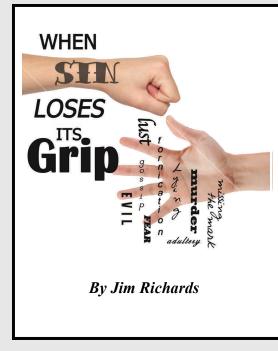




A Monthly Publication of Impact Ministries

- When Sin Loses Its Grip
 Ministry that Touches the Heart
 - Christmas Specials!



One reason the people of God always seem to fall short of the benefits the Word promises is their futile attempts to relate to or understand God on the basis of the externals. God is a heart God! Samuel the prophet learned this essential reality when he was sent to identify the next King of Israel! He looked at the external only to discover *the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.* (1 Sam. 16:7) Until we are dealing with life, God, truth, or anything else from a heart perspective we are just going through the motions! No matter how good those motions may be, they may or may not be rooted in God's reality!

We all know that sin is the real issue behind why we do not live in the promises of God. But our failure to grasp sin from a heart perspective causes us to reach some contrived conclusion about what sin is and why it affects us. The legalist thinks sin is what we do wrong that causes God to withhold His goodness. The liberal whitewashes the entire "sin issue" and says that since Jesus forgave our sin, sin no longer has any influence in our life. The Universalists, Trinitarians, and Christian Scientists claim that it's all in your mind. It only affects you because you believe it can! But none of these or the dozens of other extremists really grasp the issues of sin or the implications of the heart!

When Adam was tempted the entire temptation was wrapped in a primary undermining suggestion: "You are not who God says you are!" A master manipulator gets people to ask themselves questions which lead them to question truth. They, however, never reveal their opposition to truth until they have your firm allegiance.

Couched within the deceitful promise, *In the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil,* (Gen. 3:5) was an anti-statement. An anti-statement is the unspoken statement that is made if you accept the verbalized statement. The anti-statement that was made by this statement is "You are not like God!" This was in direct opposition to the fact that man was created in the likeness and image of God! The emphasis on the fruit being so special that God would kill you if you as much as touched it created a wonderful illusion: *For all that is in the world* — *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.* (1 Jn. 2:16) This half-truth made it seem that God had something so incredibly good that He was holding it back from you. The end result of this entire discourse was to create the feeling of lack! Lack is the mother of all addictions, the driving force behind all temptation, and the lie that holds us in the darkness!

The Book of James gives us a fairly comprehensive idea of the progression from desire to death. *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.* (James 1:14-15) "Tempt" means to test, try, scrutinize, or anything that causes one to strive. Striving is born out of the sense of lack! People who do not have enough money to pay their bills "strive" to make ends meet. Financial lack causes them to strive! The worker who is not strong enough to finish the work day "strives" to complete the day! The lack of physical energy causes him to strive. Striving always emerges from a real or perceived lack!

It is inherent in the way man was created to always seek to fulfill his God-given sense of identity. To do so there are only two options: faith in what God has said, or the attempt to prove our identity by our performance - even if that performance is inconsistent with God's Word! In the Garden the dialog between man and the serpent led to a false sense of lack: "I am not who God says I am; I do not have what God says I have; I cannot do what God says I can do." Man's trust for God as being good was diminished. The feeling of lack always leads to fear on some level, which leads to striving.

Now the real question that must be asked is this: Was the act of eating the fruit sin or was it the fruit of sin? Did the sin occur in Adam's heart before it affected his behavior? My understanding of God and all we know about how He created man would say: "The sin occurred in Adam's heart. His disobedience was merely the fruit of the sin in his heart!" According to James, the entire journey of sin is internal. First, there is the feeling of lack, which is the seed that gives rise to enticement. The word for "entice" could also be translated as "bait." Bait is what a fisherman uses to allure fish to bite the hook that leads to its entrapment! The allure of bait is that it looks appealing. Bait, in the case of temptation, is something that would relieve our cause of striving.

