WISDOM KEY BOOK

THE SEX TRAP



MIKE MURDOCK

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MIKE MURDOCK

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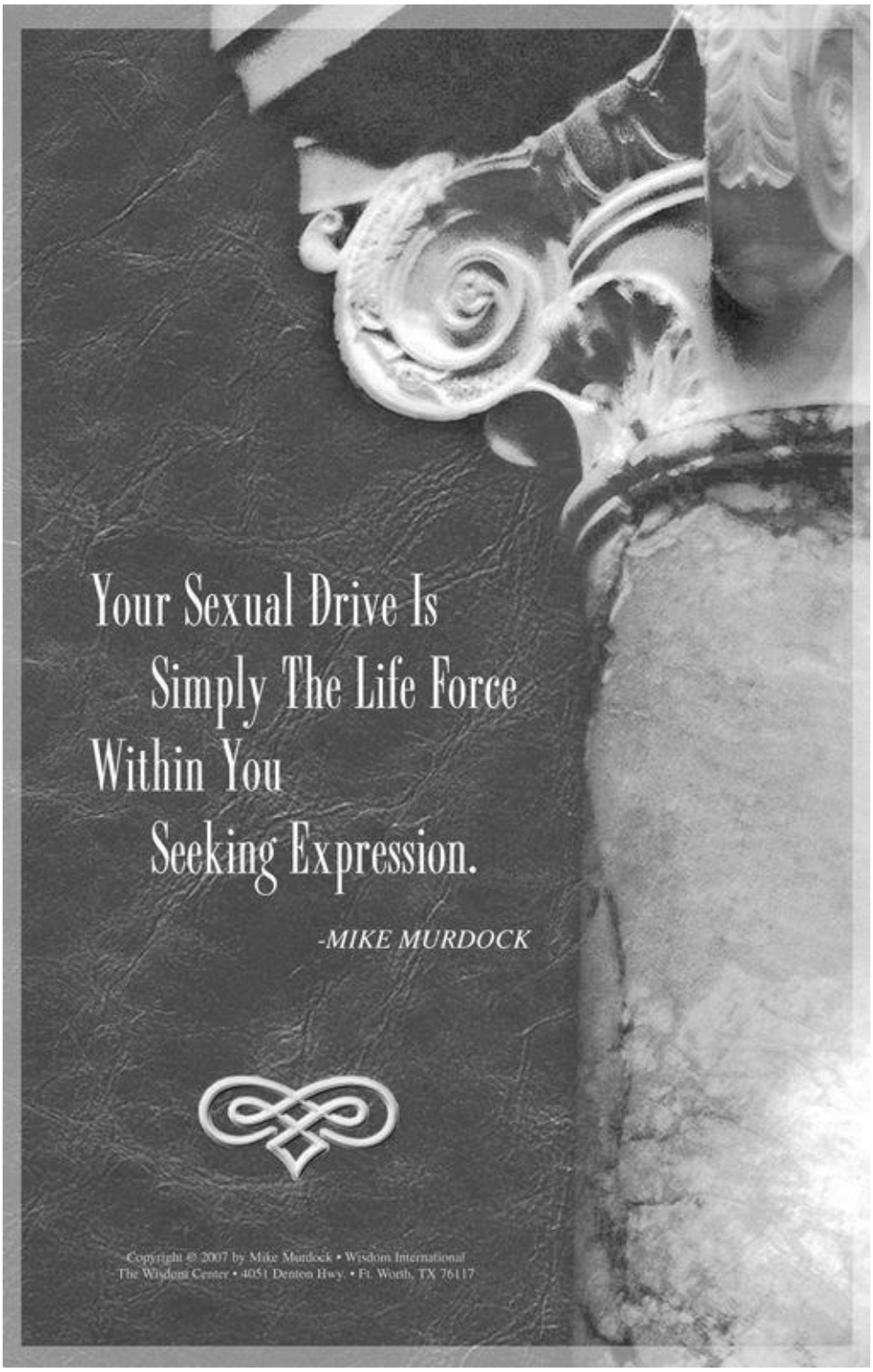
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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.
The Sex Trap
ISBN 10: 1-56394-721-8 / ISBN 13: 978-1563947216 / *e*B-03
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All publishing rights belong exclusively to Wisdom International
Publisher/Editor: Deborah Murdock Johnson
Published by The Wisdom Center · 4051 Denton Hwy. · Ft. Worth, Texas 76117
1-817-759-BOOK · 1-817-759-0300 · 1-817-759-2665
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1

BOTH CHRISTIANS AND UNBELIEVERS HAVE SEXUAL DESIRES



It Happened In West Texas.

"She is the finest girl in our church," said the pastor to me with pride. "Her consecration and Christian testimony are both tremendous. I just wish all our youth was like her."

