matter the circumstance—in other words, it's the *long obedience in the same direction*. When you pass God's tests and are faithful in the little He has given you, God promotes you to the next level and gives you more responsibility. Purity combined with faithful maturity inevitably turns into destiny as God reveals—one step at a time—the personal Promised Land that only you can win.

From Test to Testimony: How Does God Test Us?

How serious is God about the testing process required for every believer? I offer as proof the most common divine examinations you and I *will* undergo—a list that's by no means complete. See if any of these tests sound familiar.

God's Top Ten Tests

- Test of Trust:**
 Jesus repeatedly confronted people on their lack of faith—His disciples first and foremost. This is far and away Jesus's most common rebuke. He practically never (if at all) cites a person's pride, lust, anger, or woundedness—it's almost always about *faith*. Is this because trust in God is the foundational source upon which all subsequent Christian maturity is built? You can tell everything about a person by who/what they turn to in need..
- Test of Pain and Silence:**
 Don't we just love this test! Paul calls this the "test of affliction." Abuse, trauma, disease, failure, poverty, heartbreak, loneliness, loss of loved ones—the list is almost endless. There's nothing like suffering to deepen our dependence on God. A drowning person clings with a desperation unequaled at any other point in their life. As if this test weren't tough enough already, God will often go silent just when we need Him most. Even His own Son felt forsaken in the hour of His greatest need...
- Test of Temptation:**
 God never tempts nor does He ever cause evil, but He does *allow* us to be tempted. So temptation in effect is another test, and one that's obviously at the heart of the Acting-Out Cycle. Most of us are very familiar with this test! Familiarity, however, is not remotely the same as actually passing this test!
- Test of Routine/Boredom:**
 As an addict, expect to spend a lot of time in this test. Makes you wonder about Moses; I mean, 40 years herding goats is boredom and routine to the extreme. Maybe this is why he ended up as the most humble man who ever lived?! *There is nothing like the pressure of no pressure to reveal the real you.*
- Test of Isolation:**
 Moses in Midian, Elijah in the desert, Jeremiah in the cistern, and Paul in Arabia. And your family thinks you're crazy. Your followers flee the scene just when you need them most. Feeling lonely, abandoned, rejected, and betrayed? Are you friendless, single, separated, or divorced? It's probably a test!

God's Top Ten Tests



Test of Warfare:

We wrestle *not* against flesh and blood. Probably the most intensely exhausting thing I've ever done was wrestle with some friends back in my high school days. I was physically fried within a matter of minutes, yet this is the analogy Paul uses to describe spiritual warfare. To tell the truth, American Christians don't even believe in demons! (A particular soapbox of mine; don't get me started...)



Test of Identity:

Who are you? No, *really*? Is your identity based on your job? A role like husband/wife or mother/father? All these things are transitory! In my experience, it typically takes lots of pain and pressure to turn a person into a new creation in Christ!



Test of Failure (Humility):

Moses, Prince of Egypt to goatherder. David and Bathsheba. In a sense, even Jesus failed—for one, He couldn't save Judas, a man He surely loved. After 3 years and thousands of miracles, exorcisms, and preaching/teaching sessions, Jesus Himself could produce only 120 followers. Even His closest disciples didn't understand Him or His mission. Everyone, Jesus included, takes this test. Failure almost always precedes the critical character trait of humility.



Test of Success:

Success is another difficult test, especially since it doesn't usually feel like a test. *When you have eaten and are satisfied... then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God* (Deuteronomy 8:10-14). It's so easy to stop depending on God when we don't need Him. Success also makes you a target for demonic counterattack, and since many Christians haven't passed the spiritual warfare test, they get sifted like so much wheat, and their destiny is destroyed.



Test of Intimacy:

Intimacy with God is the most important test of them all—the point of all the other tests combined. It's probably the very test I've failed most often. The Holy Spirit really does speak in a *still, small voice*, so remaining in the Vine all day long feels impossible sometimes. I've tried learning how to pass this test by reading books, but honestly, I think this test, like purity, requires both ongoing mentoring and accountability.



From Test to Testimony: Why Does God Test Us?

I don't know about you, but if I'm honest, I don't really like God's tests. Especially the ones that involve pain and self-sacrifice. Why does everything have to be a test? Why does God's way have to be the hard way? Do we really have to drink from this cup? Do I sound like Jesus in Gethsemane?

Sorry, folks, there is no quick fix here, no instant gratification, and no pill you can take to make it all go away. God tests His children for two extremely important reason: Brokenness and Dependence.

Brokenness

Before God can *make* you, He must *break* you. This is a fundamental spiritual principle. The seed *must* fall to the ground and die before it can become new life. You know this already, but what you're likely missing is the fact that your Acting-Out Cycle is a major part of the breaking process, because *tests trigger your ITCHES*. Pain, pressure, stress, crisis, loneliness, horniness, poverty—ITCHES reveal the real you, the "you" that you didn't even know was there. As in the "me" that was literally inside an oversized dumpster digging through the trash so I could find the porn magazine I had thrown away the night before. I was a pastor at the time (I'm ashamed to say), and still addicted. I had bought some porn, and in order not to bring it into my house, I drove to a local park so I could drool over it and masturbate while sitting in my car. In the usual post-relapse fit of self-disgust, I tossed the dog vomit into the dumpster—then naturally returned to said vomit the very next morning.



***Will you allow God to break you
so He can remake you in His Image?***

This was a reverse epiphany, if you will. I wasn't just an addict. No, I was the dumpster, and my heart was full of garbage. Oh, how I loved that trash, selling my soul for the human waste of wickedness!

Ah, the moment when at long last you uncover the true extent of your own depravity, degeneration, and degradation. It's a revelation of back-breaking, life-changing dimensions!