The Apostle Paul, when dealing with the legalistic debate of eating food offered to idols, observing certain religious days, and other matters of outward conformity as proof of identity (righteousness) explained that those who poised such a debate were weak in the faith. (Rom. 14:1) He explained the role of conscience in such matters. He summed it up that love and Lordship had to be the determining factors of outward behavior. First and foremost, we should do what we do

unto the Lord. Second, love for other believers would cause one to consider how our behavior affects the faith of another. In verse 23 Paul launches us into the realm of internal realities, i.e., the heart!

Paul provided us with this incredible insight: But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin. The word "faith" means to trust to such a degree that you are immovable in your belief. James, in addressing temptation, addressed the issue of wavering. Wavering is when one shifts from one opinion to another. Doubt is the antithesis of faith. Faith is immovable in its trust for God and His Word. Doubt is an immovable trust in that which is not in harmony with God's Word.

Man is created with certain desires and needs, but these desires and needs are not the problem. When we do not believe we are who God says we are, can do what God says we can do, and have what God says is ours through Jesus, then rather than trust and follow God's Word we take the bait of the "short cut." We violate God's Word in our desire to get what God has already promised and provided through Christ!

James explains that after desire has taken the bait it conceives and gives birth to sin. According to the wording in the original language it is clear that the sin is something that occurred because of a previous conception. Then since every seed bears after its own kind, sin (although it gratifies for a short period of time) only has the potential to produce the fruit of death. Just when it appears we have obtained that which we desire, the repercussions begin. Religion says those repercussions are God punishing you. Paul says it is simply sowing and reaping. You have chosen to plant a particular seed and now the fruit is growing in your life through your circumstances, emotions, health, relationships, or any number of possible avenues.

Interestingly, the word we translate as "sin" actually has nine different Greek words that each means something different. Our tendency to generalize and homogenize definitions cause us to misunderstand the entire process of sin and how, even though it has no legal power over us, we still fall into its deceptive allure!

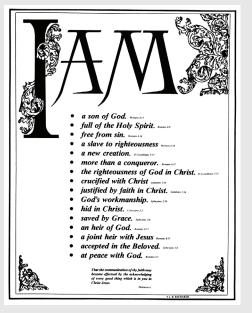
The primary Greek word translated as "sin" is the word *harmartia*. It means "to miss the mark of the prize (the goal)." Unfortunately, we have blended the words "sin" and "transgress." A transgression is a violation, but *harmartia* is something totally different. What is God's goal for us? He intends that we live in an intimate relationship with Him through the Lord Jesus wherein we experience perfect life and perfect love. (Jn. 17:3) Even in the Old Covenant God's reason for wanting men to follow His instruction was so it would go well with them on earth and they would, through His loving direction, experience His love and ultimately fall in love with Him. God's goodness has not been as much a reward for our behavior as it is an expression of His loving nature!

Harmartia occurs in the heart when one believes anything that would cause him to ultimately miss the goal. Since all life and death begin in the heart we know that a belief that is in opposition to God's truth leads to the temptation process which ultimately leads to transgression. The only prevention for this process is to believe the truth about who we are in Jesus, what we have in Him, and what we can do through Him! *Whatsoever is not faith is sin...* i.e., is failing to trust God and thereby reach the goal! Faith is a heart issue. Faith works by love. Love is what happens when we first experience God's love! When I believe and trust the character of God I can know that what He says about me in Christ is true. Therefore, I will not fall into lack (temptation.)

One of the most disbelieved scriptures in the entire Bible is found in Col. 2:10: You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. This is the root of unbelief that gives rise to all of our struggles. When we do not believe we are complete in Him we spend our every effort trying to become who God says we are. We use our "faith" to get what God says we already have. Our prayer life is consumed with asking God to do what He has already done through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus!