So, after my sermon on the closing night of a crusade, I was a bit surprised when the teenager asked for a few minutes of counseling about a personal problem.

Within minutes she was sobbing. "Please help me. I'm so confused I'm about to lose my mind. My parents, my pastor and church friends think I am a fantastic Christian. But the truth is, *I live a double life.* I am so messed up morally with some boys at school. I'm miserable. I want to die."

With tears streaming down her face she told me her sad, sordid but familiar story. Then came her question: "If I love God and the Bible—and I do—then why do I fight such tremendous problems with sex? *I feel trapped*...and I don't know how to escape. Is there any hope for me?"

Of course, this young woman is far from the only one in this condition. Thousands of people who sincerely want to live right and be pleasing to God are fighting the same battle. They too, have fallen into unending struggle between sexual excitement and sensual pleasure on the one hand and the grip of guilt, remorse and fear on the other. They feel trapped between their desire for moral and spiritual purity and the physical appetites of the body.

There is a way out.

As powerful and inescapable as *The Sex Trap* seems to be, there is a way out for you. The power to be free is available to you...The Power of The Holy Spirit.

This book is not for the rebel who is determined to have his own way, no matter the consequences. It is not for the know-it-all, the arrogant, the hypocrite or the weakling looking for justification for his failure. These pages are for the sincere person aware of the opposing drives within him—the pull toward God and truth and the opposing pull toward immorality.

This book is for you if you truly want help and *are willing to accept it.*

The Key to getting out of *The Sex Trap* is *Understanding.* You must come to a clear understanding of yourself and how you are made. You must understand

the sex drive and sexual desire God put within you and *why* He put them there. And you must be aware that the enemy tries to *pervert* these normal, healthy drives into something immoral and destructive.

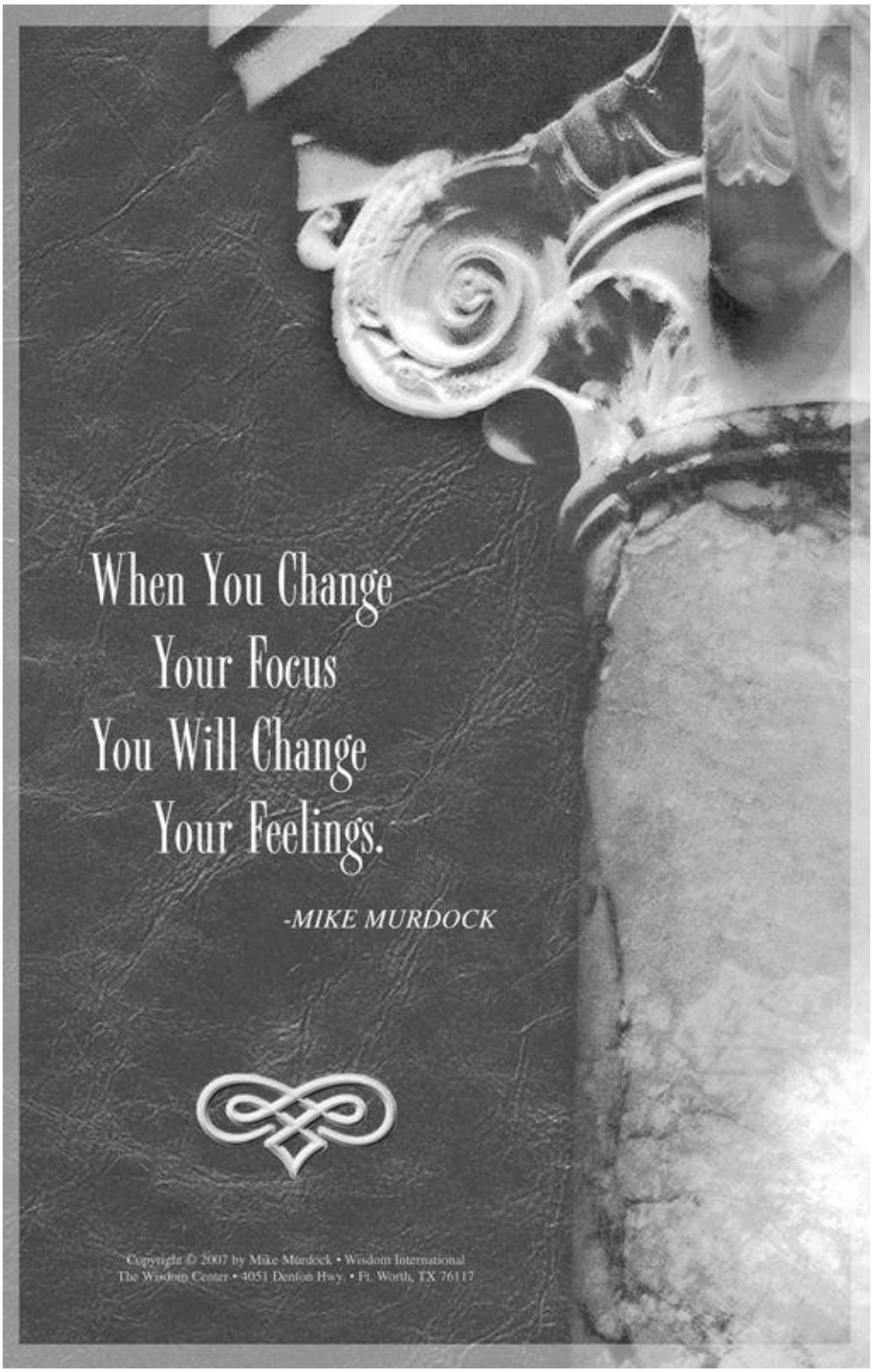
In Proverbs 7, the wise man, Solomon, writes a graphic description of *The Sex Trap* in operation. I urge you to take a few moments to read it.