Here's the good news—indeed, I've never recovered from the shock of this surprise. You see, down in the dumpster of my personal Wilderness and Acting-Out Cycle, I discovered that there was much more to me than I'd ever realized. The perversion, the shame, the lies—this was only surface stuff, the devil's counterfeit destiny for my life. For as much as I thought I loved sexual sin, I found that I loved Jesus far more.

This came as a great shock to one who, having been sexually and ritually abused as a child, was as steeped in sexual addiction as you can get. And yet I found that I wanted God, I wanted my wife, I wanted a healthy marriage, I wanted to be a great role model for my kids, and I wanted to lead others into freedom. Indeed, I want to be one of God's captains in the end times, a member of the Greatest Spiritual Generation! Destroying the devil's work isn't enough for me; I want to stomp on that bastard's face until each and every captive is set free!

I never imagined that one day, given the choice between the devil's dumpster and God's glory, I would repeatedly choose the glory, not to mention become *a slave of righteousness* as it says in Romans. I didn't know I could encounter the Holy Spirit so powerfully that it makes an orgasm seem boring. I didn't know the utter satisfaction that comes from pulling yet another brother out of the pit. I didn't realize that once you pay the price and start living out your divine destiny, it just starts getting better and better, because God is doing even more than I ever asked or even imagined. You see, God doesn't just put you into the dumpster to reveal all the dross. His goal is that we dig past the darkness and discover our true identity, our original Image—because we were made for glories beyond imagining.

But wait, there's more—and excuse me if I start getting excited. Even as I was digging through the dumpster of life, I discovered—much to my surprise—that Jesus was right there alongside me digging through the very same dumpster. Here's the kicker: Jesus wasn't dumpster diving for porn; He was searching for me! *I was the object of His desire*. He cared for me far more than anything I could ever imagine, even in my disgusting state at the time.

Tears are running down my face as I write, because Jesus really does love the lost sheep. He really did leave the perfection of heaven to go sewage diving for the likes of me and the likes of you. Indeed, I was part of Jesus's ultimate test when He chose the brokenness of the Father's plan for His life. You see, even the perfect Son of God was not yet complete; He had not been tested, nor was He fully mature. Even Jesus had to learn the breaking of self, and—in dying even to His own sinless desires—to learn total dependence on His Father.

Dependence

God cannot make us until He breaks us, but *God breaks us to make us dependent on Him*. Man cannot live on bread alone, much less porn, masturbation, drugs, alcohol, food, or money. But most of us learn this all-important lesson only through suffering. We're like a toddler—we have to stick everything in our mouths first and taste it all, no matter how dangerous the substance. Indeed, some people never learn; they just keep choking themselves to death, spiritual speaking.

Human beings can be incredibly stubborn and prideful. To break Moses, it took God 40 years—we're talking about the God of the universe here. *In the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you...* (Deuteronomy 8:2). Note the close connection between *humility* and *testing*. Brokenness engenders the humility, which creates in us both the deep desire to learn and the capacity for following instructions. Breakage produces dependence—not only do we see ourselves as we truly are, but we realize we can do nothing without God's strength and guidance. Humility and dependence go together like the sheep and the Shepherd.



Isn't it ironic that "Dependence" is another word for addiction. Who or what are you "dependent" on?

A person in great pain is normally desperate to stop the suffering and highly motivated to find a solution. They are willing to listen and apply what they are taught, particularly if the teacher has a proven method for ending the agony. I could never, as a pastoral counselor, teach "normal" people again, because these people are often neither broken nor desperate. Simply put, they don't listen and therefore don't change. Truth be told, "normal" people are often just as screwed up as addicts—they *just don't know it yet, because they've yet to be broken*. Unbroken people are *independent*, not *dependent*.

Would you rather go through life on easy street only to discover on Judgment Day that you were a complete mess? Or would you rather hit bottom now and expose who and what you really are? Messy, broken, humble people are smart enough to ask for help *and* follow God's role models wherever they lead. Dependence truly is the art of walking through the minefield of life, stepping precisely where your fearless Leader steps—your footprints in His.

Isn't it ironic that *dependence* is another word for addiction? Being dependent on porn or drugs or food is once again just the satanic substitute for true dependence on God's will. Imagine if you craved God's presence and power as strongly as you've craved porn and sex? Imagine if you lived and breathed and thought God's will as often as you remembered your drug of choice?!

The deeper you go with God, the stronger your “addiction” becomes to His presence. Note how Moses consumed neither food nor water when he spent 40 days in God’s presence. You see, Moses was not some grasping toddler anymore. The only thing he needed in his mouth and soul was the pure presence of God. Moses learned this incredible level of dependence by spending 40 years in the desert—I mean, imagine how quiet it must have been! *Be still for 40 years and know that I am God*, to paraphrase Scripture...

The Israelites also had their 40 years in the desert, but they remained spiritual babies gumming the same old manna day after day, year after year, and learning nothing from the daily supernatural provision of food. Note how the manna stops after the first Passover in the Promised Land—at this point, the Israelites should have been ready for the spiritual meat of divine presence. Unlike Moses, however, they failed God’s tests, refused to be broken, and remained proud and *independent* right up until the day the Bread (Manna) of Heaven (John 6:32) came down from heaven and walked among them. Sadly, having never acquired the taste for heavenly food—even its symbolic, prophetic form—the Israelites had no stomach for God’s own Son come in the flesh, so they passed on the True Passover meal. In other words, if you reject the Manna of God’s testing and breaking process for your life, sooner or later you will reject God’s Man.

Do you trust God enough to surrender to His plan, even if it means suffering and hardship, maybe for years to come? To be sure, there will be blessings too—wonderful things way beyond your imagination. Indeed, your awesome destiny is the point of all the testing! Getting there, however, means you become skilled at depending on God’s leading, day in and day out. Even when He leads you where you don’t want to go, at least initially.