Break the power of lack by persuading your heart that you are complete in Him. Memorize, meditate on, sing, say, and worship every scriptural promise that tells you what is yours in Jesus. (And, by the way, every promise God ever made to anyone is yours, in Christ. (2 Cor. 1:20) Lose yourself in Him. Immerse yourself so deeply in your identity in Him that you have no sense of self outside of Christ! No lack can live in a heart that is complete.

Be sure to download your free copy of the *I Am* poster. I planned and designed this over 30 years ago to help people establish their hearts in their identity in Christ.

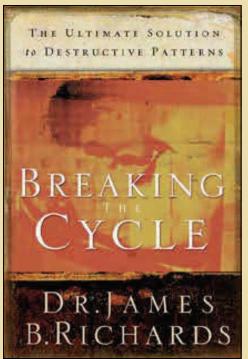


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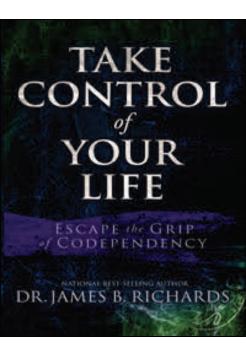
Dr. Richards' Recommended Reading!

Are you tired of repeating the same cycle? Do you feel like what you do is never good enough? Are negative feelings robbing your life of joy? Do you sometimes feel you can't find light at the end of the tunnel? Do you want to be in control and predict your own future? Are you ready for the rollercoaster to end and the good life begin? Millions of others have these same feelings; you are not alone. But you CAN end your repeated struggles and break out of destructive cycles. You can end the frustration and begin to live your dreams.

Paperback \$12.95 + S/H | eBook \$8.99



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If you enjoyed *Escape from Codependent Christianity* you will love the new, expanded edition, *Take Control of Your Life*! You won't find the term "codependency" in the Bible, yet it motivated Adam at the fall of man, it is the root of all addictions, the destroyer of all relationships, and it is consuming our world.

The greatest weakness of the Church has been our failure to set people free. We reach people who are addicted, but instead of helping to set them free, we simply transfer their addiction onto the local church, the pastor, or some religious program. The result is a church full of hurting people who are not free.

This book identifies how the world system of codependency has swept through government, education, family, and the Church; but more than point out the problem, it points out the only cure.

Take Control of Your Life is about regaining the control of your life by identifying and overcoming all tendencies toward codependency. As you shed the layers of emotional addiction you will find a freedom you have never before known. You will become the light in a dark world. You can break the destructive patterns in y our life!

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FOUNDATIONS of FAITH-FREE ONLINE CLASS!

Very good; I want more! ~GJ~

Totally life-changing. Made clear many teachings that were not biblical. My life will never be the same. ~JC~

I was born again in 1984, and have struggled so much over the last 25+ years. I never understood anything so clearly before, which made it so easy to slide, especially since I couldn't understand WHY it was so difficult to maintain my relationship with God. Between your Cyerchurch, the first of the Heart Physics CDs, and the Foundations of Faith, I am trusting my heart, writing on my heart, in a wonderful new journey with the Lord, and have many more fruit of the Spirit attributes appearing. 60 years of shame, fear, guilt, and confusion - all melting. God Bless you for your ministry. It has brought me real hope again. $\sim EJ\sim$

I was first exposed to Dr. Jim's teaching 5 years ago through the series, *Miracles, Science, and the Bible*. This opened the way for me to more fully understand what the Bible means. It also opened up an almost magnetic signal from me drawing in more truth from many different, unexpected places. I send many [people] to learn from Dr. Jim through online materials, the weekly CyberChurch, books, etc. Thank You! ~BS~







I am 63 years old and I got saved when I was 50 years old. I come from an abusing and violent background. I have been in New Age and I have done a lot of different drugs for many years. I was in a big mess when I got saved.

I have been saved for 13 years and the teaching I have received in these years has changed me to a point and I am grateful for that, but I have been longing for a deeper teaching and revelation about Jesus for a long time.

