

One Step to Freedom
Chapter 1: Planning for Victory

Lesson 3 Part 2
Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Is a Sin

Establish specifically what God's Word says about the mind-altering effects of drug and alcohol abuse. In most cases, references to alcohol can be applied to drug abuse as well. Take time to give reflective thought to each verse and write down what you think the Scriptures are saying about God's view.

Ephesians 5:18 _____

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 _____

Proverbs 20:1 _____

Proverbs 23:31 _____

Read Galatians 5:19-20. Self-destruction, violence, sorrows, contentions, unexplainable wounds and perversions in the heart are results of alcohol and drug abuse which will result in exclusion from God's kingdom (heaven).

God says to be filled with His Holy Spirit rather than to be drunk (Ephesians 5:18). The bottom line is that God knows how destructive these sins are to our bodies, minds, and our family and friends. Most importantly, sin destroys our ability to fellowship with God and to enter into all that He has for each one of us—now and eternally.

God knows that our sinful nature separates us from Him and condemns us to eternal death (Romans 6:23). This is exactly why Jesus Christ died on the cross for all of our sins, once and for all. The Bible tells us that God made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to become sin on our behalf (2 Corinthians 5:21). God demonstrated His love for us when He punished His perfect, sinless Son in our place (John 3:16).

When Jesus died for our sins, He provided atonement on our behalf (1 John 2:2). That is why Jesus is the only way a person can come to know God (John 14:6). By putting our trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we can enter into God's kingdom. It is by faith in Jesus and Him only that you can be saved (Acts 16:30-31 and Acts 4:10-12).

In putting our trust in Jesus, we become what Jesus described as "born again" (John 3:3-6). We are born out of the flesh and its sinful ways (such as drugs and alcohol), and born into the family of God (John 1:12-13). The Spirit of God begins to dwell in our lives the moment we unconditionally accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior (John 7:38-39).

The Holy Spirit then empowers the believer to overcome the works of the flesh (sin) and to walk in the ways of the Spirit. When this happens, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control will be evident in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23). This is part of that perfect will God has for each of our lives. However, unless we turn away (repent) from our sin, we will never know the overwhelming joy that comes from a personal relationship with God.

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One more thing separates the opinions of man and God concerning drug and alcohol abuse. Most of today's so-called experts say that if you were once a drug addict or alcoholic, you will always be one. God's Word settles the truth on this matter. He says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away. Behold, all things are new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

1. In light of Colossians 2:8 and 1 Corinthians 2:5, explain why biblical counseling is more effective than psychological counseling for drug and alcohol abusers.

2. Would you say that you are perfect? What does this mean in God's terms? Can you therefore conclude that in God's eyes you are a sinner? How about in your own eyes? See 1 John 1:8. Write your conclusions below.

3. Do you agree that God's Holy Spirit, which is promised to those who are His children through faith in Jesus Christ (John 7:38-39), would be more beneficial to you than alcoholic spirits or drugs? (Read Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:22-25).

4. What did God do to enable sinners to enter His kingdom? Refer to John 3:16-17.

5. In your own words, how can a man be born again, and what is the result of that new birth? Read John 1:12-13, John 3:6, John 7:38-39 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.