This passage is about a girl and a boy and their physical desires for sexual gratification.

It is a story of seduction, sin and shame. In this case, a prostitute lures a young man to her bedroom for a night of pleasure.

But Solomon tells us the boy walked into a Trap. For *"Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death,"* (Proverbs 7:27).

Let us seek to understand some keys that will lead to freedom and release from *The Sex Trap.*



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2

YOUR SEXUAL DESIRES ARE NOT SINFUL



The Desire For Sex Is Natural.

5 Facts You Should Know About Your Sex Drive

1. Sexual Desire Is A Gift From God. There is an attraction—a pull between men and women. Call it chemistry—sex appeal—physical and emotional attraction or whatever you want. But *it is there.*

And it was put there by *God,* Himself.

2. Sexual Desire Started In The Garden of Eden. Why do you suppose God placed Adam and Eve there instead of Adam and *Edward?* Because God knew it was *good* for a man and a woman to *dwell together.* And He placed within them a *basic instinct* to desire and enjoy the company of the opposite sex. It is a desire to share...to *give.*

3. God Gave Sex For A Divine Purpose. It benefits not only one man and one woman, but the entire human race.

Some people seem to have the mistaken belief that this desire in and of itself is evil—that it comes from satan. They say if a person is really a Christian, he "won't be bothered" by sexual desire. If a person prays, reads the Bible and goes to church, the opposite sex just will not appeal to him, they say.

Do not believe it.

Desire is normal.

And it is not evil until it becomes twisted into a lustful obsession for sheer physical self-gratification.

4. Sexual Desire Within You Is The Life Force Implanted By God. It *motivates* you to achieve...*energizes* you to reach for relationship... *pleasures* you toward others...*strengthens* your resolve to *experience* life.

5. The Sex Drive Motivates And Sustains You. If unfocused or unharnessed, it becomes the flood that drowns you.

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

The Teen's Topical Bible (Book/B-30/436 pg)
Seeds of Wisdom on Motivating Yourself (Book/B-171/32 pg)

3

You Must Provide Your Thoughts A Worthy Focus



Your Goals Should Be Your Focus.

Desire Must Be Focused.

The key to whether desire is good or bad is the *direction it takes.* Desire can be the motivating force that causes two young people to grow and mature. It is the drive that ultimately leads them to leave their parents and form a new household. “And they twain shall be one flesh,” (Mark 10:8).

Channeled in the right direction, desire leads to a happy, Christian home that will obey God’s command to multiply and replenish the earth. This *Direction* is pleasing to God and results in a man—woman relationship that is healthy, filled with love and mutual respect.

Tragically, your desires can also take the opposite direction. They can cause you to *withdraw* from God and the way of righteousness. Some people let their desire steer them into areas of temptation that sooner or later overpower them.

