



THE IMPORTANCE OF USING BIBLICAL LANGUAGE

Hope for Addiction takes a distinctly different approach to addiction ministry and that difference shapes everything we do. Rather than adopting the frameworks and terminology the culture offers, we are committed to responding in ways that align with Scripture. This isn't about being rigid or dismissive of people's pain. It's about offering something the world cannot: words that actually have the power to reach the deepest part of who we are.

Cultural language and therapeutic insights cannot do what God's Word can do.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

This is the level at which addiction operates, not just in behavior, but in the hidden places of the heart where shame, desire, fear, and longing take root. No therapeutic framework, no clinical language, no shared human experience reaches that depth. Only God's Word does.

Language That Connects Us to God

When we use biblical words, we aren't simply swapping out vocabulary. We are connecting people to Scripture, and through Scripture, to the God who made them and knows them fully. Looking closely at what the Bible actually says about who we are, why we struggle, and what we need always leads to a richer, truer understanding of ourselves than anything the world offers.

Cultural definitions tend to locate the problem in biology, environment, or trauma history, and while those realities matter and deserve compassion, they don't tell the whole story, and they don't point toward lasting transformation. Biblical language leads somewhere different: to the gospel, where there is actual hope and lasting change is possible.

At Hope for Addiction, we use simple, accessible language; words that someone new to faith or unfamiliar with church could understand and engage with. The goal is never to impress with theological vocabulary, but to make God's truth available to everyone.

What Scripture Does That We Cannot

Our own stories and insights can be useful. Shared experience creates connection, and honest conversation opens hearts. But the words we bring, however sincere or well-intentioned, do not carry the same power as the words God has spoken.

Too often in recovery settings, we begin with shared experience and stay there. People find comfort in feeling understood, which is good. But connection alone doesn't transform. It's when we move from "I understand what you're going through" to "here is what God says about it" that something deeper happens.

The Bible must be our priority in caring for one another; not because personal insight has no value, but because Scripture is the only thing that reaches the "thoughts and intentions of the heart" where real change begins. When we do the hard work of letting God's Word evaluate and guide us, and help others do the same, the result is conformity to Christ and a life that glorifies God. That changes everything.

A chart of worldly terms and biblical reframing (the truth) follows...

CULTURAL/THERAPEUTIC LANGUAGE ➡ BIBLICAL LANGUAGE

Worldly View	Biblical View	Scriptures
Addiction	Slavery, idolatry, lover of pleasure/ self rather than lover of God, refuge in something other than God	Jonah 2:8, Colossians 3:5, 2 Peter 2:19, Romans 6, Psalm 16:4, Galatians 5:19-21, Galatians 4:8, Psalm 62:5-7
I'm... an Addict, alcoholic, recovering addict, in recovery	In Christ I am a new creation (addiction is the struggle not the identity), free, no longer a slave	2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:6-7, John 8:36, Galatians 2:20
Normies, People who don't have addiction, Normal people	We are all the same, all in need of rescue from our sin	Romans 5:6-8, Romans 10:10-13, Galatians 3:26-28, Colossians 3:9-11
Recovery	Change or transformation, freedom	2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 Corinthians 6:11, Romans 12:2, Psalm 51:10, Galatians 5:1
Character defect, compulsive behaviors, wrongs, disease, we all make mistakes	Sin and the response of repentance, sin nature	1 John 1:8-10, Acts 3:19, Romans 3:23, Titus 2:11-12, Psalm 51:1-2
Higher Power	Jesus Christ, Who conquered sin and death	Ephesians 1:15-23, Colossians 1:15-17, John 1:1-3
Amends	Forgiveness and reconciliation, godly grief	Proverbs 28:13, Psalm 32:5, James 5:16, Romans 14:19, Hebrews 12:14, Proverbs 14:9, 2 Corinthians 7:9-10
Moral Compass	Holy Spirit, Word of God	John 14:26, John 16:13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17
Codependent	Fear, idolatry, lack of faith/trust, fear of man, desire to control	Galatians 1:10, 2 Timothy 1:7, Proverbs 29:25, Acts 5:29, Deuteronomy 31:6, Hebrews 13:6, Proverbs 3:5-8, Isaiah 12:2
I need to fix this, work harder, do better	I cannot change myself, God needs to change my heart, I need to see that Christ has dominion over sin	Romans 7:18, Philippians 2:13, Philippians 1:6, 2 Corinthians 3:5, 1 Thessalonians 5:23
Triggers	Temptation, provoking situations, moments of testing, pressures that expose heart desires	1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 4:15, James 1
Spiritual Experience	Salvation, Redemption	Acts 16:31, Acts 2:21, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 1:7, Ephesians 2:1-5, Romans 10:13
Fake it 'til you make it	Power to obey through Christ, put to death sin nature, walking in obedience and faith despite feelings, not leaning on your own understanding	2 Corinthians 7:9-19, Romans 6:14, Colossians 3, 1 Peter 1:14-15, Proverbs 3:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:6-16, Hebrews 11:6, Ephesians 4:1, 1 Corinthians 10:31
Intervention	Loving confrontation, a call to repentance, bear one another's burdens, a call to follow Jesus	Galatians 6:1-3, 2 Peter 3:9, James 5:19-20, Matthew 19:16, 21-22, 2 Timothy 2:22-26
Forgive yourself	Rest in, walk in and trust in the forgiveness of Christ secured at the cross, God's forgiveness is full and final	Isaiah 43:25, Ephesians 1:7, Psalm 103:12, Hebrews 10:12-14, Colossians 1:13-14, 1 Peter 3:18; Colossians 2:13-14
Tough love	Accountability, Discipline	1 Thessalonians 5:14, Luke 15:11-24, Hebrews 12:6
Let go, let God	Disciplined for godliness, we are required to respond: trust, fight, put on, put off, put to death	Isaiah 26:3-4, Philippians 2:12-13, 1 Timothy 4:7, 1 Timothy 6:11-12, Ephesians 6:11, Colossians 3:5-17
Generational curse	Learned behavior, sinful behavior, Christ has dominion	Colossians 1:16, Romans 6:14, Galatians 3:13-14
Emotional overload	Fainthearted, exhausted, overwhelmed, pressured, tempted	Isaiah 40:31, Matthew 11:28, Psalm 142:3, Romans 8:35-39

CONNECTING THE DESIRE TO CHANGE WITH THE POWER TO CHANGE