I had some traumas that I didn't know how to get rid of, and it troubled me so much that I could not live my life as God promised me. I couldn't put my longing into words. I just knew that there had to be more revelation about Jesus – and I missed it. God is so good. He knows my longing and He led me to your ministry.

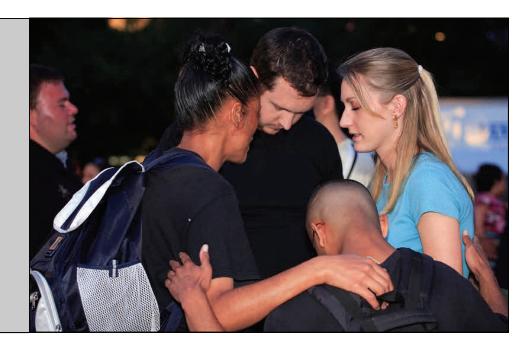
For about two months I have been doing Heart Physics and I listen often to "Three Days That Changed The World" - it works fabulously. It has really changed my life. It is just like I have been born again for a second time. I now have gotten to know Jesus much better and deeper and His resurrection life is working much more in me now – I am becoming more and more one with Him. His life, love, and power is filling me more and more because of the revelation I get from your teaching and the Heart Physics exercises that have encouraged and given me so much joy and peace . My faith and confidence in God has grown and is still growing.

I am so grateful for your ministry. I pray that your teaching will be spread all over the Body of Christ - we need it.

God bless you, your family, your friends, and your ministry. ${\sim}BD{\sim}$

Ministry that Touches the Heart By Jim Richards





For most of the past 1800 years ministry has been directed at behavior modification. Self -control is a fruit of the Spirit; we should be able to modify our behavior when we recognize that our behavior is offensive. However, we must never confuse behavior modification with victorious living. Controlling unacceptable behavior is essential for reducing conflict and chaos. But self-control will only last for so long! At some point self-control runs out and our true self explodes from our heart. (If you have not yet read the article "When Sin Loses Its Grip" I recommend that you do so before reading this article.)

Our habitual life expressions are a reflection of the condition of our heart! Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matt. 12:34) Jesus added this to His teaching about the heart: For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. (Matt. 15:19-20) The real you is who you are in your heart! All of our life and all of its boundaries flow out of our heart. Thus, we understand why God explained to Samuel that He looks on the heart, not the outward appearance!

We have been so obsessed with behavior that we made it virtually impossible to minister to people in a way that actually influenced their heart! When people come to "church" there is an unspoken message that says, "You will be accepted by your behavior!" As such, the new believer is not allowed to own and be "up front" about his or her issues for fear of judgment and rejection. Destructive issues are swept away and behavior is deemed the fruit of righteousness! There is a paradox: a righteous heart will always lead to righteous behavior, but righteous behavior is not always the fruit of a righteous heart.

The overriding message of the minister to the parishioner is, "You need to get right!" The anti-statement that occurs from this message is that you are not right! Jesus did not make you righteous. (2 Cor. 5:21) You are not accepted in the beloved! (Eph. 1:6) You are not complete in Jesus! (Col. 2:10) Instead of moving people to trust in the Spirit of God Who is in them, we teach them to put their faith in their behavior, to seek acceptance by performance! The overreaching message is YOU LACK! What Jesus has done in you is not complete!

This approach to ministry is just the opposite of that of the New Covenant minister. Nearly every letter in the New Testament was written to address particular questions and problems. As such we think that attacking sin is the ministry of the New Covenant minister. No! We are called to preach the good news - the Gospel! One of the unique aspects of this good news is found in the fact that it reveals faith righteousness from beginning to end! (Rom. 1:16-17) In other words, there is no part of this Gospel that teaches righteousness by performance!

By teaching people that Christ in them is not enough we make them feel lack and then they look outside of their own heart to find God and His strength. Preachers with good intentions and believers who desire to please God neutralize grace. (Gal. 2:21) The power of God in them has no influence in their life because they are dependent on their best efforts! It all sounds reasonable; the only problem is it has never worked.