What if you never get married? What if you never heal? What if God never answers the questions that haunt you so? What if certain dreams so precious to your heart never come to pass? What if this testing process and dying to self is the hardest, longest obedience in the same direction you could imagine? Will you submit yourself to God day in and day out? Will you drink from the cup set before you?

***You can experience divine
brokenness while still trapped
in your cycle...***



***...but you cannot experience
true dependence
while still an addict.***



BIBLICAL BIG PICTURE

This Is A Test!

Thus far I've been speaking in generalities, so it's time to get personal and practical. Let's cover a few of God's tests in more detail and break down how these tests trigger our immaturities, and specifically our Acting-Out Cycles. You can experience divine brokenness while still trapped in your cycle, but you *cannot* experience true dependence while still an addict. You cannot remain in the Vine (John 15) *and* remain in porn, masturbation, affairs, and so on.



The Test of Trust

Let's consider first the foundational test of faith. *Without faith it is impossible to please God.* Sounds like a rather important test! Let's compare and contrast the Israelites and you and me, with Jesus as our ultimate Role Model.

The Israelites

God waits *a whole 3 days* after the escape from Egypt before He introduces the Israelites to the Trust Test (Exodus 15). It's easy for anyone raised on running water to judge the Jews, but let's remember that humans *die* if they go 3 days without water. This is the desert; it's brutally hot and dry, and the Israelites are on foot, probably a million strong, not to mention all their livestock. I mean, imagine watching your children go 3 days without water?!

To make matters worse, when they get to *Mara*, there's water everywhere—but it's bitter and essentially poisonous. Thirst, of course, like a sex drive or the desire for intimacy, is a fundamental human need. Welcome to the Trust Test!

God is deliberately leading the nation of Israel into the ITCH stage. Indeed, it's a modified HHALT acronym; instead of HORNY, HUNGRY, ANGRY, LONELY and TIRED, we get HHATT: HORNY, HUNGRY, ANGRY, THIRSTY, and TIRED! Remember the Testing/Wilderness experience was and is designed to trigger our basic ITCHES: thirst, hunger, boredom, anger, fear of enemies, old trauma (slavery), change of routine—all this is there in the desert.

The Israelites then proceed to act out their HUNT and BUILDUP rituals. They grumble against Moses (not yet against God). They practice passive-aggressive rebellion, like gathering too much manna, or looking for it on the Sabbath (Exodus 16). They turn away from God's voice (Deuteronomy 5:24-27), and fight enemies without God's command (Numbers 14:44-45). RELAPSE happens all too often either in the form of outright sexual sin (the Golden Calf orgy, the Moabite women, etc.) or in open rebellion against God (Numbers 14 and 16), to the point where the Israelites are ready to murder Moses and march right back into slavery. So much for truly trusting God...



**Who
do
you
trust
in?**

Me? You?

Speaking personally, this may be my least favorite test. Those of us who've spent so many years in the la la land of chemical highs, suffocating denial, and circular cycles are particularly oblivious to the crap floating inside the dark places of our souls. I had no idea, for example, that I'd been the victim of both sexual and ritual abuse as a child. My cluelessness back then boggles my mind. I was an immature, flaky, dysfunctional, highly traumatized sex addict under the influence of demons and major generational curses—and here I was thinking I could pastor others. I was just as blind as Esau and the Israelites!

Looking back now, I realize that upon graduating from Denver Seminary (1994), God immediately led me into my personal Wilderness because I wasn't remotely ready for the demands of my personal Promised Land. I spent the next 20 years living in Portland, Oregon, my birthplace, frequently failing God's tests while He used the pressure of pain to expose my fault-lines one by one. Indeed, God took me right back to where I'd been sexually and ritually abused as a child and



Who do you trust in?



essentially forced me to confront the horrors of my past—not to mention, the ugly realities of my addictive lifestyle.

Like the Israelites, I didn't really trust God in my heart of hearts, after having grown up used and abused. You can read much more of my thoughts on suffering and grief in *Special Ops!*, but the bottom line is this: *Sometime later God tested Abraham* (Genesis 22:1)—and sometime later He will test you and me, like it or not. God's tests are rarely Damascus moments of blinding light, but more typically the slow, torturous closing in of the divine vice-grip that finally cause the scales to fall from our eyes. God's pain-and-pressure test repeatedly forced me to choose to trust in Him, thereby creating in me a desperate dependence on God Himself. He now uses me to set other people free, and indeed to lead them through their Wilderness experiences. But trust me when I say that such a destiny does not come cheap.

Any of this sounding familiar yet? How has God led you into the bitter waters of addiction, loneliness, horniness, divorce, unemployment, the suffering of grief and trauma (name your pain)? Like me, you desperately need the trials of testing, and yet you keep running away from the very pain that leads to the Promise. Every you time you choose your drug of choice (your Acting-Out Cycle), you're putting off the very agony that will ensure your ultimate brokenness and dependence.

Don't waste your Wilderness! Turn your Desert into Destiny!

Jesus:

Do you realize that Jesus was born into the Wilderness? No one has ever fallen from such a great height! To be God, and then to empty Himself of His divine power, and become human? To live in perfect heaven, and then experience poop, bugs, dirt, and garbage? Not to mention ITCHES like the HHALT acronym—you think Jesus was ever HORN, HUNGRY, ANGRY, LONELY and TIRED?!

And yet even this was not enough. So the Spirit led Jesus into the desert—at a time when Jesus was as physically weak as a human can be—to face the devil and all his demons. And yet even this was not enough, as ultimately Jesus in the Garden had to trust that His Father's plan was best, even though it meant that the Sinless One became sin on our behalf. In taking upon Himself every evil, broken, ugly thing that has and will ever come to pass, Jesus was utterly broken, and yet utterly dependent on His Father's will.

