1. **Introduction**
2. **Step 3 Set-up**
   1. Step 1= Admit we are powerless over sin.
      1. We have sinful natures and live in a sinful world.
      2. I can’t.
   2. Step 2 = Believe that God exists, he is good, he loves us and is powerful to save us.
      1. God can heal us. God wants to heal us.
      2. God is pursuing us. Romans 5:8 - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
   3. A very important decision: Step 3, Trust
      1. We decide to trust God with our lives and wills by accepting his grace through Jesus Christ.
      2. Foundation 3: Ephesians 2:4-5 - *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved*

1. **Why Jesus** 
   1. God’s dilemma:
      1. God is holy (absolute moral perfection). His nature demands that he deal with sin perfectly. (see Romans 6:23)
      2. Man is sinful (see Romans 3:23): No one can reach God’s holy standard to have a right relationship with him. You won’t be compared to any unholy standard. Anyone who falls short of God’s perfect standard is condemned.
      3. God’s dilemma: God loves us. He desires that no one perish. He created us for a relationship with him.
   2. God’s solution:
      1. John 3:16-18 - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already*…
      2. Only a perfect sacrifice for sin can satisfy the perfect wrath of God. The Father sent his only Son to be a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world—a substitute for our punishment. If true, this is the greatest love.
   3. Jesus [Extraordinary Man/God]:
      1. Claims:
         * 1. Fulfillment of a prophesied Messiah: (see Luke 4:18-21) Isaiah 61 fulfilled
           2. The ransom for sin (see Mark 10:45) *For even the son of man…* Isaiah 53 fulfilled.
           3. The only way to a right relationship with God - John 14:6 - *I am the way, the truth, the life*
           4. To be God:

Jesus: John 10:30

Enemies: Matt 26:63-65 (blasphemy);

Disciples: John 1:1-5 (with God, was God, in the beginning, involved in creation)

Apostles: Hebrews 1:30 (exact representation of God’s nature);

Family: James 1:1 & John 7:3-9 (bond-servant of Lord)

* + 1. LIAR, LUNATIC, LORD
    2. Actions: Performed miracles, helped sick/weak, fulfilled prophesy (8 prophesies=10^17; silver dollar, 2 ft deep covering Texas), rose from the dead, appeared to hundreds (and family) after resurrection.
    3. Everything hinges on Christ: History. Your Bible. Your calendar. Your eternity. Your recovery.
  1. Saved by Grace through faith: Ephesians 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
     1. Grace is a gift (unearned and undeserved). Accepting Christ’s ransom for your soul.
     2. Faith (Knowledge-Agreement-Trust). Romans 10:9 - *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*
     3. The Holy Spirit: Those who receive the grace through faith in Christ, receive the Holy Spirit. The Helper will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment…He will guide in all truth (see John 16:7-15). The Holy Spirit is essential for recovery—He changes you from the inside out. His desire is to glorify God—the exact opposite of your sinful nature’s desires. Without the Spirit, full recovery is impossible.

1. **Why Christians Struggle: Step 3, Trust**
   1. Trust: We’ve trusted Christ for eternal life, but failed to trust him with this life. We’ve not surrendered our wills. “Save us from hell and the consequences of sin, then bless our own dreams for this life” vs. “Save us from sin, help us follow God’s will through any circumstance in this life.” We want a genie rather than a Lord.
   2. ***GOOD PLACE TO INSERT A PERSONAL STORY*** ***OF HOW YOU HAVE GROWN IN TRUSTING GOD.***
2. **Conclusion**
   1. Reasons why you are in recovery:
      1. You have not trusted Christ’s sacrifice as payment for your sins. So, you are still eternally condemned for sin. You have not received God’s Spirit and you are powerless to control your sinful human nature.
      2. You haven’t trusted Christ with your daily life and will. Though you have received Christ’s offering for sin and have eternal life in the future, you trust something less than God for comfort, healing and satisfaction in this life. Therefore you are experiencing the painful consequences of sin rather than life God has for you.
   2. Jeremiah 29:13 - *You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*
   3. Prayer of Salvation
      1. *God, I am a sinner unable to meet your perfect standard. I believe that you sent Jesus, your Son, to recover me from the debt of my sin and restore me to a right relationship with you. I confess that Jesus is Lord and believe with my heart that God raised him from the dead. I receive Christ’s payment for my sins as free gift of your grace. I ask that you bring me to full recovery by your Spirit so that I can fulfill my purpose in your creation and find satisfaction in you. Help me to serve you with my heart, soul and mind. Amen.*
   4. Prayer of Lordship
      1. *God, I am a sinner. Though I’m saved by grace through faith, I’ve lived according to my will; I’ve held onto pain, done things my own way, and looked for comfort from this world. I need you to take control. My life is now in your hands. Conform my life and will to what you planned for me when you created me. Be my Savior and my Lord. Amen.*