If your righteousness is your best efforts, you will always fail! One day you will encounter a problem that is greater than your best strength and more resistant than you greatest effort! You'll wake up

Ministry that Touches the Heart (con't from pg 6)

one morning too tired to do your best, or you will encounter a temptation that is stronger than your will! You will fall! Actually you have already fallen... in your heart! You have fallen from the realm of grace, the place where God's power and strength is working from your heart! You are still saved, you still want to please God; you just don't have the power!

The writer of Hebrews warns that falling from grace is the source of the root of bitterness that defiles you and everyone around you! I've

never met a legalist that wasn't angry or bitter. After you leave the place of grace (God's strength) and do the best you can in your strength (flesh) and you don't see the desired outcome you will be bitter. You will feel as if you have paid your dues and God did not do His part!

Ministry that touches the heart, however, always points a person to Christ in them as their Source. It always reminds them of the strength of the Holy Spirit inside them! Ministry that touches the heart never gets you to look to man, but to Jesus! It doesn't tell you what you can't do; it tells you what you can do in Him! It doesn't point out what is wrong with you, it points out what is right about you, because of Him! Paul always reminded believers of who they were in Jesus, what they had, and what they could do. John reminded them they were already anointed and they didn't need to look to anyone to teach them how to get the anointing. The apostle Peter said it like this: *For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.* Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you. (2 Pet. 1:12-13)

Ministry that touches the heart always gets the believer to connect to Christ in their own heart. The greatest encompassing attitude that dis-empowers our world today is codependency. Codependency causes people to feel lack and then look to a source other than God to meet the need. To protect your own heart, to raise children effectively, and to minister to people in the 21st century you must understand the dynamics of codependency and you must know how to help people find strength in Christ, in their own heart.

Be sure to look for the release of my new leadership book, *Leadership That Builds People Vol. 3* in 2013. To be ready to optimize the tools I will be presenting it is essential that you read and master the material in *Take Control of Your Life*. This is a "must read" for everyone seeking to avoid the trappings of codependent living.



"Nothing so conclusively proves a man's ability to lead others as what he does from day to lead himself." ~Thomas J. Watson, Sr.~

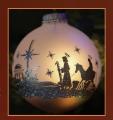


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Ministry that touches the heart...always points a person to Christ in them as their Source.

Free Download of The Christmas Story!

*E*very year I hear people complain that the meaning of Christmas is being lost! But it seems that people are perplexed about how to recover its true meaning. Many feel they should become anti-commercial, and while I understand and share those same feelings, I have found that "anti" anything seldom produces the desired results. What we are "for" is far more powerful than what we are "against!" We need to turn the seasonal festivities into a time to expose our family and friends to the true message of Christmas!



To help you recover the meaning of Christmas for your family I have recorded a free version of *The Christmas Story* that presents the message of Christ in a way that can be very meaningful and effective! Go online to impact-ministries.com to download your free Christmas story.

While your family is together sharing a meal, opening presents, or whatever you do to celebrate Christmas, take a few minutes and play *The Christmas Story*! Nothing will get your family connected to the meaning of Christmas like hearing *The Christmas Story* and connecting them to Christ! In just a few minutes they will hear God's true reasons for sending Christ into the world. **impactministries.com**



CHRISTMAS COMMUNION SERVICE December 19th—26th Join us online for a special Christmas Communion Service! This is the perfect time to share this extraordinary event with your friends and family! impactministries.com



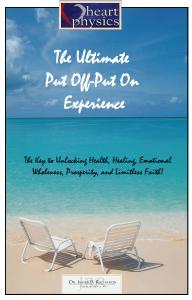
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The Ultimate Put Off-Put On Experience The Key to Unlocking Health, Healing, Emotional Wholeness, Prosperity, and Ultimate Faith!