Talk about *the Test of Trust!* *No one has ever been tested as Jesus was.* No one else will even come close. But He did all this while experiencing exactly the same ITCHES that you and I experience every day of the week. Jesus leads by example—so I say we should go and do likewise!



The Test of Warfare

Giants? You do remember there are giants in your Promised Land, right? For most American Christians, David and Goliath is just a cute Sunday School story. This is a theme I will cover in much detail in Stage 3, but allow me to at least mention Deuteronomy 20:4—*For the LORD your God is He who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you victory* (ESV). Yeah, that's right, God Himself fights against our enemies. God Himself is the Warrior par excellence, the Lord Commander of Angel Armies. That's Angel *Armies*, folks, not long-haired Angel peaceniks sitting around holding hands singing kumba-freaking-ya. Armed Forces exist for one purpose and one purpose only—WARFARE!

The Israelites

Do you really think it's a coincidence that the Promised Land was filled with gigantic giants, fortified cities, and wild animals galore?! God literally says that Israel could take the land only gradually—otherwise dangerous predators like lions and bears would have become so numerous, they would have threatened a nation one million strong.

Israel's invasion of the Promised Land is precisely that—an *invasion!* This is a military operation first and foremost. This is so obvious, I don't need to cite examples; just skim the historical sections of Exodus, Numbers, and especially Joshua. Here's the kicker: The Israelites, despite being all ITCHY all the time, *still had to engage in warfare; they still had to take the land before them.* Indeed, the warfare they faced was yet another obstacle designed both to break them and create dependence on God's specific will. Marching around a huge, fortified city and blowing trumpets?! Yeah, that sounds like great battlefield strategy—and yet by being dependent on God, the Israelites took Jericho without losing a single life. If only they had been mature enough to stay the course and remain consistently humble and dependent, history would be a lot different today...

Me. You?

As I have said before, immature people *can't* take their Land of Destiny, because they are spiritual wimps who get their rear ends kicked by the devil instead of crushing the devil's head. *We wrestle not against flesh and blood* (Ephesians 6)—could the Bible possible be more explicit?!

I don't know about you, but in my old acting-out days, I'd try to move forward in God's will, demons would counterattack in some way, and I'd run home crying to mommy masturbation and papa porn. Forget about setting any captives free like my namesake Jesus did. I was, instead, just another religious prisoner preaching the Gospel while living in hell.

Praise God, how times have changed! Now the devil himself visits me in my nightmares! Somehow, I've managed to get that bastard's attention. Maybe it's because I'm asking that God use Pureheart to set at least a 1,000,000 of my brothers and sisters free, so they can live out their God-given Purity, Maturity, and Destiny. That's such a huge Promised Land—no wonder it feels like my entire life has been spent in spiritual hand-to-hand combat.

Let's get real, people. If you're addicted to sex, drugs, alcohol, food, money—you're the devil's prisoner, not his enemy. How can a captive set captives free or defeat demonic giants? Do you even know which giants you were born to defeat? This is such a fundamental test and yet so many American Christians don't even know there's a test on. Remember, I counsel brothers from all types of denominations from all over America, and yet to a man, they are clueless when it comes to basic spiritual warfare!

Have you ever seen a demon? Cast one out? Uncovered one of their schemes? Fasted for a week? Prayed all night? Maybe you never see any demons because you pose no threat whatsoever! The minute you start circling a spiritual Jericho, the demons just throw a bit of dog vomit in your path. Here comes that same old Acting-Out Cycle, and there goes our hero down the tubes yet again—the would-be conqueror of Canaan.

Don't waste your Wilderness! Turn your Desert into Destiny!



There are giants blocking the way to your Promised Land.

Jesus

That's *Jesus* or *Yeshua*, by the way, another way to spell *Joshua*. Do you really think it's a coincidence that Jesus is named after the military commander who led the Israelites into the Promised Land so they could kill (as they should have) every enemy that didn't repent and come to the truth? Come on, people; Jesus is coming back wearing blood-dipped clothes, riding a warhorse, with a giant sword coming out of His mouth. The Son is a Warrior just like His Father!

This is an *Invasion*, folks, just like in the Promised Land of old. And just like Canaan, God is going to do it right this time and kill *all* His enemies. Yes, history repeats itself! God wanted the Israelites to destroy every vestige of abominable idolatry in His Promised Land—do you think Jesus will do any less than *destroy the works of the devil* (1 John 3:8) when He returns?! Our role model, the *Lion* of Judah, passes the Warfare test with flying colors, defeating the devil, disease, corruption, sin, death, the gates of hell, and all those demonic principalities and powers that Paul is referring to in Ephesians 6. Like His Father, Jesus *fight*s for us because we are the spoils of war, the treasure, and the reward that makes all the warfare worth the while.

Get this folks: *Spiritual warfare is a natural result of dependence on God—the Spirit will lead you into battle against your demons just like He lead Jesus into the Wilderness to defeat Satan. If you aren't fighting demons in some capacity, you are not being led by the Spirit!*



The Test of Routine/Boredom

Wow, I've so much I could write concerning these tests, I'm desperately trying to keep this short. I wouldn't want you addicts getting bored or anything! Maybe you have ADD—Addiction Deficit Disorder? Modern-day addicts can concentrate on something for longer than 5 minutes only if it involves instant gratification! Hmm, I sense a test in the offing!

The Israelites

When I think of the Test of Routine/Boredom, I always think of Moses spending 40 years in the wilderness of Midian counting sheep. This is the desert of dullness, folks! Remember, Moses was a prince of Egypt, the world's first and (at the time) only superpower. Talk about falling from the greatest height possible! I mean, what did he do for 40 years? What a waste of time! Or was it?

