

Breaking Free:

Finding Freedom in a World Designed to Keep You Hooked

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The deepest question today is not merely, "Did you win or lose?" The deeper question is, "What is this teaching your heart to _____?"

MEMORY VERSE:

"Wealth from gambling quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows."

Proverbs 13:11 (LB)

How to Break Free from Gambling's Grip

1. WE MUST _____ THE PROMISE BEHIND THE GAME

"Wealth from gambling quickly disappears ..."

Proverbs 13:11a (LB)

- **Beware of the false promise of the**

You cannot recover from a trap by going deeper into the trap.

Three Heart Promises to Expose

1. "This win will _____ me."

2. "I can control the _____."

3. "The next one will be _____."

The Spiritual Issue: Where Is My Trust?

"Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf."

Proverbs 11:28 (ESV)

Action Steps:

- **Name the real** _____.
- **Separate need from** _____.
- **Re-anchor your** _____.

CONGREGATIONAL DECLARATION:

My help comes from the Lord. Chance is not my provider. Money is not my master. Jesus is my source, my security, and my freedom.

2. WE MUST _____ WHAT GAMBLING IS COSTING US

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." **Matthew 6:21(NKJV)**

- **The cost is more than cash**

- _____ **cost**
- _____ **cost**
- _____ **cost**
- _____ **cost**

- **Biblical Stewardship: We are**

_____, **not owners**

"Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful."

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NLT)

- **The danger of secrecy and**

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." **James 5:16 (NIV)**

Action Steps:

- **Complete a truthful _____ review of deposits, withdrawals, tickets, application charges, ATM use, credit, and borrowed money.**
- Add the invisible costs: time, missed sleep, anxiety, conflict, secrecy, and opportunities neglected.
- Tell one mature, trustworthy believer the complete truth—without minimizing the amount or frequency.
- If shared money has been harmed, begin rebuilding trust through full financial transparency and consistent actions, not promises alone.
- Seek appropriate professional and pastoral support when debt, compulsion, depression, or danger has become severe.

Freedom is not found by pretending the receipt is smaller. Freedom begins when grace gives us courage to face the whole truth.

3. WE MUST _____ THE TRAP AND PRACTICE GOD'S PATH TO PROVISION

"...wealth from hard work grows."

Proverbs 13:11b (LB)

1. CUT OFF _____

2. BRING THE PATTERN INTO THE

3. REPLACE THE _____

- For stress: prayer, exercise, counseling, rest, and honest conversation.
- For boredom: service, learning, recreation, relationships, and meaningful goals.
- For financial fear: a written budget, debt plan, employment counsel, and patient action.
- For excitement: healthy challenges that do not place provision or relationships at risk.
- For belonging: Christian community where acceptance is not purchased by participation.

4. PRACTICE “LITTLE BY LITTLE”

“The trustworthy person will get a rich reward, but a person who wants quick riches will get into trouble.” **Proverbs 28:20 (NLT)**

5. _____ CONTENTMENT IN CHRIST

“Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.” **Hebrews 13:5 (NLT)**

The house cannot keep winning when, by the grace of God, we _____ the game.

CONGREGATIONAL DECLARATION: I will not chase what God has called me to steward. I will not risk tomorrow’s provision for today’s rush. By God’s grace, I will walk in truth, wisdom, contentment, accountability, and freedom.

CONCLUSION: _____ THE HOUSE!

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS:

- ✓ I will memorize **Proverbs 13:11 (LB)**
- ✓ I will accept Christ for the first time
- ✓ I will join the New Life church family
- ✓ I will sign up for the next baptism

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