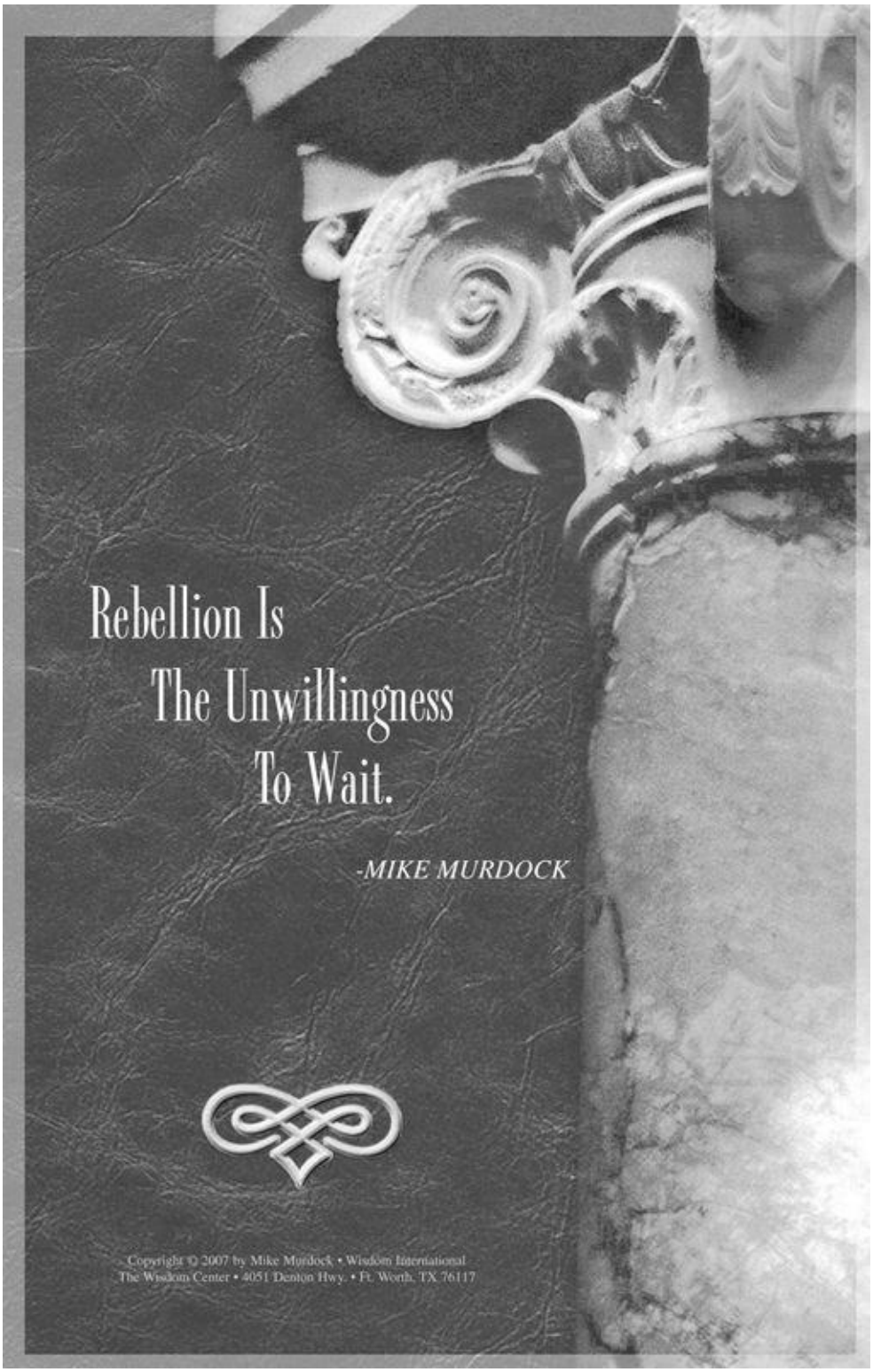
In the Bible, Samson ran *toward* the wrong woman. Joseph, tempted by Potiphar’s wife, ran *away* from her.

One enjoyed the company of immorality—the other delighted in God. One was a loser—the other a winner.

It was all a matter of *direction.*

Which direction are your sexual desires taking you?

Tragedy or Triumph awaits.



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4

DISCERN THE DECEPTIONS INVOLVED



Integrity Is A Harbor.

1. Every Sexual Sin Requires Deception. It can take many forms: "If you really love me, you'll prove it. Everybody else is doing it. It is all right because we love each other. No one will get hurt. Just this one time, then never again."

Sexual deception presents only one side of the picture. Like all traps, it is made to entice—not repel. What is the bait in *The Sex Trap?* "It will be so exciting and satisfying. It will give us so much pleasure. It will make us happy."

2. Anything Forbidden Usually Excites. But like all traps, when the bait is stripped away, there are strong, powerful jaws lined with sharp, cutting teeth ready to crush you and tear your life to shreds. Instead of the pleasure it promises, *The Sex Trap* delivers pain and heartbreak.

3. Satan Uses Deception To Make People Believe They Can Sin And Not Pay The Consequences. That they can steal the honey and not get stung. Only after they have gone beyond the point of no return—past the bright lights, attractive setting and flattering words—do they find they have been deceived. Then they are trapped by the agonizing reality of the lonely heart, the tortured conscience, the tattered, ragged remnants of self-respect.

4. In Every Deception, There Is The Deceiver And The Deceived. There is the one who will say or do whatever is necessary to get his own way.

5. One Always Ends Up With The Heartache, The Guilt, The Pain. There is The Hunter—and The Hunted. There is the "fooler"—and the fool.