If counting sheep doesn't do it for you, how about 40 years of Manna?

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"
(Numbers 11:4-6).



This is such a telling passage at so many levels. Imagine eating the same food for 40 years! It's amazing how the pressure of no pressure—in other words, boredom and the same old same old—so quickly reveal the fault-lines in our souls. Note that *cravings* are nothing new—the Israelites *craved other food*. Nor is whining about how lonely, or horny, or wounded, or depressed you are. Also note the denial and the escaping into escapist fantasy (you can practically taste those delicious melons and leeks!).

As slaves in Egypt, the Israelites had literally been worked to death, beaten for no good reason, sold as property, and had their infant sons tossed into the river to drown—and yet how quickly the addict idolater turns his or her place of bondage into a fantastical paradise. Anyone sense another Acting-Out Cycle kicking into gear?

Me. You?

Of course, it isn't just the Israelites—God tests everyone in the desert of drudgery. I graduated from Denver Seminary with a Masters of Divinity, having learned Greek while helping plant a growing seeker-model church, only to wind up living in my parents' basement working at Domino's Pizza as a delivery driver—the same job I did while still in seminary. I had graduated from man's school, but certainly not God's!

How I hated that dreary, mind-numbing, subsistence-level, pizza delivery job. What a wretched, clueless idiot I was! Way too spiritual and smart to be working such a meaningless job. I grumbled and whined just like the Israelites, too blind to understand that God had led me into the desert of Dominos so I could finally see what lay inside my own heart. Sexual addiction, anger at God, performance-based theology, pride, impatience, a critical spirit—and this was just surface level junk. The really nasty stuff could be revealed only by even more pain and testing...

Any of this sounding familiar? Can't you see how God is working to strip you of every high imaginable? You so desperately need a season without your buzz, without your drug, without the numbing Novocain of your addiction—and yet all you do is pine away for that same old vomitus mass. And the more you pine for Egypt, the more you can expect the test of boredom and routine. The same old job, the same old wife or husband, the same old disease, the same old financial problems, and so on. The list seems endless—but remember, you are in the desert for a very specific purpose.

Don't waste your Wilderness, brothers and sisters! Turn your Desert into Destiny!

Jesus

Jesus spends 33 years on this planet, and yet we know virtually nothing about 30 years of His life. What did He do for those 30 years? Play with the kids? Skip school and go fishing? Build furniture? We basically have no clue. This is one of the most astounding things in the Bible—we are talking THE SON OF GOD HIMSELF! Look what He accomplished in 3 years; imagine what He could have done in 30! God is so ridiculously wasteful of time! Or is He?

This is the Test of Routine, folks, and God accepts no substitutes! Even Jesus had to spend 30 years in the Wilderness of human skin—can you imagine how dull, constraining, even humiliating a puny physical body was to Someone Who Sustains the Universe?! And yet Jesus waits patiently for 30 years, being faithful in the little drudgeries His Father has assigned Him. Waiting patiently, faithfully—until He was ready for the next test. What a role model!





The Test of Identity

I conclude with an oh-so-crucial test. The Test of Identity was just as huge a test for the Israelites as it is for the modern-day Christian.

The Israelites

You can take the slave out of Egypt, but taking Egypt out of the slave is always a daunting task. You don't break out of a captivity mentality overnight, even with God's presence in front of your face and His laws on tablets for all to see.

Imagine what hundreds of years of slavery does to your soul. You have no rights, no authority. You own nothing; indeed, you yourself are a piece of property, a beast of burden. When confronted, you always take the beating and the blame. You are neither son nor daughter; indeed, your children are tossed into the Nile like so much trash. Or sold like a piece of meat. Life is short and brutish, so all that matters is survival, and any escape like sex or food or forbidden gods will do. No wonder the Israelites were trapped in their Acting-Out Cycles.

Imagine the maturity level of someone who has never had to make any significant decisions, never owned anything, and never experienced the risk that inevitably accompanies freedom and responsibility. Imagine your identity and your self-talk when you and all your generations have been treated worse than animals for hundreds of years. Are you beginning to understand why God would use the Wilderness to expose such a toxic stew of slavish immaturity and false identity? Slaves or God's chosen people?

Slavery produces immoral, immature, and idolatrous people as unstable as the Red Sea. One moment the Israelites are vowing to serve God forever, and the next they are bored, grumbling, rebellious, lying fornicators. Take Aaron, to cite but one example. This is Moses' brother and Israel's High Priest, for crying out loud! While younger brother is wasting time talking to God and receiving the Ten Commandments, Aaron busies himself making a golden calf for the Israelites to worship. Notice both Aaron's denial and his flat-out lies: *Then they gave me the gold* (the Israelites' jewelry), *and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf* (Exodus 32:24).

Verses 3-6, however, tell the real story. Indeed, the Bible states explicitly that Aaron cast the calf, fashioned it with a tool, built an altar in front of it, and publicly announced a festival the next day to worship the "Lord." You know you're in trouble when someone like Aaron is your high priest! Unlike Moses, Aaron had spent his formative years still in Egypt, so he had no capacity to lead others through the desert—having never lived there himself. Israel's high priest was basically an Egyptian slave at heart. Do you see how desperately Aaron—and by extension, the Israelites—needed to be tested in the heat of the desert?!



***You can take the slave out of Egypt,
but taking Egypt out of the slave
requires prolonged testing.***

Me. You?

Imagine what 40 years of sexual addiction does to your identity and your self-talk? Most of you don't need to imagine! What happens when you hate yourself more than your demons hate you?!

