

Quotes

2018 Bioethics Conference: Drug Use & the Nature of Addiction ***“Addiction As Idolatry: Looking For Salvation Apart From God”***

“We are either addicts or obedient to God; there is not middle ground”

– Deacon Dr. Stephen Muse, *Beside Still Waters*, p. 122.

“[We must experience] a conversion of desire, so that spiritual love might take the place of carnal love.”

– Jean-Claude Larchet, *Theology of the Body*, p. 76.

“[There are] three stages by which evil becomes ingrained: from the point of initial suggestion or provocation, to the point of captivity or, in modern parlance, *addiction*.”

– Jamie Moran, *Raising Lazarus*, p. 157.

“A practice leads to a habit, and habit takes root like second nature.”

– Saint Nilus of Sinai

“Christ urged us to investigate the Scriptures, to investigate, that is, God. God loves, you see, to be investigated by us humans.”

– Father Maximos (K. Markides), *The Mountain of Silence*, p. 42.

“The power to overcome addiction comes from God. It is one of the deep mysteries of communion with God that the greater the dependency, the more grace God gives to overcome it.”

– Father George Morelli, *Healing - Volume 1: Orthodox Christianity and Scientific Psychology*, p. 84.

“Most of my patients who [successfully recover] attribute it to divine intervention. They say God steps into their lives.”

– Dr. Drew Pinsky, *Cracked*, p. 88.

“Another characteristic of the passions is that in them an unquenchable thirst is manifested, which seeks to be quenched and can’t be. They represent man’s thirst for the infinite, turned in a direction in which they can’t find their satisfaction.”

– Father Dumitru Staniloae, *Orthodox Spirituality*, p. 77.

“Every emotional crisis is an opportunity for spiritual experience.”

– Dr. Christopher Veniamin, St. Tikhon’s Seminary

“It does not lie within our power to decide whether or not thoughts are going to arise and disturb us. But to dwell on them or not to dwell on them, to excite the passions or not to excite them, does lie within our power. In this connection, we should distinguish between seven different terms: provocation, coupling, wrestling, passion, assent (which come s very close to performance), actualization and captivity.” – St John of Damascus, *Philokalia V2: On Virtues and Vices*, p. 337.

“Man, without being himself infinite, not only is fit for, but is also thirsty for, the infinite. And precisely for this reason, he is also capable of, and longs for, God, the true and only infinite.”

– Fr. Dmitri Staniloae, *Orthodox Spirituality*, p. 78.

“Captivity is the forcible and compulsive abduction of the heart already dominated by prepossession and long habit.”

– St. John of Damascus

“He who does not recognize evil loves it, and it holds him captive, making a slave of its lover.”

– St. Anthony the Great

“Fighting the intellect through thoughts, [the passions] force it to give its assent to sin [and] to sin in the mind; and when this has been accomplished they induce it, captive as it is, to commit the sin in action.”

– St. Maximus Confessor

“Drugs are worse than carnal sins because, unless God works a true miracle, the brain is damaged and cannot be repaired. A fornicator can restore his virginity through prayer; but not his brain cells.”

– Athonite Elder