

Step 7 – Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings

7E Shortcomings – Greed, Envy, & Lust / Poverty, Denial of Ambition & Avoidance

A “shortcoming” means that there is something better that we are missing. In step 7, we are asking that a deformed part of our character be transformed into a better character trait. Part of working this step is to get a vision of what life would be like with that better trait.

Greed, Envy, and Lust are all based on wanting and are an incomplete expression of wanting. In Step 7, we transform them by changing the expression and whom that expression is directed towards. Instead of Lust or Avoidance, we gain physical connection with others. Instead of Greed or Poverty, we share with others and become part of a community. Instead of Envy or Denial, we rejoice with others and gain gratitude.

How have I and the one’s I love been harmed by me indulging in any of these?

How could making amends help me shift the expression of my wanting and shift my relationship to others in my want? How could accepting my perceived losses and pains at not having allow me to let go?

An underlying trait of these shortcomings is that of noticing what other people have. How can that skill be used to be grateful for other people and share in their joy, and share that joy with our higher power? How can I be grateful for what I do have?

How can my boundaries lead to experiencing love?

How can I put both my wanting and my having into a higher power’s hands to be able to have this character strength in balance? What would it mean to give to others when I feel that I don’t have?

What compassion would I need to be able to rejoice with others when I do not have?

What might my life look like to be living with this character strength in balance? How am I learning that my needs are being met in new ways? What would it be like to have boundaries on my wanting?

What would it be like to ask a higher power for compassion and boundaries?