

## **We Were Powerless Over – Our Guilt**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Step – Lesson 8

One of the reasons behind getting high or other destructive behaviors is the desire to try to get our feelings under control. One of the most painful feelings that we've tried to manage is guilt. And like all our feelings, guilt resists our attempts to control it. The Bible makes it clear that only God has power over our guilt, and that by trusting in Jesus' death for our guilt we get to take part in that power.

Zechariah 3:1-5 – Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."

Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you."

Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

"Satan" means "accuser", and he's good at his job! If you try to defend yourself against his accusations, you will lose.

Are there times when you really feel accused (like at 3:00 AM when you can't sleep)? What are some ways you try to defend yourself when you feel accused? What happens when you try to defend yourself?

Satan's accusations are usually right! But God doesn't bother answering Satan's accusations. He doesn't have to. Jesus is the answer to any and all accusations. "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2).

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Steps actually suggest agreeing that the accusations against you are correct! What happens when you honestly admit your guilt?

What happens when you let Jesus be the answer to your guilt?

God not only took away Joshua's guilt, he gave him a purpose in life: to go on being the high priest.

Has God removing your guilt through Jesus given you new purposes in life?

"Your mess becomes your ministry" (Jim Kennedy, Prison Fellowship Ministries). Do you see God giving you a job that has to do with the mess you've made in your life?