

## Stop Investing In False Hopes; Start Investing In Real Hope

4<sup>th</sup> Step - Lesson 2

A lot of recovery is about letting go of false hopes so I can start working on genuine hopes –

- ✓ The hope that “I’m basically a good, normal guy who just needs improvement” is a false hope
- ✓ The hope that “I’m a bad person who can be loved, accepted and transformed by God” is true hope

Romans 4:4-5 – “Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.” – God doesn’t justify the “pretty good;” he justifies the *wicked*.

(Compare John’s description of himself in the gospel of John: “The disciple whom Jesus loved.” John couldn’t get over it: “Jesus actually loves *me?!?*”)

- ✓ A study done a few years ago showed that quadriplegics are generally a happier group of people than lottery winners – quads are happy over any little bit of progress, but lottery winners are stuck with “Is this all there is? Where do I go from here?”
- Is your recovery an effort to improve an already good person, or the acceptance of God’s love and plan for a “wicked” person?
- What’s the difference between “I am an alcoholic” and “I am a normal guy who needs to get his drinking under control”?
- How does accepting the fact that you’re a bad person who is loved by God help you do a “fearless” moral inventory in the Fourth Step?