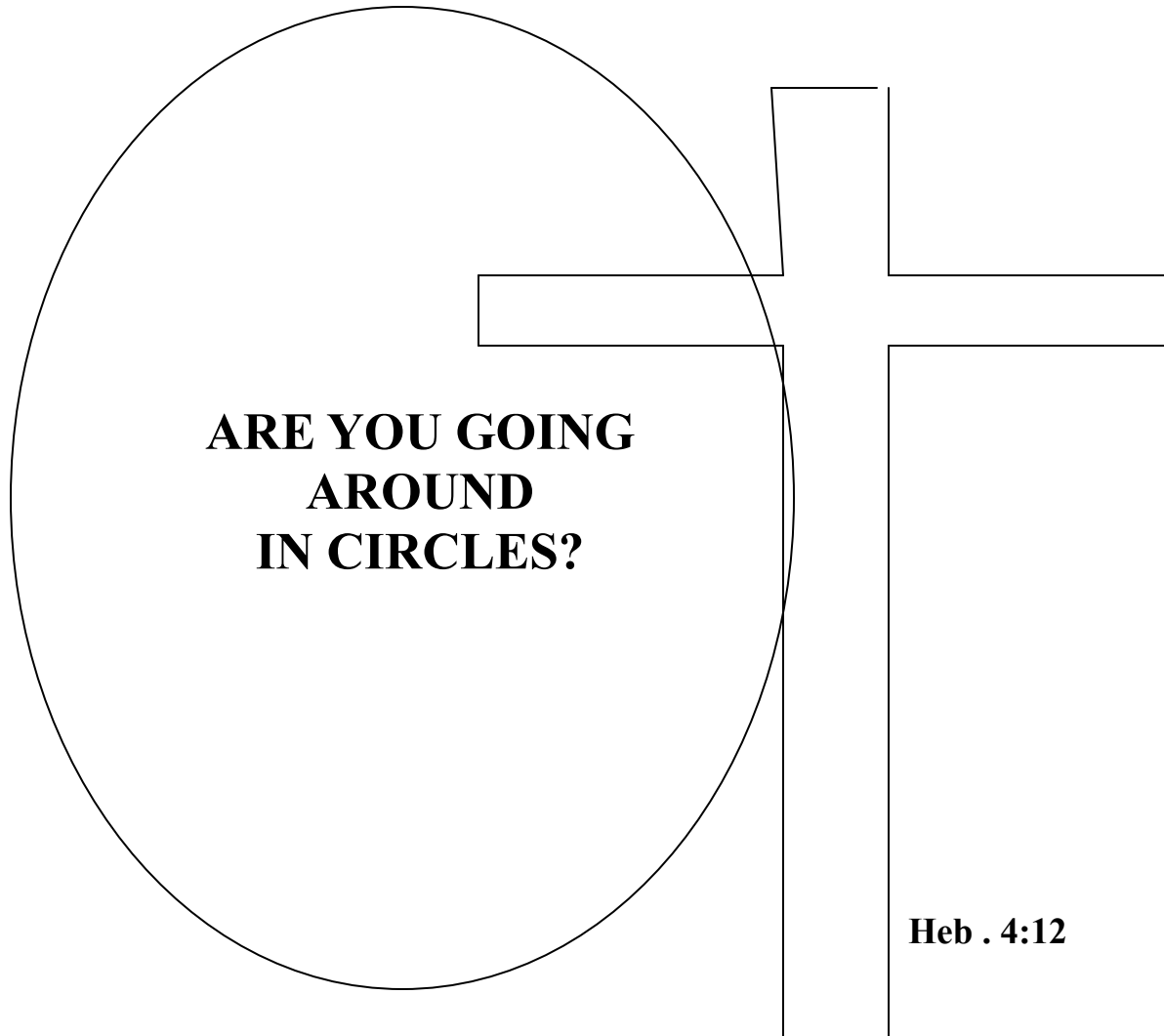


A CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE TO DRUG ADDICTION



**ARE YOU GOING
AROUND
IN CIRCLES?**

Heb . 4:12

FINDING THE SOLID GROUND TO BUILD ON

The Meaning of the Diagram

Since 2003, when I started Drug Prevention Ministries, almost everyone the Lord has sent my way, who has a problem with drugs, claims to be saved. Over the years, in working with the addict/or one that is having problems with drugs, I also communicate with parents or loved ones. The circle in the diagram represents the parents and loved ones, as well as the person who is struggling. The person, who is struggling, takes one step seeking the relationship with the Lord and then something happens and the person falls back into the circle. The same thing is experienced by the love ones, parents, etc., who have been praying and they get a glimmer of hope and then they find themselves back on the circle. In Charles Stanley's book, *Winning the War Within*, he makes a statement proclaiming that a person may fail 1,000 times and then the next time the victory is accomplished.

