

Powerless

Isaiah 57:18; Romans 7:15-17; Proverbs 16:1-3;

Realize I am not God: I admit I'm powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.

I. *God's Answer to Sin's Damage*

Isaiah 57:18 "I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them."

II. *The Cause of Our Need to Control is Our Sin Nature.*

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."

Romans 7:15-17

We try to deny our humanity and try to control everything that is in our lives.

III. *How do We Play God?*

1. We try to control our own image.

2. We try to control other people

3. We try to control our problems.

4. We try to control our pain.

IV. *What are the Consequences of Our Need to Control or Play God?*

1. Fear - afraid someone is going to find out who we really are

2. Frustration – pretending you are powerful enough to handle all your problems

3. Fatigue – trying to hide your pain by being busy (running from it)

4. Failure – not admitting your own faults, weaknesses and failures

V. *What are the Wrong Ways to Respond? Deny you are playing God.*

1. My problem is not that bad.

2. That's fine for you, but I can solve my own problems.

VI. *What is the Cure?*

1. Admit that I am powerless to change my own past.

2. Admit that I am powerless to control other people.

3. Admit that I am powerless to cope with my harmful hurts, behaviors, and actions.

God's response to our admission

James 4:6 "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Isaiah 57:18 ***God wants to heal you, guide or lead you, restore or change you, comfort you, and offer you his peace.***