In Solomon's story (Proverbs 7), the woman was The Deceiver. But often it is a *man* who deceives a woman. The woman in the proverb flattered the young man with words. She made herself—her body—*The Bait* in *The Sex Trap,* putting on appealing and alluring clothing. Never mind that her actions were disloyal to her own friends and family, she thought *only of her own desire.* She was lonely...restless. She wanted an *immediate* response—a *physical* gratification. And she was interested only in temporary pleasure—she wanted the young man *only until the morning* (see verse 18).

She was The Deceiver, and she *kept talking* until she got her way: "With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him," (verse 21).

An Ox, Fool And Bird

What about The Deceived? *Someone has to lose*. Solomon describes the loser in pretty graphic terms. He says the person who allows himself to be deceived is headed for destruction, "...as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;...as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life," (Proverbs 7:22-23).

An ox.

A fool.

A bird.

Not a very flattering picture, is it? Are you walking blindly and without resistance toward your own destruction?

Oh, I know how clever the deceivers are. I know how skillfully the deception is presented. The magazines, the music, the screen, the seductive voices all make it seem so much fun, so romantic, so beautiful, so pleasant and satisfying. But can you look beyond the big lie and see what is on the other side? What happens *after* the night of passion passes and *you are left alone to face yourself* in the mirror in the cold clear light of day?

Go talk to those who have been deceived. Talk to the boy or girl who could not wait to go "all the way." Ask the husband who got restless how he feels *now?* Talk to the wife who felt unloved and see if she found fulfillment. Go see the unwed mother who has faced the rejection of society and who feels her mistake will last forever. Try comforting the illegitimate child who feels that no one wants him. Go see what it is like to be the deceived—the victim. *Is that what you want?*

Attention Or Admiration?

Oh, my dear teenage friend, please listen to this message from the depths of my heart: There is a vast difference between getting *attention* and receiving *admiration.* Take great care that you are not deceived into mistaking one for the other.

How To Recognize A Deceiver

Test the attitudes of each person you consider for a date. Can you detect a

rebellious spirit or arrogance toward God? Is there disrespect for parents? Is that person interested only in the fun and good times and never serious about anything? Do you sense a lazy, unforgiving or lustful spirit? Is there an *inner warning* inside you that something is wrong about the person, even though there may be a simultaneous attraction?

Their contempt for the Bible is warning enough.



The Decision Will Be Yours



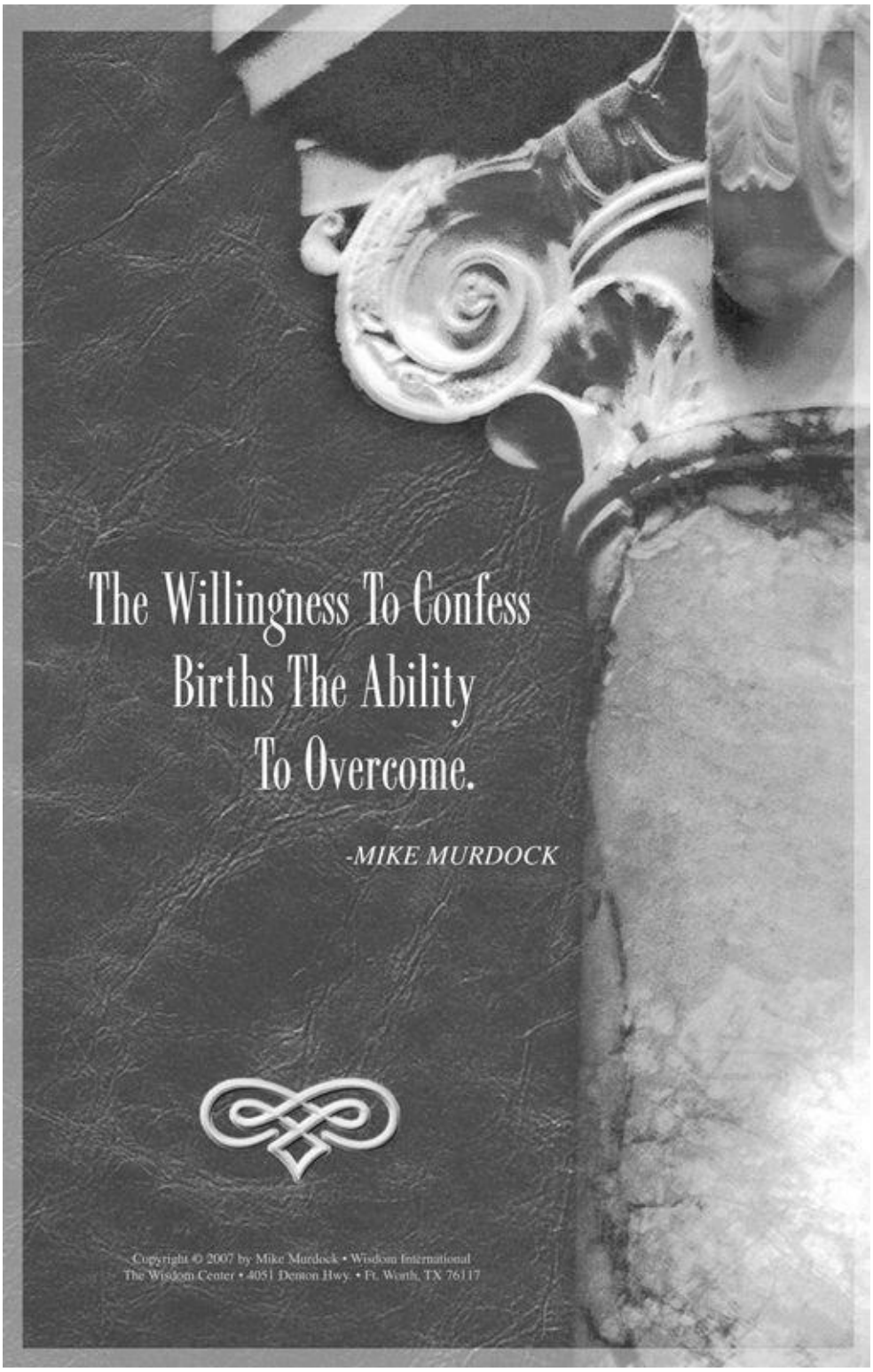
Your Greatest Power Is Choice.