Are you tired of recycling the same old problems? Have you done everything you know to do and yet still struggle with the same negative emotions or debilitating compromises? Does victory come and go in a seemingly unpredictable manner? If you answered yes to any of these you can finally get off the merry-go-round and stop beating yourself for these struggles! You *thought* there was something wrong with you. You were *probably told* there was something wrong with you! But really all you needed was the right tools to put God's Word to work.

Your struggles are no different than anyone's. The Bibles says *No temptation has taken you but such as is common for all men...* In other words, you're not that different from anyone. In fact, the frustration of never completely overcoming certain problems may be number one among the majority of serious believers! People repent over and over only to face the same situation again or make the same mistake again. They follow every religious formula they've ever heard. In fact, that's the problem; we attempt what we've been taught instead of what the Bible prescribes for continuous, progressive, spiritual growth while leaving our problems behind!



If you really knew how you would put an end to these recurring problems. But when you fail enough times you eventually blame yourself or God and neither of these options brings relief, peace, or victory over the problem.

- Have you ever felt fear and wished you could make it go away instantly?
- Are you troubled by recurring temptations?
- Do you seem vulnerable to certain types of problems?
- Do you find yourself making the same kind of bad decisions repeatedly?
- Do you forgive someone over and over and the same bad feelings always come back?

Now you have a solution based on God's Word, your identity in Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. You can now put off any problem that Jesus conquered through His death, burial, and resurrection; then you can put on your new identity in Christ!

The main reason we have repetitive problems is because we seldom eliminate the root cause. At the root of every limiting belief is an offense that needs to be sent away! Until now you had no way to identify the offense and effectively send it away, but now you have the teaching and the tools!

- Find the root to any behavioral, emotional, or physical problem!
- Send away buried emotions and feelings that have subconsciously driven your behavior!
- Learn the secret to the Urim and the Thummim used by Old Testament priests and kings!
- Once you identify any root problem send it away in seconds!
- Identify and send away limiting beliefs that form the boundaries of your heart!
- Put on new beliefs based on your identity in Jesus!
- Send away sickness and pain with new confidence!
- Develop a heart tool that you will use the rest of your life!

Without knowing the root cause of a problem it is like looking in the mirror when you're sick and attempting to diagnose why you have a fever. Looking at the outside can never allow you to see what is inside! In fact, the mindset that got you into your problem does not have the ability to see the problem or the solution.

The Ultimate Put Off – Put On Experience is one of the most powerful and diverse Heart Physics tools I have ever developed!

The prerequisite for purchasing *The Ultimate Put Off – Put On Experience* is the completion of *Essential Heart Physics* and *New Beginnings* Heart Physics modules. This provides the foundation to give you ultimate effectiveness!

The Ultimate Put Off – Put On Experience is required as part of the Heart Physics Coaches Certification. Take this major step in transforming your life while equipping yourself to multiply your effectiveness in ministry, counseling, and personal development!

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Most believers never really find a way to conquer sin, so they do the best they can to live a godly life while inwardly struggling with guilt, frustration, shame, and anger. After they have tried all the "religious formulas" their faith is eroded and they feel disappointed in God!

Jesus died to free us from sin - not just sinful behavior, but also from feeling like we are not really who He said we are and don't have what He says we have. It was this very deception that stimulated the delusional thinking that caused Adam, the first man, to fall in the Garden. Adam succumbed to the feeling of lack. He came to believe he did not re-



ally have all that God said was his. Likewise, Jesus, the second Adam, faced the exact same struggle on the Mount of Temptation. This challenge to His identity came immediately after hearing God speak and say, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Every human being that faces any temptation is struggling with whether or not he believes he is who God says he is, has what God says he has, and can do what Go says he can do. In other words he is dealing with the feeling of lack.

This groundbreaking series will give you the:

- Truth you need to win your battle over sin
- Exact place that sin loses all its power over you
- Reason you feel tempted and what to do about it
- Connection to the power source
- Strategies for avoiding temptation
- New Covenant tools to break the strongholds
- Keys to resist temptation

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December 2012

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