Schedule of Topics to be Discussed

- Week 1 The Medical approach verses the biblical approach
- Week 2 Signs and symptoms of those with a dependence on drugs
 - 1. Information on certain drugs
- Week 3 A look at several different people in the Bible and their result.
- Week 4 Testing's (better or bitter) for everyone (what does God want me to learn)
- Week 5 Spiritual warfare of those with addictions

The Medical Approach verses the Biblical Approach

I. Definitions: medical and social (public dictionary)

A. Disease

1. Stedman's Medical Dictionary, 28th edition, "An interruption, cessation, or disorder of a body, system, or organ structure or function. Syn illness, morbus, sickness."
2. The American Heritage College Dictionary, 3rd edition, "A pathological condition in an organism resulting from infection or genetic defect, for example, and characterized by identifiable symptoms. A condition or tendency, as of society, regarded as abnormal and harmful."

B. Addiction

1. Stedman's Medical Dictionary, 28th edition, "Habitual psychological or physiologic dependence on a substance or practice that is beyond voluntary control."
2. The American Heritage College Dictionary, 3rd edition, "The quality or condition of being addicted, esp. to a habit-forming substance."

C. Addict

1. Stedman's Medical Dictionary, 28th edition, v, "A person who is habituated to a substance or practice, especially one considered harmful or illegal."
2. The American Heritage College Dictionary, 3rd edition, "To devote or give (oneself) habitually or compulsively. To cause to become compulsively and physiologically dependent on a habit-forming substance. n, One who is addicted, as to narcotics. A devoted believer or follower."

II. Medical approach

- A. Usually label a person for medical diagnosis
- B. Usually prescribe alternative medication to get the person off of drugs they are on
- C. May require voluntary or involuntary incarceration for a period of time

I had a friend who had a ministry to help addicts in Greenville, SC. He used to be a heroin/cocaine addict until he got saved. In his teaching, he would share how individual's who did drugs would unknowingly destroy the reward receptors in the brain. So when they wanted to get high, they had to take more drugs to try and obtain the first high (which they could never obtain). My friend called them rabbit chasers and stated those who became addicted was due to the aspect of chasing the first high.

I have had some form of contact with people and drugs for over 48 years. It was not until I worked at the Huntington City Mission, that I could see a distinct difference in the way many became addicted. I basically observed that the addict was in one of two categories with a very small amount in a third category.

1. Those addicted by over prescription of a doctor were almost 50%
2. Those addicted by running with the wrong crowd were almost 50%
3. I only observed two men, who were addicts, due to a tragedy

III. Biblical approach

- A. Several ministries have accommodations for in house learning for the addict.
- B. Several different programs that churches use, to help with those with addictions.

1. AA (Twelve step program)
2. Celebrate Recovery (Twelve step program)
3. Alcoholics Victorious (Twelve step program)
4. Reformers Unanimous (Ten step program)
5. Jim Berg's "Freedom that Lasts"
6. Transformer's (Two step program)
7. Many, many more.

- C. What does the Scripture reveal

1. 1 Samuel 15:23
 - a. Rebellion is a sin unto witchcraft. (*Pharmakia*) Drugs
2. Proverbs 23:17-35
 - a. The sin of envy
3. Romans 1:24, 27-28
 - a. God gave them up to the lusts of their own heart
 - b. God turned them over to do things that were unseemly
 - C. God gave them over to a reprobate mind

D. John 8:34

1. Those who commit sin are the servant “*slave*” of the sin

E. James 4:17

1. Person chooses not to do good, it is sin

- a. *Most individual’s, before they fall into an addictive lifestyle, realize that they are at a point in their life where they either get help or become enslaved.*

IV. The only true and lasting hope

A. John 14:6

1. Christ is the way, the truth and the life.

B. John 8:32

1. Knowing the truth presents true freedom

C. 2 Cor. 5:17

1. New creature with a new future

D. Romans 12:1-2 (**This is key**)

1. Need to understand and apply a dying to Christ
2. Need to be renewing the mind (metamorphosis)
 - a. Through church attendance
 - b. Through prayer
 - c. Through devotions and Bible study

*In Edward T. Welch, *Addictions, A Banquet in the Grave*, he writes “...In Romans 1, the apostle Paul says that we all know many things about God and His law, but we suppress those truths when they interfere with our wants and desires.”

Another good book, by Ed Bulkley, Ph.D., *Why Christians Can’t Trust Psychology*.

Another interesting book, by William Playfair, M.D., *The Useful Lie*