ENEMIES OF OVERCOMING LIFE AND SOBRIETY

I. **How to Overcome Emotions:**

a) Anxiety – Luke 21:34, Philippians 4:6
b) Fears: rejection, calamity, failure, future, unknown – Psalm 23
c) Anger/Bitterness – Hebrews 12:14-17, Ephesians 4:26-27
d) False Guilt – Romans 8:1
e) Lust or Love – I Peter 1:22

II. **Overcoming Rejection:**

A. Seeing God as Father: Jesus came to bring to men the ultimate understanding of God – God is a loving, accepting, understanding Father, who always provides for, protects and cares for His children. Herein lies the foundation of self-acceptance.

Hebrew & Greek words for Father found in the Old and New Testaments mean Protector, Progenitor, and Provider.

Our Heavenly Father gives us:

- **Parental Authority** – Hosea 11:14

- **Parental Faithfulness** – Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 28:20, II Timothy 2:13

- **Parental Generosity** (We use people to get things, He uses things to bless people) – Psalm 37:3-5

- **Parental Affection** – Hosea 11:4, Deuteronomy 33:12

- **Parental Attentiveness** – I Peter 5:7

- **Parental Acceptance** – Zephaniah 3:17

B. We live in a performance oriented society. Acceptance is always conditioned – if you make the team, if you make the grade, if you look attractive, if you have money, if you win. The kingdom of this world is a kingdom of rejection. The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of unconditional love. God promises are conditional. We must obey Him to see blessing, but His love is unconditional. You don't have to wait to experience the love of God. Come as you are. Just be honest with Him. He delights to forgive you and accept you. Even in the depths of your rebelliousness He still loves you. Even God's judgments are motivated by His love. "But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Many of you have an inability to receive God's lover, acceptance and approval. Why? You are trapped in a slave-like relationship with the harsh god of your imagination. The acceptance that results from the Father heart of God is not imagined; it's reality!