

ADDICTION

Mankind was created to be loved by God, and created in His image to respond in love. For this reason, we long for the attributes of God and to respond in worship.

This gift of desire was a given to keep us longing for relationship with our Heavenly Father, an insatiable appetite for closeness in Him. All our needs, wants, wishes, and hopes are fulfilled in Him. But this same desire is overpowering if we are opposed to Him.

If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it. – Gen 4:7

Appetite: an ever-increasing desire or longing for completeness (perfection).

Addiction: an appetite for anything that is unable to bring one to completion, or fill a void.

Attributes of God	Forms of Addiction
Love, acceptance, affirmation	
Peace, well-being, <i>shalom</i>	
Dominion, authority, power	
Purpose, challenge, zeal	
Health, strength, eternity	

Addictions take control in all three realms:

- Spiritual (curses, unclean spirits, legal ground)
- Emotional (fear, rejection, betrayal, abandonment)
- Physical (chemical imbalance, habit, environment)

The addiction is the addict's solution, not the actual void. Behavioral modifications, boundaries, strong self-will, and substitute addictions are temporary, at best. The real solution must solve the need, the heart of the desire, the true void.

- 1) Pray to discover the root issue (void)
- 2) Remove legal ground for the addiction
 - a. Receive forgiveness
 - b. Forgive others
- 3) Ask God to fill the void and renew the mind
- 4) Confess the new identity which is completed in Christ