

# The Opioid (Narcotic) Crisis

## **Some statistics:**

- The U.S. is 5% of the world's population but consumes 80% of the prescription narcotics.
- 54 million Americans over 12 have misused pain medications.
- Over 50% get their pain pills from friends or relatives; 40% pay nothing for them.
- The death rate per year from drug overdoses is now more than the number of US soldiers killed in the Vietnam War.
- 4 out of 5 heroin users started out misusing pain pills.

## **Signs of prescription drug addiction:**

- Obsessed with getting / using the drug.
- Always needing a supply of the drug.
- Needing more drug for the same effects.
- Driving under the influence of the drug.
- Illegal behaviors like stealing.
- Changes in physical appearance / hygiene.
- Doctor shopping.
- Asking friends or relatives for their drugs or stealing it from them.

## **Signs of withdrawals:**

- Restlessness
- Sweating
- Nausea / vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Tearing of the eyes
- Runny nose
- Muscle pains

## **Key Questions for you:**

- What does Satan do to put you AND keep you in bondage?
- What things will you eliminate to overcome your addictions?
- What things will you do to start down a new path to healing

## **Starve the demons:**

- Get rid of temptations
- Remove "friends" who support the habit
- Eliminate music, entertainment, literature and other things that are not honoring to God
- Guard your heart and mind (armor of God)

## **Feed the spirit:**

- Surrender to Jesus as Lord and Savior
- Make Christian friends
- Attend church and Bible study
- Pray
- Study and meditate on God's Word
- Get medical help if needed