



"All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
2 Tim. 3:16-17

Dear Counseling Applicant,

God bless you for taking the often difficult step to seek counseling concerning the personal problem you are dealing with. I regularly pray that God would bring individuals, couples and families to our Biblical counseling ministry that He desires to reach for His glory. I look forward to sharing the love and compassion God has provided to all who are willing to trust and obey. I am excited to see how God will work in your life, and work all things together for your good (Romans 8:28).

I assume that you've been facing some significant trials in your life. Whether these trials involve your marriage or family relationships, habitual behaviors, loneliness, anger, life's direction or specific behavioral issues, God is able to give you joy, restore peace, provide comfort and give hope for every circumstance and difficulty we face in life.

I believe God can be your "refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1), and He has proven this to be true in the lives of our staff. We would consider it a privilege to share with you the love God has demonstrated toward us. I am overwhelmed by the goodness and compassion of God, and I yearn for you to experience that as well. Our ministry's vision is to work with you and beside you as God works in your life through the power of prayer, His Word, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. "With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

You may be at a point in your life where you've become enslaved to destructive habits. It may be that you've been hurt time and again. It may be that just when things seem to be getting better, something else hits. You've been trying to cope, but the pit just seems to get deeper and the darkness just gets darker. You may have found that the more you try to do things your way, the worse things become. God offers a new way – His way. Romans 6:16 tells us we have the choice to serve sin or God. God is a master who is gracious, loving, compassionate, and merciful. He urges "Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and *ye shall find rest unto your souls.* For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light."(Matthew 11:28-30).

Make no mistake. I am talking about a master – The Master. We're talking about putting your trust in God and doing it His way. Making Him *Lord* - boss. And God is a jealous God. He's not going to put up with any other master in life. In fact, He clearly says that if we choose to run after other masters, our sorrows will increase. So you have a choice. You can continue to hope in your old ways of doing things, or you can trust in God. If you do trust in God you can expect to not **just** have hope, but to **overflow** with hope (Romans 15:13). Think about what *overflowing* with hope would look like. Has that been your experience so far?

You need to understand, our ministry does not offer a quick fix or a "magic bullet." Change is not an overnight process. It will take a commitment and a sustained daily effort from you. You won't always feel like persevering, but by God's grace you can. Christ endured when it got really hard, and He'll help you do it too. We'll do everything we can to help you as well.

Enclosed you will find a Personal Data Inventory (PDI) form, Biblical Counseling Ministry Guidelines and our fee schedule. Please read these documents carefully. You will be asked to sign a copy of the Biblical Counseling Ministry Guidelines during your first counseling session. Return the completed PDI by mail, in person or as an email attachment, and we will contact you to arrange for our initial meeting.

The Biblical Counseling Ministry attempts to help by giving you the opportunity to learn a new way of living, a more beneficial method of handling problems, and a chance to be completely committed to pleasing God and becoming more like Christ. We look forward to serving you, and are excited to see God work wonderfully in your life and circumstances. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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