

CARE RESOURCES

ALCOHOL ABUSE

ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLICS

Source: <http://www1.cbn.com>

WHAT IS AN ALCOHOLIC

- Alcoholics can't control their drinking. If you are an alcoholic, you have a compulsive desire to drink.
- When you drink, your negative personality traits, such as anger, may be intensified and your problems may seem magnified. In order to cover up your alcoholism, you may tend to overdo in other areas of your life.
- Chances are, you need a drink at certain times of the day in order to get going, to face your problems, or to relax.
- And you may even drink on the job.
- Of course this means that your work and efficiency is slacking off.
- And your home life is probably suffering as well.

You are enslaved by the sin of alcoholism.

GOD IS ABLE TO DELIVER YOU

Yet there is hope. God is able to deliver you completely by cleansing, sanctifying, and justifying you (I Corinthians 6:9-11).

- Though alcohol abuse is a failing of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21),
- the Holy Spirit can, and will, produce the self-control you need to overcome it (Galatians 5:22-23).

THE SPIRIT THAT DWELLS IN AN ALCOHOLIC

In Satan's arsenal of devil spirits, this spirit referred to as 'leviathin' is one of the deadliest, most confusing, destructive, and strongest spirits the enemy has. The Word of God warns us, in many places, of excesses in this area and we will cover some of those Scriptures.

- ***(Ephesians 5: 18) And be not drunk (out of control and being used) with wine wherein is excess, but be filled by spirit.***
- **One of the effects of alcoholism is ANGER: *(Proverbs 20: 1) Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*** God tells us that the person who drinks is deceived. The adversary starts off people very slowly regarding addictions. No one, in their heart, wants to become an addict of any type. Satan deceives and lures a person into his trap.
- **Drinking in excess and gluttony can lead to poverty. *(Proverbs 23: 21a) For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: . . .***
- Confuses the mind and clouds a person's judgment: ***(Isaiah 28: 7) -- But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.***

Take notice how specific God is in this great Scripture showing the result of strong drink: errors, consumed mentally, impaired vision, poor judgment.

- ***(2 Corinthians 5: 11) But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, OR A DRUNKARD, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. [emphasis added].*** God clearly tells us not to have fellowship with a drunkard, among other sinners. Having fellowship with a drunkard is fellowship with darkness -- strictly forbidden in God's Word.
- ***(2 Corinthians 6: 14) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?***
- ***(Ephesians 5: 11) And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.***
- ***(Romans 13: 13) Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*** Isn't the Word of God just tremendous? It spells everything out for us because God loves us even more than we can comprehend. NOW WATCH THE NEXT VERSE. It begins with "BUT" which sets in contrast that which is said before. After telling us what NOT TO DO, God then tells us WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING. ***(Romans 13: 14) But put ye on the Lord Jesus, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.***
 - To "put on" the Lord Jesus Christ means to RENEW THE MIND. We are to think like Jesus Christ thought by studying and applying the Word of God. If we do this, we will not make provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof.
 - Lust is OVER-DESIRE and it stems from our old man. Alcoholism is fleshy over-desire, which as mentioned before can lead to possession by a spirit of leviathan. When it gets that far, you have a serious problem.
- ***(Isaiah 5: 22, 23) Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!***

NOW WATCH WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE PEOPLE WHO CONSUME ALCOHOL IN EXCESS IN THE NEXT VERSE:

- ***(Isaiah 5: 24) Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.*** What influenced these people to sin and not obey God? They were strong in the fleshy desire to DRINK.
- ***(Isaiah 55: 11) So shall my word be that goeth forth out my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.***

MORE SCRIPTURES

- *"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." (Proverbs 28:13).*
- *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).*
- *"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8,9).*
- *"Your wickedness will punish you. Your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the Lord your God and have no awe of me" (Jeremiah 2:19).*
- *"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).*

- "Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water'" (John 4:10).
- "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). (Here is the key to beating alcoholism -- through the power to overcome.)
- "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22, 23). (God will produce will power for the powerless.)
- "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).
- "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler: whoever is led astray by them is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).

IS THERE HOPE?

If you have a drinking problem, you have probably felt condemned by yourself and others.

- Rather than condemning, however, God emphasizes how to overcome by receiving salvation, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the fruit of the Spirit. With these you will have the ability to become free and stay free of alcohol.
- The saying "once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic" is based on the fact that a recovered alcoholic can never go back to drinking in any amount without being controlled by it again. Therefore, you need to ask God to deliver you from the desire to drink at all.

PRACTICAL HELP

- You probably have tried to stop drinking before and it has not worked for you. You may have tried religion or you may even be a Christian. What you need is practical spiritual help. Seek out a Spirit-baptized counselor. **Ask him to pray for deliverance for you -- especially from compulsiveness, psychological and physical dependence, and even from the desire to drink.**
- You may have been told, "You must stop drinking and never drink again." But the pressure of having to face life without drinking may be overwhelming. Focus on the present. Decide that you will not have a drink **right now**. **"Live one day at a time**. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34).
- **You need to modify and change your lifestyle.** The Bible speaks of being transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). You can renew your mind through your reading and thinking habits. The Bible and devotion testimonial books will be most helpful. Dwell on God and His Word rather than on your problem.
- **Learn and follow the principle of praise (honor and respect) to God each time you are tempted to drink.** "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise -- the fruit of lips that confess his name" (Hebrews 13:15). It is important to change your **perspective from yourself to God, and from the drink to God**. Praise God the Problem-solver rather than the problem. Remember that you can be just as chained to sin by trying not to do it as you are by doing it. As long as your attention is on the sin, you are honoring it. But if your attention is on God, you are honoring Him. "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).
- Contact a Spirit-filled church, or prayer group, and Alcoholics Anonymous or a local church pastor can help you do this.
- **You may have a spouse, relative, or friend who is not an alcoholic and wants to help you. He or she may need salvation, the baptism of the Spirit, and the fruit of the Spirit for their own sake. They can then better intercede for your deliverance from alcohol.**
- Your close relatives may need to know how to help spiritually in your effort to recover. They should know that openly condemning an alcoholic is not effective. It may just feed your sense

of "joyous agony" because you are "getting what you deserve." Jesus came to save, not to condemn (John 3:17).

- That's not to say that they should tolerate your alcoholic behavior. Instead, they should offer to help you. Your spouse, friends, or relatives can find out how to help you by contacting a Spirit-filled fellowship, or any organization for friends and relatives of alcoholics.

AS YOU PRAY

If you are not yet a born-again Christian, ask God to forgive you, save you and fill you with the Holy Spirit. An unforgiven, unclean drunkard cannot inherit the Kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6:10; I John 1:8,9; Romans 10:13; Luke 13:5; Acts 1:8).

- Pray for deliverance. Offer thanks and praise for God's deliverance, mercy, ever-present help and power to overcome.
- Pray for deliverance from fear -- the fear that "I won't be able to make it" (II Timothy 1:7).
- **If you want to experience God's abundant LIFE, pray this simple prayer with me:**
Heavenly Father, I come to you in Jesus' name. I know that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and rose from the grave to give me life. I know You are the only way to God so now I want to quit disobeying You and start living for You. Please forgive me, change my life and show me how to know You. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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