I've counseled brothers who looked at porn during their honeymoon. Another brother was relapsing on porn during the birth of his firstborn child. A pastor I counseled liked to steal women's underwear. Another pastor had oral sex with his mistress in his own house on Christmas Eve. Can you imagine the self-loathing? And what about the hopelessness and despair after one's umpteenth RELAPSE?

All this shame and blame and guilt and depression—and the pain, and the lingering consequences, and so on—are so long-term and powerful, they warp our very belief systems. Since it's done to us according to the level of our *faith*, we become our own self-fulfilling prophecies. So imagine what happens when you take your typical addict slave and drop them into a future filled with proverbial milk and honey and potential as big as giant grapes? How long before the addict slave turns their Promised Land into a wasteland? Indeed, like many people who've won the lottery, such riches would destroy them even more quickly than their own Acting-Out Cycle.

Any of this sounding familiar? Are you starting to understand why God uses the Wilderness to expose our inmost beliefs about identity? Our beliefs about self will determine our behavior—it's as basic as that. Who are you? And who will you become? Slave/Addict/Idolater? Or Royal Son or Daughter of the Most High God?

Don't waste your Wilderness, brothers and sisters! Turn your Desert into Destiny!

Jesus

This is My beloved Son (Matthew 3:17). The only time in history the Father speaks audibly about His Son—wait for it—and all He wants to discuss is *Identity*. He doesn't talk about Jesus's personality or power or authority or ministry. Like any proud dad, all He wants to say is, *Hey, that's My Boy!*

Ironically, the devil gets the importance of this test where we often miss it. Note how he kicks off Jesus's Wilderness test: *If...you are the Son of God* (Matthew 4:3). Pretending he has already forgotten Matthew 3, the Father of Lies is calling God the Father a liar. Too bad for the devil. Jesus was and is all about His Abba Dad! I recently heard someone say the greatest revelation Jesus

modeled for us was the *relationship between Father and Son*. I couldn't agree more, save for adding the equally astounding revelation that you and I can *also* know the Father as His sons and daughters!

Get this, people: God has no use for slaves and addicts in His Kingdom. Indeed, only blood relatives need apply. Co-working Kings and Priests. Inheritors and Overcomers. Prophets like Moses. Warriors like Joshua. Rocks that He can build His Kingdom on, like Peter. Missionaries like Paul who can take every giant the devil throws at them and still take new territory for their Father. This is why God the Father made us, and why Jesus the Son passed all those tests to buy us back—so we could fulfill the Identity and Image innate within us all.

Are you starting to appreciate the importance of God's testing process yet? Are you willing to submit to God's will for your life and start passing His tests? Annihilate your Acting-Out Cycle, my brothers and sisters, because your Purity—and therefore your Maturity, and therefore your Destiny and personal Promised Land—depend upon you kicking the cycle now and forevermore.



**How do you annihilate your Acting-Out Cycle?
Pass God's tests!**



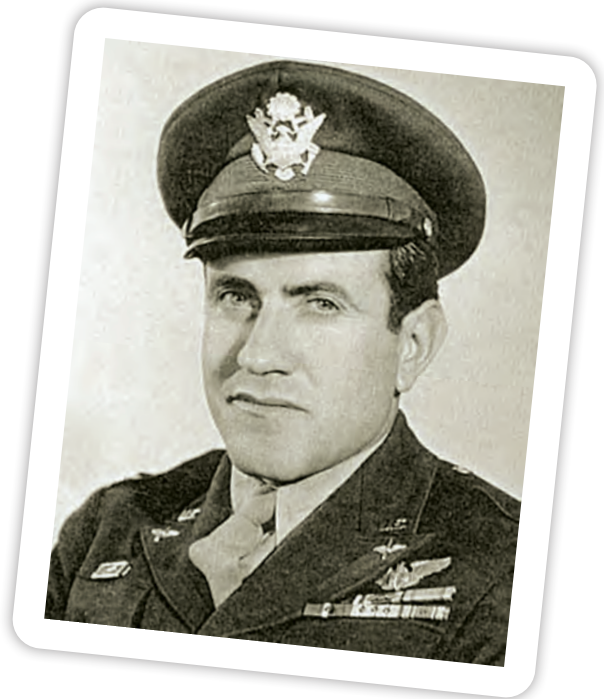
Louis Zamperini: Broken By Brutal Testing

Let's close with a brief reminder that all this means War! *Unbroken*, Laura Hillenbrand's biography of WWII hero Louis Zamperini, is an unforgettable book about an unforgettable man. The author is a marvelous writer, but ironically she gets the title of the book catastrophically wrong. The book's title should have been *Broken*—because Zamperini's incredible life story reveals the incredible measures God Himself will take to *break* one man.

Born just after WWI, Zamperini was a wild delinquent child, one of those people literally born to run. Indeed, his need for speed eventually leads to his running for the US team at the Berlin Olympics, and then after the outbreak of WWII, flying in a B-24 bomber against the Japanese in the Pacific. During a routine flight over empty sea, the bomber's engines fail, and seconds later, Zamperini's plane crashes into the ocean. It's at this point that Zamperini is plunged into his own personal desert, a Wilderness experience as brutal as they get. 40-plus days on a raft in the open ocean fighting off sharks, while dying of thirst and starvation—then years in the worst Japanese POW camp under the rule of a psychotically sadistic corporal straight out of hell—then years of extreme post-war PTSD, addictions to alcohol and pornography—you'll have to read the book to have some idea of what Zamperini suffered.

