

Step 7—Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings

7E—Greed, Envy and Lust / Denial of Ambition & Avoidance

A “shortcoming” means that there is something better that we are missing. In step 7, we are not asking our higher power to destroy part of us. Instead, 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.

Lust wants connection with others and caring from them.

Avoidance fears security and connection with others.

Definitions:

Greed: Intense and selfish desire for something especially wealth power or food

Envy: A feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else’s possessions, qualities, or luck. Desire to have a quality, possession or other desirable attribute belonging to someone else.

Lust: Very strong sexual desire. A passionate desire for something. A sensual appetite regarded as sinful (lusts of the flesh 1 John 2:16)

Other character traits built on want include “Wanting a better life for my children”, “Wanting security”, and “Wanting Serenity”.

Which of these attract me and why?

How have I and those I love been harmed by me indulging in Greed, Envy, or Lust?

What have I lost out on by my avoidance?

<p><i>What would be appropriate amends for the harm I have caused?</i></p>	
<p>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?</p> <p>How can I be grateful for what I do have?</p>	
<p>How can my boundaries lead to experiencing love?</p>	
<p>How can I put my wanting into a higher power's hands to be able to have this character strength in balance?</p> <p>What would it mean to give to others when I feel that I don't have?</p>	
<p>What compassion would I need to be able to rejoice with others when I do not have?</p> <p><i>(Unsure of the exact meaning here....."..when I don't have compassion"? -GH)</i></p>	
<p>What might my life look like to be living with this character strength in balance?</p> <p>How am I learning that my needs are being met in new ways?</p> <p>What would it be like to have boundaries on my</p>	

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