

# **GAMBLING**

## **HOT TOPICS**

May 3, 2026

Pastor Gary

*“A hard worker has plenty of food, but a person who chases fantasies has no sense.”  
(Proverbs 12:11, NLT)*

*“A hard worker has plenty of food, but a person who chases fantasies ends up in poverty.”  
(Proverbs 28:19, NLT)*

## **THE TRUTH BEHIND CHASING FANTASIES.**

1) I think gambling is a **SHORTCUT** .

*“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.”  
(Proverbs 21:5, NLT)*

**But really, gambling steals OPPORTUNITY.**

*“Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave.” (Proverbs 12:24, NLT)*

2) I think I am **IN CONTROL**.

**But really, I am being MANIPULATED.**

*“Those who flatter their neighbors are spreading nets for their feet.” (Proverbs 29:5, NIV)*

3) I think gambling is harmless **FUN**.

**But really, it’s a spiritual RED FLAG.**

*“Only simpletons believe everything they’re told! The prudent carefully consider their steps.” (Proverbs 14:15, NLT)*

*“A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.” (Proverbs 27:12, NLT)*

## WHAT MY GAMBLING COULD BE TELLING ME.

### 1. I don't TRUST GOD.

*"Look at the birds! They don't worry about what to eat—they don't need to sow or reap or store up food—for your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are." (Matthew 6:26, The Living Bible, Paraphrased)*

*"I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." (John 10:10b, MSG)*

### 2. I don't understand "STUFF".

*"The earth belongs to God! Everything in all the world is his!" (Psalm 24:1, The Living Bible, Paraphrased)*

*"And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?" (Luke 16:11, NLT)*

*"Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men," (Colossians 3:23, HCSB)*

*"Work hard and cheerfully at all you do, just as though you were working for the Lord and not merely for your masters," (Colossians 3:23, The Living Bible, Paraphrased)*

## NEXT STEP

Attend the HOPE FOR HOMES WORKSHOP

### 3. I have not given God my WHOLE HEART.

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21, ESV)*

*"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13, ESV)*