Sometime, somewhere, you have to make a decision. You must choose either to win or lose the battle to avoid falling into *The Sex Trap.* At some point you will pass beyond the protective influence of your parents, your pastor, your church. Sooner or later the full responsibility for your actions will rest squarely upon your shoulders. In the courtroom of your own conscience you will have to weigh your moral and spiritual values against the persuasive arguments of the deceiver. The choice will be yours:

- the flesh vs the spiritual
- the physical vs the heart cry
- the Now vs Tomorrow
- the Temporary vs Eternal Plan
- Crowd Approval vs God's respect
- a moment's pleasure vs God's Master Plan

If you choose to be deceived, then nothing or no one can stop you.

If you choose what you know in your heart is right and pleasing to God, it will lead you away from the snaring pitfall of *The Sex Trap.* Yes, the decision could cost you a boyfriend or girlfriend—if he or she is a deceiver. When young people are willing to give up companions who are bad for them, I believe they will soon find the person who will be the joy of their life. God is a perfect matchmaker!



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6

EVERY RIGHT DECISION INEVITABLY PRODUCES JOY



You Are Deciding Tomorrow...Now.

The person who chooses habitual consistent wrong will be rewarded with...disappointment... disgrace...destruction.

How disappointing to find that what you thought was so great and so much fun lasts only for moments. But the ache in your heart keeps pounding away when your "friend" has left, the lights are turned out, and you are alone. What a let down to find that people can only meet the temporary, surface needs for affection and companionship. But what are you to do when you must turn within and face the God of eternity by yourself?

What shame and humiliation you feel when you must go out to face the world again after falling into *The Sex Trap.* Disgrace? One girl said, "I felt dirty — like everybody who looked at me could tell." A boy said, "I didn't want to look anybody straight in the eyes."

Somehow, it seems someone always does find out—and the news spreads like wildfire. Strange thing, but where are all those liberated, modern thinking people who you were told were everywhere? Why are so many staying away from you looking down on you? Where is the loyalty and respect you always enjoyed from your friends? Where are your friends?

Destruction—yes, if that is what you choose, that is what you will get. You will destroy your own sensitivity to God, and to your conscience. You destroy your own self-respect, a quality that is absolutely essential to your well-being, and one that is tremendously difficult to regain once it is lost.

Now we come to the girl I told you about in the beginning. Everyone at home and at church still thought she was a super person. But she realized she had fallen into *The Sex Trap.* The word was out at school. She had suffered the disappointment...even some of the disgrace. She sensed she was on the downward slide to destruction.

"I know I'm doing wrong. But I can't help it. The temptation is too great. I can't resist—it's stronger than I am. I can't say no. I know what's right, but I keep doing wrong. Is there any hope for me? Or is it too late? Can I be delivered?"

Let me share with you the same answer I gave her. It will help you, just as it helped her find deliverance and freedom from *The Sex Trap.*

There is a way out. There is an answer, Jesus said, "...I am the way," (John 14:6). And that is your only hope of deliverance—through the forgiveness and deliverance of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

You say, "But Mike, I'm in so deep, I'm really messed up."