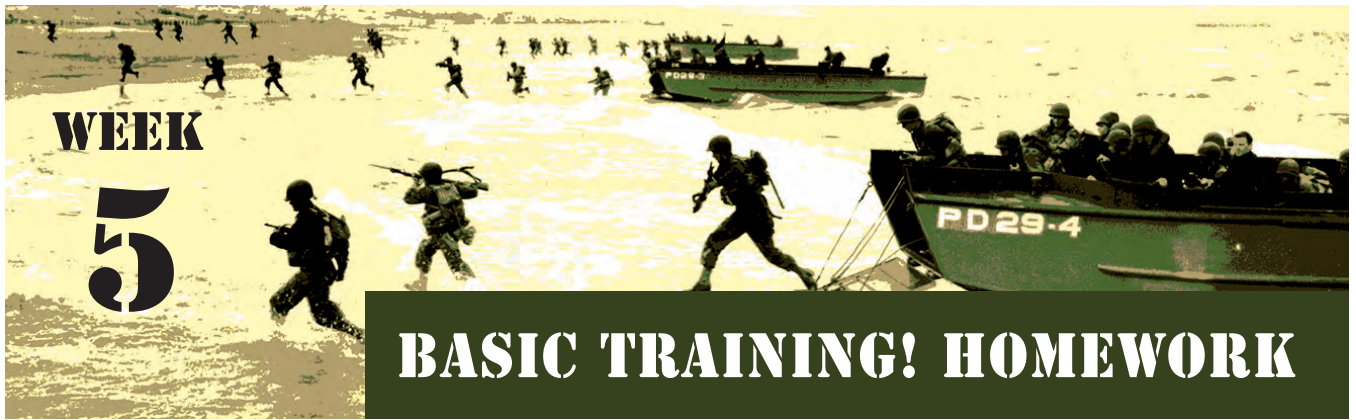
There's a happy ending, however, because just at the point Zamperini is about to lose it all, wife and kids included, his wife drags him to a Billy Graham meeting. It's at this moment that Zamperini—this unbelievably proud, stubborn, rebellious, addicted, and tormented man—is finally *broken* enough to bow his soul and receive the grace he so desperately needs.

During the altar call, God gives Zamperini a piercingly clear flashback to a moment when he was dying on the raft so long ago. *If you will save me, I will serve you forever*, Zamperini had prayed in his hour of greatest need. And then, like so many, after the prayer was answered he soon forgot his deal with God. His Father, however, had not forgotten, and in that moment of grace, God instantly delivered Zamperini of both his addictions and his PTSD, and set him on the path to new life.



Zamperini went on to serve God as a traveling evangelist. More importantly, he founded a summer camp for troubled, delinquent boys in California where he worked with the toughest, most hopeless cases. Through his summer camps, Zamperini saw many a boy turn his life around, and thus the former prisoner fulfilled his ultimate destiny by setting captives free.

I ask in conclusion: are you *Broken*, or are you as yet *Unbroken*? Are you breaking down and learning dependence on God, one step at a time? Has your dependence on your Acting-Out Cycle been broken for good? You must break free of your cycle to get consistently pure, and you must be pure to become mature—because in the breaking is the making of a man or woman and therein lies your destiny.



WEEK

5

BASIC TRAINING! HOMEWORK

Pureheart Group Discussion Questions

(Remember to write down your answers.)

1. Have you passed any of God's Top Ten Tests? Cite some examples of how you passed these tests.
2. Select 3 of the Top Ten Tests (other than Temptation), and analyze in detail how each test induces your personal Acting-Out Cycle. Be specific and cite examples for ITCHES, HUNT, BUILDUP, and RELAPSE.
3. Have you been *broken* yet? Remember that brokenness can happen all at once (through a traumatic event like the death of a child), or it can be a long, slow burn of pressure, stress, loneliness, pain, failure, addictions, and so on. Explain your breaking process. If you've yet to be broken, explain why. What is hindering your breaking process?
4. Are you *dependent* on God? In your own words, explain what dependence on God looks like for you. Cite some specific examples to show your dependence, or cite some examples of when you could have followed His leading but chose otherwise.
5. Spiritual Surgeon General's Warning: The following prayer is one of *the* most dangerous prayers you can ever pray, so think very carefully before you pray it. God's tests can be absolutely brutal sometimes, especially if you're unusually proud, stubborn, rebellious, and/or screwed up (speaking from lots of personal experience). So think it through. And then, if you're willing, get down on your face before God and pray the following.

Spiritual Surgeon General's Warning: The following prayer is one of the most dangerous prayers you can ever pray so think very carefully before you pray it.

Father, I submit myself to Your testing process. I know that I don't know my heart. I don't fully understand the absolute depths of my own depravity, and at the same time I don't fully trust how much You love me. Nor do I get just how Your image—my identity—has been branded into the very depths of my DNA. I surrender to You, Lord, and to Your specific will for my life. So do whatever You need to do in me to bring Your will to completion in my life. Do whatever it takes, Lord, no matter how extreme or how it painful it will be. I will indeed drink the cup You place before me.

I know Father that I must break my Acting-Out Cycle(s), and that everything hinges on passing this fundamental test. So again, bring whatever pain and pressure You need to bear upon my life until I am dependent only on You. I ask, Father, that You give me the help I will need to pass your tests—the strength and the divine perseverance to keep getting back up, no matter how many times the devil knocks me down. Give me the brothers/sisters who will be there for me to help in my times of testing and crisis. Feed me with the Manna of Your Word, and fill me with the power of Your Spirit, so that I can truly become consistently pure and spiritually mature—so I can fulfill Your destiny for me and take my personal Promised Land.

*I humbly ask all this in the powerful Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*



Basic Training! A Battle-Tested Labor of Love



The book you've been reading took 15 years to write, rewrite, design, redesign, and edit, at a cost of \$30,000. It's birthed out of nearly 50 years of personal study, testing, failure, and success. Plus 7 years at seminary, 10 years as a pastor, and 15 years as the leader of Pureheart Ministries. Not to mention my own experience with sexual abuse, ritual abuse, demons, PTSD, depression, and (obviously) sexual addiction, and all the things I learned by the grace of God in overcoming these Goliaths in my life. All things are indeed possible for those who believe!

