

A SLAVE TO SIN

Jesus said in **John 8:34**, "...everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

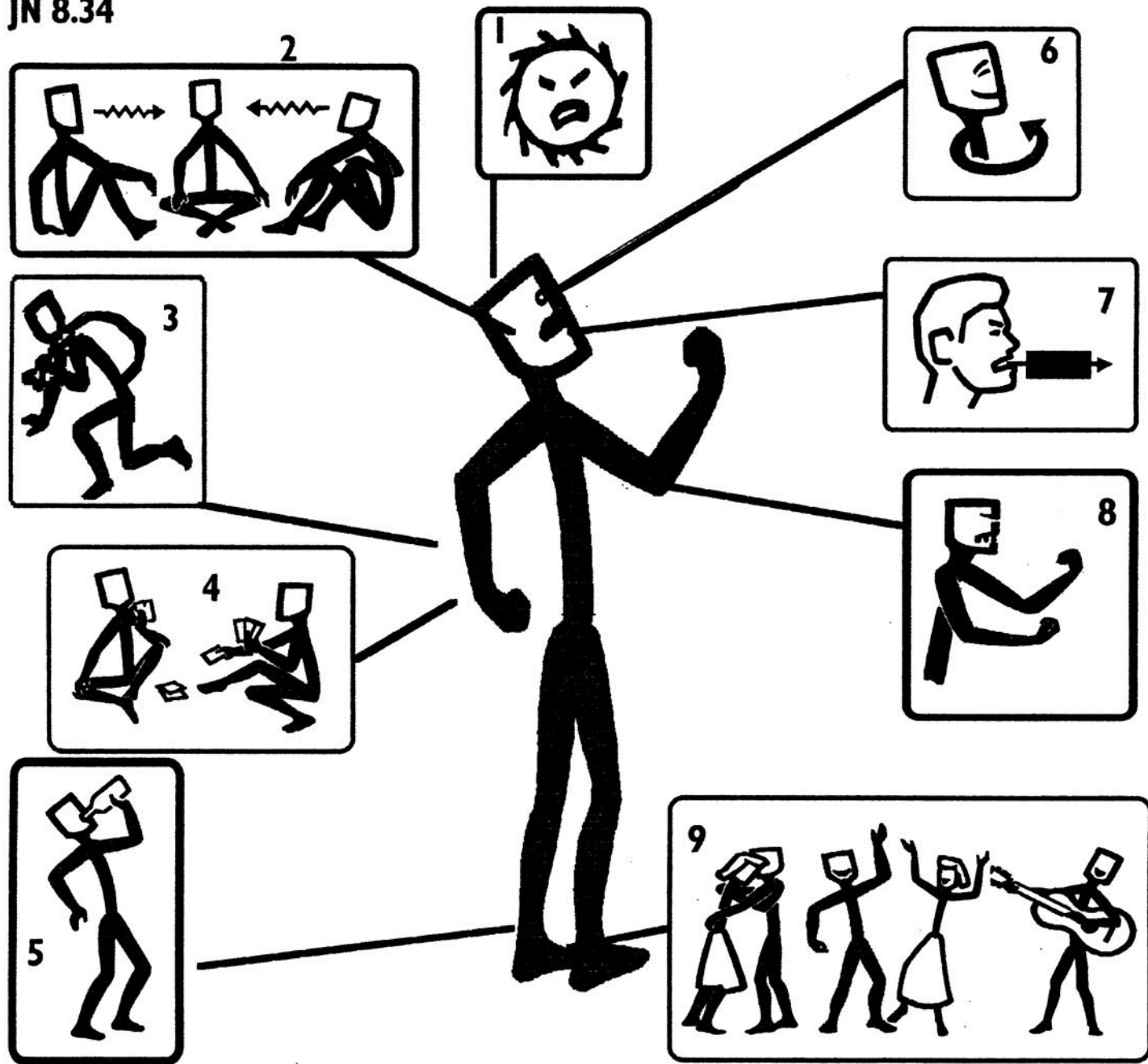
1. *Fear* of the evil spirits can paralyze a person's mind. Many times people are afraid that they will be attacked by sorcery or witchcraft. Some people keep various "potions" or "good luck charms" in their homes or carry them around with them. They believe that these will give them strength, power, protection and success.
2. *Listening to unwholesome talk*, dirty stories and bad jokes can lead a person into sin. When a person listens to these stories or shares them with others, it soon leads to immorality or looking at bad pictures and videos.
3. *Stealing* has become a way of life for this man. All the time he thinks of taking things that belong to other people, his hand reaches out and he sins again by stealing. He does very little work to support his family. Some people have been stealing from the time they were small children and it has become a very bad habit. They want to stop but cannot because Satan has such a hold upon their life.
4. Some people can be very addicted to *gambling*. They look for an easy way to make money. They can spend a lot of money and get very little back. They can waste so much time. Their family suffers because often there is no money. There isn't much food in the garden because the person has been gambling instead of working.
5. *Addiction to alcohol* and other *drugs* are big problems in the life of many people. Drunkenness leads to family fights, car accidents, sickness, poverty and all sorts of social problems. People want to get free from these bondages and evil habits, but have no power to help themselves.
6. A person's *eyes* can be under the control of Satan and cause him to live a sinful life. He/she sees things they want and often get them by stealing. Some look at the opposite sex in the wrong way and so fall into immorality and impure thoughts. A person can read the wrong type of books, or look at bad pictures and videos, which often leads a person to do these sinful actions.
7. What about *mouths*? So much unwholesome talk can come out of a person's mouth causing him or her to sin. Gossiping, bad language, telling lies, saying angry words are all wrong things to do. When we criticize and pull other people down, we hurt and destroy them. Our words can hurt both others and ourselves.
8. *Fighting* can be a very real problem in the life of a person held in Satan's bondage. It is caused by anger and jealousy. People are afraid of those who fight, hit and kick others. Often it seems as though the person cannot control himself. This type of living causes great distress to many people especially wives and children.
9. *Attending* dances where there is wild and sensual music brings strong temptations to many people and often leads them to sin. Immorality and adultery is often the result. Single girls become pregnant. Marriages are destroyed and sexually transmitted diseases ruin the lives and bodies of many people.
10. We have looked at some of the ways in which Satan can hold a person in bondage to sin. But there is wonderful news- Jesus can set that person free and he/she can start a completely new way of living free from sin.

John 8:36 says, "If the Son (Jesus) sets you free, then you will be really free." This man was held in the chains of sin by the devil, but he humbled himself and acknowledged that he had no power to release himself. He cried out to Jesus, prayed and confessed all of his sins to Jesus. He asked Jesus to set him free from his sinful habits. He prayed, "I'm tired of all the sin in my life. I've often tried to stop sinning, but I'm not able to do it. Jesus, I believe you can do it. Please make me free from all of my sinful ways."

This man heard of Jesus' power. He believed that Jesus died to take away *his* sins. He believed that Jesus had risen from the dead and could give him a new life. Jesus took away his sins, made him new and gave him great peace, joy and satisfaction in his heart. Now his mind, ears, eyes, mouth, hands, legs and body are yielded to God and he lives a life which pleases God and glorifies God.

HE HAS BEEN SET FREE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.

JN 8.34



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