

The Odds are Against You



Gambling is more than a sin
It is greed gone wild
It is an addiction



Addiction

- An addiction – Bible definition
- 2 Peter 2:14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.
- Drugs, Alcohol – chemical addiction
- Gambling – psychological addiction

A Gambling Addiction is:

- **A Chemical Free High**
- This addiction is:
 - 1) Progressive
 - 2) Chronic
 - 3) Mood altering
 - 4) Debilitating

A Gambling Addiction is:

- **Bad Odds**
- W. C. Fields – Horse sense is what keeps horses from betting on people.
- Last 50 years – this addiction is up
 - From 1 million
 - Today 15 million
 - 5 million are compulsive gamblers
- There are more addicted gamblers than there are alcoholics in the USA

A Gambling Addiction is:

- **Bad Odds**
- **Proverbs 7:26-27** 26 For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong men. 27 Her house is the way to hell, Descending to the chambers of death.

A Gambling Addiction is:

- **From Bad to Worse**
- **Three Phases**
 - Winning
 - Losing
 - Desparation
- Jonah went **DOWN** to Joppa, to ship, to bottom of ship, to bottom of the sea

A Gambling Addiction is:

- **From Root Causes**
- **Desire for Gain**
- **Desire for Excitement**
- **Desire for Competition**

A Gambling Addiction is:

- **From Root Causes**
- **Desire for Success**
- **Plan A – study, college, work hard, save money, retire at 40**
- **Plan B – Gamble, Play the Lottery**

The Fruit of Gambling Addiction is:

- **Matthew 7:20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**
- **Gamblers will say – Harmless fun**
- **Lottery players will say – It is only \$1**

The Fruit of Gambling Addiction is:

- **Gambling Addiction leads to:**
- **Deep debt**
- **Bankruptcy**
- **Criminal activity**
- **Marriage trouble**
- **Hurt children**
- **Suicide**

Gamblers Can Be Helped

- **Gambling Anonymous**
- **In every city where there is major gambling, there are many counselors and programs for the addiction.**
- **The basic issue is Desire (Greed)**
- **Learn to accept that you will not be a millionaire – Learn to be content with what you have.**

Gamblers Can Be Helped

- **Learn to accept that you will not be a millionaire – Learn to be content with what you have.**
- **Luke 3:14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."**

Gamblers Can Be Helped

- **Learn to accept that you will not be a millionaire – Learn to be content with what you have.**
- **Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:**
- **1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.**

Final Word about Addictions

- **1 Corinthians 6:12** All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.