

BAD HABITS

A teenager once asked me, "Pastor Chris, if I smoke will I go to hell?" My answer was, "No, but you'll smell like you've already been there." Cheeky, but there is an element of truth about it. Any compulsive habit will be visible through the life you lead. Whether you smoke, drink too much, gamble, or over-indulge at anything, there will be visible and distinct symptoms. The reason being, anything that is given priority in your life will have a degree of control over you. In fact, your life changes every time your priorities change!

Many people never find happiness simply because their priorities are wrong. Happiness is a movement toward that which is right, and for a Christian, it is no different. It is a direct movement toward that which is righteous. The Bible says, "*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and these things shall be added to you*" (Matthew 6:33). Seeking first His kingdom is prioritising according to the King's decrees, which are all clearly stated in His word. First and foremost, seek God's kingdom. Pursue the King respectfully and relationally, and wherever you find Him on the journey of life, worship Him (surrender to Him). So always pursue the King's agenda first and not your own. Make sure you know what the kingdom is and how to participate in it. This path leads to righteousness, and doing that which is "right", leads to happiness.

I have never met anyone with a compulsive habit who is really happy. Why? Because they can't get satisfaction from their habit. That's the reality of any addiction. You keep craving more and more, until more is never enough! Whatever your bad habit is, you have the power in God to tear down that stronghold. "*For the **weapons** of our **warfare** are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds*" (2 Corinthians 10:4). I encourage you to do this right now! If you don't, you will never reach your full potential in God. And remember this, you can never reach your full potential until your righteous priorities become constant.