The Bible says Jesus has already taken care of your situation. How? He "gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world," (read Galatians 1:4).

"But you don't know all the bad things I've done. It's worse than you think. I'll never be good for anything else again."

That is not the way God sees you.

He has reserved a place just for you in His kingdom. How do I know that?

Read it for yourself in 2 Timothy 4:18: "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom."

"OK, I'm convinced. What do I have to do to be forgiven?"

Again, the answer is right there in the Bible: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," (1 John 1:9).

Who do you confess to? To God, because He is the only One who can deliver you.

Regardless of how many times you have tried to get free and have fallen again, there is deliverance for *you.* Start "practicing" the presence of God. What do I mean by that? Simply this—realize that God is with you *all the time.* Depend on The Holy Spirit to uphold you and keep you strong. And do not go anywhere or allow yourself to get in any situation where you are not comfortable in His presence. If it means changing friends—*change them.* If it means changing your habits and environment—*do it.* Do not be afraid of what people will think, or say, or do. Be bold in this assurance: "Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord," (Jeremiah 1:8).

Are you sick of struggling in *The Sex Trap?* Are you really ready to be set free once and for all and to be restored to the family of God? If you can say "yes" and really mean it, then pray: "Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved," (Jeremiah 17:14).

It is that simple—really it is! If you have been honest and sincere before God, He has forgiven you and washed you white as snow, though your sins were as scarlet. Now you have become a new creature—you are born again.



Our Prayer Together...

“Thank You, Lord for forgiving my sin, for lifting my guilt, for giving me new purity. Help me never to be caught again in *The Sex Trap*. I am weak, but You are strong. Give me as much of Your strength as I need. There have been wrong desires in my life. Take them away, O Lord, along with every tendency to lie or deceive. Be Lord of my life. I present my body as a temple of Your Spirit—fill me and keep me pure, I pray in Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

7

THE POWER OF GOD IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO YOU



You Are Not Alone.

To Discover A New Truth Is A Marvelous Feeling. And to discover the truth about God and His power to deliver is really a thrill. It is the great discovery of your life.

By now you have made some important discoveries about *The Sex Trap.* You may have found that:

- Sin *looks* good, but feels bad *in the heart.*
- Sowing may be fun, but the reaping is devastating.
- The physical may be satisfying temporarily, but the heart still cries.
- What you thought would bring happiness brought misery instead.

You have also discovered that there is deliverance from *The Sex Trap* through *the power of God.* You have discovered God's forgiveness brings real, genuine peace into your life. You will never be the same again.

Now I want you to discover still more truths that will help you remain strong and free. They are part of God's plan for you. These new discoveries will help you change your thought life...perhaps even your lifestyle. When that happens, you will discover the good life is possible right now. That powerful discovery comes through discipline.

1. Establish Your Personal Secret Place of Prayer. Talk to The Holy Spirit about everything.

2. Set An Appointment To Read One Chapter A Day From The Book of Acts. It is the power book of the Bible.

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

The Holy Spirit Handbook Vol. 1 (Book/B-100/153 pg)
The Holy Spirit Handbook Vol. 1 (CD/CDS-29)



HABIT IS THE WEAPON THAT PRODUCES YOUR DESIRED GOALS



Habit Is A Gift From God.

Concentrating Your Efforts To Produce A Desired Result...Can Become Routine.

The key to victory, power and reward in every part of your life is your morning Habit in God's Presence. Every athletic champion and Olympic winner practices discipline. In fact, almost without exception, winners are successful because of discipline, which gives birth to *Success Habits.*

Not only does discipline hone the mind and condition the body, it produces an important side effect—*security.* Just as a child receives discipline from his parents, feels secure in their love, so the person who practices self-discipline is confident that good things will happen to him instead of bad. Paul said, "...I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection," (1 Corinthians 9:27).

The athlete knows what his body will do when he calls on it to perform in the contest. The scholar knows his mind will produce the answers he needs because he has disciplined it to be alert and prepared. And the Christian young person knows how he will react in the face of temptation, because he has disciplined his moral and spiritual nature to overcome evil.

6 Areas of Discipline

1. Start With Your Conversation. Speak always in positive terms, from a position of faith and awareness of what God wants from you. Avoid negative words, such as "I can't...I'm weak...I always fail." Instead, say, "I can overcome all sin. I am getting stronger in the Lord. I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me."

2. Discipline Your Reading Habits. Be sure you spend at least ten minutes each morning in The Word of God. There is no possibility of living the true victorious, happy life apart from a daily intake of the Scriptures. They will make you strong and keep you free. "The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide," (Psalm 37:31). Be sure everything else you read contributes to your well-being.

3. Discipline Your Prayer Life. Stay in constant, personal contact with

God. Be sure you are on speaking terms with Him. Develop and cultivate an up-to-date prayer list.