I've spent literally thousands of hours in individual and group counseling sessions testing and refining the truths contained within these chapters. By the grace of God, I've personally led over 300 brothers into consistent purity, brothers from practically every denomination in the Western Church, and from over 20 different countries. Men of diverse races, economic classes, educational levels, ages, careers, and addiction levels.

I've successfully counseled many pastors, church elders, missionaries, and ministry leaders. I've helped save over 150 marriages, many of these on the rocks, and some on the verge of divorce. And I haven't even mentioned all the people my counselors have helped. So when I tell you that this book is proven and battle-tested, believe it! And please, don't just take my word for it. Check out the Testimony tab at pureheartministries.net, and judge the tree by its fruit.

No Punches Pulled

As you will soon discover, I write like I talk—blunt and intense. Some of this is personality. Some of it comes from the extreme events of my life. And some of it comes from having counseled literally hundreds of drug addicts, alcoholics, and sex addicts. The bottom line: I call it like it is. Think of me as your personal Nathan (as in David and Bathsheba). Like Nathan, I'm hoping to rock your world enough so that you cast aside things like denial, deceit, dysfunction, sexual sin, and spiritual immaturity, so you live utterly sold out for Jesus the rest of your life. I'm here to help you get consistently pure and spiritually mature, so you can live out your awesome destiny and calling in Christ!

Brace yourself...

Message of Hope

You can expect blunt intensity, but nobody is more hopeful than I am when it comes to turning all your junk into gold. I know the dark side of life well. As a child I was sexually abused by my grandfather and ritually abused by either an organized group of pedophiles or outright Satanists. For most of my life I was sickly, depressed, seriously demonized, and completely sexually addicted. I was a failure as a pastor, an immature and unfaithful husband, and a harsh and mercurial father. And yet, by God's grace and lots of work, I've overcome my past and now lead others into ever-increasing freedom and victory. (See my testimony a little later in this book, and in *Special Ops!*).

It never ceases to amaze me how God uses even the worst events of my life to radically change people's lives! Hear my message of hope loud and clear, because it's literally the story of my life. If I can break free, anyone can!

This Means War!

I use the metaphor of war as a way of illustrating a fundamental reality of the Christian walk. Christians live in a state of war—it's the explicit teaching of Scripture. Peter urges believers to abstain from the passions of the flesh (sexual sin) which *wage war against your soul* (1 Peter 2:11). To paraphrase Ephesians 6, we are engaged in hand-to-hand combat with demons. In the spiritual realm, there's no such thing as a Christian pacifist. You're either overcoming the devil, or he is devouring you.

Sexual sin is at the very heart of this war, because it will—given enough time—literally destroy everything you hold dear. Sexual sin is the devil's #1 battle strategy for destroying you and your God-given calling.

World War II was the most devastating war in human history, yet it pales beside the war over purity now raging in the spiritual realm as we draw ever closer to Judgment Day.

My brothers and sisters—welcome to the war!

Follow Instructions

In 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, Paul says we must *learn* how to live sexually pure, which clearly implies: 1) sexual purity is *not* natural behavior, and 2) we need people who can teach us truths we do not know. I know how to walk in personal purity, and I know how to pass it on to you. It's absolutely critical however that you learn from the truths in this book. In other words, you've got to follow the instructions!

I refuse to dumb down my teaching, so you'll need to read and reread my chapters, because they are densely packed with truth and instructions. Pace yourself. I recommend you focus on one chapter a week (and sometimes spend 2-3 weeks on a particular chapter). I strongly recommend that you write out your homework, because this will help you remember what you learn. Finally, I provide many practical steps that will radically change your life.

You must—absolutely must—consistently apply these steps if you want the Pureheart Process to work for you.

Men and Women

This is obviously a masculine-looking book, and since I only counsel men, there's a natural focus here on the male side of sexual addiction. At the same time, female sexual addiction is going through the roof. And while this is only a guess, I believe that female sexual addiction is increasingly comparable to the male equivalent. While the relationship component will undoubtedly continue to be a major issue for women, I suspect that women are increasingly addicted to the buzz and the chemical high of masturbation, porn, and acting out sexually for its own sake. If this is the case—then

ladies, read on, because you'll find much in these books that addresses these specific issues.

Individual and Group

Basic Training! is designed for individual use as well as group settings. As the author, I strongly recommend that you go through this book with someone else—your pastor, a church elder, your best friend, a counselor, or best of all, a group of brothers or sisters. This will give you immediate accountability for getting the work done. You'll need the encouragement, prayers, discipline, and occasional kick in the pants from a brother or sister (the same sex as yourself), because breaking free of addictions is no small task. In other words, don't fight this war by yourself; form your own BOB (Band of Brothers) or BOS (Band of Sisters), and join forces in the war to change your life.

Second Edition, 5 Stages, and a Note for My International Readers

I split *Basic Training!* into 5 Stages so make sure you read all 5 books. Stages 1 and 2 focus on breaking free of sexual addiction, Stage 3 on spiritual warfare, and Stage 4 and 5 zero in on connecting with God, self, and others, while preparing you to move forward into Purity and Destiny.

Also note that I use WWII photos and comics because in America, something produced by the government is public domain and not copyrighted, which means I don't have to pay someone to use it. Given all the graphics in this book, it would cost a fortune otherwise. I'm thus primarily limited to pictures of the US Armed Forces, even though obviously many countries fought the good fight. So, for my international readers—please do not interpret the lack of photographic global representation as a slight in any way. I'm simply trying to be a wise steward with a heavily illustrated book.