4. Discipline Your Friendships. Refuse to associate with losers who pull you down. Choose friends who will be the kind of associates you would like to spend your whole life with.

5. Discipline Yourself To Control The Music You Listen To, The Television Programs You Watch, The Entertainment You Choose. Control the circumstances that are within your power. One teenage girl finally admitted to me that she had schemed to find ways to be alone with her boyfriend when she knew she was too weak to say "no" to wrong. If you cannot refuse temptation—at least you can avoid it. But it takes discipline.

6. Discipline Your Church Attendance. Develop inner strength by exposing yourself often to the atmosphere of a spiritual church service. Honor the spiritual mentors God places in your life.

There you have it! A Formula for Success that will work for *you.* It is a way to overcome and be free of the tragic snare of *The Sex Trap.*

God wants you to be free.

And I want you to be free, too!

DECISION

Will You Accept Jesus As Your Personal Savior Today?

The Bible says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved," (Romans 10:9).

Pray this prayer from your heart today!

"Dear Jesus, I believe that You died for me and rose again on the third day. I confess I am a sinner...I need Your love and forgiveness...Come into my heart. Forgive my sins. I receive Your eternal life. Confirm Your love by giving me peace, joy and supernatural love for others. Amen."

DR. MIKE MURDOCK is in tremendous demand as one of the most dynamic speakers in America today.

More than 17,000 audiences in over 100 countries have attended his Schools of Wisdom and conferences. Hundreds of invitations come to him from churches, colleges and business corporations. He is a noted author of over 250 books, including the best sellers, *The Leadership Secrets of Jesus and Secrets of the Richest Man Who Ever Lived.* Thousands view his weekly television program, *Wisdom Keys with Mike Murdock.* Many attend his Schools of Wisdom that he hosts in many cities of America.

☐ Yes, Mike! I made a decision to accept Christ as my personal Savior today. Please send me my free gift of your book, *31 Keys to a New Beginning* to help me with my new life in Christ.

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DR. MIKE MURDOCK

1. Has embraced his Assignment to Pursue...Proclaim...and Publish the Wisdom of God to help people achieve their dreams and goals.

2. Preached his first public sermon at the age of 8.

3. Preached his first evangelistic crusade at the age of 15.

4. Began full-time evangelism at the age of 19, which has continued since 1966.

5. Has traveled and spoken to more than 17,000 audiences in over 100 countries, including East and West Africa, Asia, Europe and South America.

6. Noted author of over 250 books, including best sellers, *Wisdom for Winning, Dream Seeds, The Double Diamond Principle, The Law of Recognition and The Holy Spirit Handbook.*

7. Created the popular *Topical Bible* series for Businessmen, Mothers, Fathers, Teenagers; *The One-Minute Pocket Bible* series, and *The Uncommon Life* series.

8. The Creator of the Master 7 Mentorship Program, an Achievement Program for Believers.

9. Has composed thousands of songs such as “I Am Blessed,” “You Can Make It,” “God Rides On Wings of Love” and “Jesus, Just The Mention of Your Name,” recorded by many gospel artists.

10. Is the Founder and Senior Pastor of The Wisdom Center, in Fort Worth, Texas...a Church with International Ministry around the world.

11. Host of *Wisdom Keys with Mike Murdock,* a weekly TV Program seen internationally.

12. Has appeared often on TBN, CBN, BET, Daystar, Inspirational Network, LeSea Broadcasting and other television network programs.

13. Has led over 3,000 to accept the call into full-time ministry.

THE MINISTRY

1. **Wisdom Books & Literature** - Over 250 best-selling Wisdom Books and 70 Teaching Tape Series.

2. **Church Crusades** - Multitudes are ministered to in crusades and seminars throughout America in "The Uncommon Wisdom Conferences." Known as a man who loves pastors, he has focused on church crusades for over 43 years.

3. **Music Ministry** - Millions have been blessed by the anointed songwriting and singing of Mike Murdock, who has made over 15 music albums and CDs available.

4. **Television** - *Wisdom Keys with Mike Murdock,* a nationally-syndicated weekly television program.

5. **The Wisdom Center** - The Church and Ministry Offices where Dr. Murdock speaks weekly on Wisdom for The Uncommon Life.

6. **Schools of The Holy Spirit** - Mike Murdock hosts Schools of The Holy Spirit in many churches to mentor believers on the Person and Companionship of The Holy Spirit.

7. **Schools of Wisdom** - In many major cities Mike Murdock hosts Schools of Wisdom for those who want personalized and advanced training for achieving "The Uncommon Dream."

8. **Missions Outreach** - Dr. Mike Murdock's overseas outreaches to over 100 countries have included crusades in East and West Africa, Asia, Europe and

South America.